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Regional authority prepared to give British tourists rapid Covid tests at Malaga Airport



**Art and design,
all under one roof
in joint show**

Marbella has been the capital of art and interior design this week with the joint Marbella Design and Art Marbella show. The pandemic has meant an absence of international galleries this year but the two events merged to create a unique event. **P23**

GABRIELA BERNER

The president of the Junta de Andalucía wants safe travel corridors to be set up with the UK to refloat tourism

The Andalusian authority has said it is prepared to provide rapid Covid-19 screening at Malaga Airport in a bid to encourage governments to open up safe travel corridors with vital countries for the tourism industry such as the UK. Andalusian president, Juanma Moreno, said that this was now possible thanks to new tests the

authorities have started to use in areas with high infection rates. In Villanueva de la Concepción and Sierra de Yeguas, both in Malaga province, 604 residents were tested on Thursday. Meanwhile the regional authority has said private gatherings should be limited to six people to help prevent the spread of the virus. **P2&3**

**Malaga's new-look
squad almost complete
as eight players are
made redundant and
four new players arrive**

With deadline day approaching, Malaga moved towards balancing the books this week by getting eight players off the wage bill as part of its ERE redundancy plan. Juanpi (pictured), Dani Pacheco and Luis Hernández are among players who will leave in the same week the club completed its 13th signing of the window. **P39**



SALVADOR SALAS

**Ten years with no
progress: the extension
of the Costa del Sol
Hospital remains
incomplete** **P6**

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Andalucía brings in mass testing in Covid hotspots and limits gatherings to six people

The 14-day case notification rate per 100,000 inhabitants was 167 in Andalucía, 157 in Malaga province, 284 in Spain and 735 in Madrid on Thursday

SUR

MALAGA. The regional government in Andalucía has given details this week of new steps to help curb the spread of this second wave of the coronavirus.

These include limiting gatherings of family and friends to six people (previously there was a recommendation of no more than ten people together), except for members of the same household. Bars and restaurants can keep the ten person limit for the moment.

The regional minister for Health, Jesús Aguirre, said on Tuesday that 80% of all cases of infection with Covid-19 are traced back to private gatherings.

For the time being the limit of six people is a "recommendation", although Aguirre said that the authority was studying how this can be made an obligation from a legal point of view.

Mass testing

Further measures introduced in



A resident is tested for coronavirus in Villanueva de la Concepción. SALVADOR SALAS

Andalucía this week include the mass testing of residents in towns and villages with contagion figures of more than 500 per 100,000 inhabitants over a 14-day period.

The screening, with rapid antigen tests, began on Thursday and initially affects eleven municipalities: Sierra de Yeguas and Villanueva de la Concepción

in the province of Malaga; Pulpí (Almería); Almodóvar del Río (Córdoba); Jamilena, Los Villares and Linares (Jaén); and La Campana, Villaverde del Río, Arahal and Paradas (Seville).

In Villanueva de la Concepción and Sierra de Yeguas 604 local residents, selected randomly, were called on Thursday morning to be tested.

"I think it's good; they should have done it a long time ago," said María, a resident of Villanueva de la Concepción.

"Better than others"

The region of Andalucía was resisting the pandemic "better than others" said regional government spokesperson Elías Bendodo on Tuesday when the measures were

announced.

According to figures released on Thursday, the 14-day Covid-19 case notification rate per 100,000 inhabitants for the region of Andalucía as a whole was 167.3, still a long way off the 500 limit set by the government to trigger further action.

The rate for Malaga province was even lower: 157.2 cases per 100,000 over 14 days. Marbella's infection rate is higher than the provincial average (260 per 100,000 on Thursday), as are those of other major Costa resorts such as Fuengirola (174.3), Benalmádena (190.8) and Mijas (171.6). Estepona registered a rate of 155.2 cases per 100,000 inhabitants on Thursday, Nerja 137, Torremolinos 132 and Malaga city 124.

In comparison, the figure for Spain as a whole on Thursday was just over 284 cases per 100,000 inhabitants.

In the region of Madrid, however, where further restrictions are being introduced, the rate was at 735.

"[In Andalucía] we have to get ahead and to that end we have to take new measures of control so that the incidence remains lower than the rest of Spain," said Bendodo on Tuesday.

New cases

In terms of the volume of new cases, the latest daily Covid-19

Madrid given until tonight to bring in tighter lockdown rules

Andalucía was among the regions that voted against the central government's measure, which targets towns with 100,000 people

SUR

MADRID. The regional government in Madrid was this week given 48 hours from Wednesday to put in place new tougher restrictions in the capital and surrounding area, imposed by central government.

The move comes amid the increasing bitterness between ministers and the opposition-controlled regional authority. This week, their disagreements have spread an argument over how far to go with lockdown re-

strictions in the capital to other regional governments.

By the middle of this week, over 40 per cent of new Covid-19 cases were being reported in Madrid with over 700 cases per 100,000.

After last week's signs of closer alignment, central government came out against the regional government last Friday as the Madrid region extended a partial confinement to just a total of 37 local, health centre districts.

National Health minister, Salvador Illa, did not hide his frustration that Madrid had not gone further and called a rival press conference.

On Wednesday this week, central government convened all the regional governments' Health ministers to agree

tougher national restrictions for larger towns with 100,000 people and more than 500 Covid-19 cases in the previous 14 days per 100,000 inhabitants. The move was seen as an attempt by central government to herd Madrid into acting tougher through an agreed national pact.

Although five regional governments rejected the centralised initiative in a vote on Wednesday, including Andalucía, Catalonia and Madrid, ministers made clear that the new national guidelines would be for everyone to follow. Some regions, including Andalucía have cast doubt on the legality of the moves without a new state of alarm.

The measures are due to come into force tonight (Friday, 1 October) in Madrid city and nine surrounding towns.



A couple leave a health centre in Madrid. EP

Among other restrictions, entering and leaving a municipality is prohibited where there are over 500 cases per 100,000 in the last 14 days and where PCR tests are giving a positive result in more than 10 per cent of cases. Emergency hospital beds

will also have to be more than 35 per cent occupied for the restrictions to kick in.

The Madrid region has said it will obey the orders but that it will begin court action. No Andalucía towns are expected to fall under the new conditions.

figures released on Thursday showed an increase of 1,303 new cases in the region of Andalucía (232 more than Wednesday) and 19 new deaths in 24 hours (two down on the previous day). Of these new cases, the highest number (307) were in the province of Seville.

In the province of Malaga, 129 new cases of infection (those diagnosed by PCR lab tests) were reported on Thursday (up 18 on Wednesday's figure) and five more deaths. This is line with the trend noted during the month of September, when a total of 77 people died with coronavirus in Malaga province.

Thursday's figures showed a reduction in the number of patients in hospital around Malaga province with Covid-19, from 204 to 191, while the patients in intensive care went up from 29 to 30.

The regional health authority did publish on Wednesday a series of harsher restrictions that could be put in place if the situation in a specific town or health district so required. These involve reducing the capacity and opening hours of bars and restaurants and closing playgrounds, but this week they were only applied to the town of Casariche in Seville province.

Junta prepared to provide rapid tests at Malaga Airport to help revive tourism

Regional president Juanma Moreno has said that he will propose new safe travel corridors with the UK and that the Junta is prepared to test visitors on arrival and departure

MARÍA DOLORES TORTOSA

SEVILLE. The president of the Junta de Andalucía, Juanma Moreno, has said that his government is prepared to provide rapid Covid-19 tests at Malaga Airport in a bid to refloat the tourism industry.

Faced with the summer's plummeting international tourism figures, especially affected by the quarantine period brought in by the United Kingdom, Moreno has said that he will propose that the central government open safe travel corridors with the UK, with airport testing in place.

"The Junta de Andalucía is prepared to take on the technicalities of all the tests that need to be done on arrival or departure from the Costa del Sol at Malaga Air-



Juanma Moreno. SUR

port, even though it's not our responsibility; and in addition we're prepared to provide all the health professionals necessary to guarantee exhaustive controls," said Moreno on Thursday night in an interview with SUR's editor-in-chief Manuel Castillo on 101TV.

The president explained that there would not be a problem of a shortage of health workers and that the creation of safe travel cor-

ridors is possible now, when it wasn't in the summer. This, he said, is because of the new rapid test kits that the Junta has acquired, which are as reliable as a PCR lab test, give a result in 20 minutes.

So a British tourist would arrive at the airport and have a coffee while waiting for the test result, before carrying on with their holiday, he said.

Moreno added that his government was also prepared to test tourists before they returned to their home country.

"I'm convinced that if we make an effort between us - Aena, the State and the Junta de Andalucía - we can start to efficiently establish safety in airports."

He added that these new rapid tests, which are 99% reliable, would be a "revolution".

The regional authority has already bought two million tests of this type, and these are currently being used in the mass screening sessions taking place in areas most affected by Covid.

He also said that the same control system could be applied to shows and cultural events, which

Insurance for tourists caught by Covid while on holiday

The vice-president of the Junta de Andalucía, Juan Marín, announced on Thursday that from 1 January, foreign tourists arriving in the region from the principal European countries of origin will have a special coronavirus insurance provided by the authority. This, he said, would cover all the expenses resulting from a Covid-19 infection or self-isolation obligation. This will be a new tool to encourage international demand at a time that he admitted was "delicate and complicated for tourism".

would mean larger audiences would be permitted.

This test could breathe life back into the cultural sector, he said, although for this proposal he called for private firms to help foot the bill.

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112 REPORTS

FUENGIROLA

Man throws heavy native figurine at police who had come to arrest him

J. CANO. A 36-year-old man was arrested last Friday after police responded to calls that he had threatened to kill a neighbour with whom he was allegedly obsessed, as well as throwing objects out of the window of his fourth-floor flat and walking the streets shirtless while carrying a knife.



When the police arrived, the individual stood on his balcony, shouting various insults at the officers before throwing a figurine of a Cherokee native American at them. The 40cm-tall figurine, weighing more than three kilos, landed on the roof of one of the patrol vehicles.

When officers were able to arrest him at last, they found he had two pairs of scissors hidden in his pockets. The man also required medical treatment after he started to headbutt the floor.

MARBELLA

Police break up jet bike drug transporter gang

F. TORRES. Six people have been arrested and 440 kilos of hashish and three jet bikes have been seized after police successfully dismantled a gang which made use of these aquatic vehicles to move drugs from the main transporting boat (normally from Morocco) to the coast.

Police were alerted at around 8pm last Thursday to a number of these vehicles operating in a suspicious fashion around Puerto Banús.



Aerial surveillance was used. SUR

FUENGIROLA

Police chief's car stolen by man freed the day before

J. C. A repeat offender well known by police was arrested again in Fuengirola, just a day after being released, after he allegedly stole the personal car of the town's police chief. The car was stolen from the owner's driveway as he unloaded shopping. There was a struggle between the pair as he tried to flee the scene but he managed to get away before a long chase through town. After a crash involving two police cars he fled on foot before being arrested later.

Thirty tonnes of hashish seized as part of biggest anti-drugs sea strike in Spain

The National Police and Border Patrol intercepted four luxury boats loaded with drugs and arrested nine people of Bulgarian and Russian origin

JUAN CANO

MALAGA. More than thirty tonnes of hashish, the equivalent of a third of all cannabis confiscated in the Campo de Gibraltar area in the whole of 2019, was seized and nine members of a criminal organisation of Bulgarian and Russian origin were arrested as part of operation 'Goleta- Gratil', which took place between 24 and 28 September in several locations in the Atlantic Ocean.

Various patrols based in Malaga province, between National Police and customs surveillance personnel, have been carrying out investigations since October 2019, intercepting boats belonging to the same gang in



Packages seized from one of the four boats. SUR

March and July this year, seizing 4.2 tonnes and 360 kilos of hashish, respectively.

On this occasion, however, four boats that the authorities were tracking (Sweet Breeze, Eagle Ray, Amaalta and Carla - all top-of-the-range sailing boats) set off simultaneously and the

joint operation mobilised to intercept all four at sea.

In what proved to be the largest successful maritime anti-drugs trafficking operation to take place in Spain, according to the Ministry of the Interior, approximately 30.5 tonnes of hashish were seized.

Police investigate case of two men who were kidnapped and tortured in failed drug deal

Officers spotted the victims on the street in Malaga city and arrested three people allegedly involved

J. CANO / ÁLVARO FRÍAS

MALAGA. Police are investigating after two men from Cordoba, aged 23 and 27, were allegedly kidnapped and tortured and asked for 12,000 euros in order to be released. That is the story that the men told police officers who found them bleeding from the head and with cuts on their arms and legs in the Ciudad Jardín area of Malaga city early on Saturday morning.

The men told the officers that they had come to Malaga to buy hashish pollen. They agreed to meet the other party at a specific location in the city, then were asked to follow them to a house located elsewhere. When they ar-

rived they were allegedly kidnapped and brought into the house at gunpoint. There were several other people inside who tied them up and started torturing them. One apparently hit one of the young men on the head with a revolver and accidentally fired a shot without injuring anyone. They were also attacked by an aggressive dog, according to their version of events. The alleged victims reported that they threatened to kill them if they didn't pay 12,000 euros.

In the end, the two men were able to flee the building, taking advantage of the fact that the door was open because of the movement of people in the house.

Three people fitting descriptions provided were arrested: a 27-year-old man crouched under a car with 6,965 euros hidden under his clothes; a 37-year-old man and a 20-year-old woman. The investigation is still ongoing.

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The works have been paralysed for so long that the huge half-built 30,000-square-metre building now seems part of the landscape. Nor does it seem out of place in the area, the upper part of Los Monteros to the north of the A-7, five kilometres from the entrance to Marbella town centre. It is not the only half-built and abandoned building. Barely 500 metres away is another emblematic project, the skeleton of what was going to be a hotel, built without regard to the law and another mute witness to the more recent history of Marbella.

The unfinished extension works to the Costa del Sol Hospital are nothing to do with the town planning savagery of the harsh years of Jesús Gil and Juan Antonio Roca; this is a much more recent story of disagreement between institutions, formulas of public and private collaboration being applied badly and without transparency, and also a bit of bad luck.

Ten years ago, in the autumn of 2010, the Marbella area was about to fulfil its aim of no longer having a 'district' hospital, but one which would be a benchmark for health care for half a million residents, not counting the floating population. The incorporation of new services and the 34,000-square-metre extension at a cost of 48.5 million euros was going to make the Costa del Sol Hospital, which opened in 1991, a health facility par excellence in Málaga province.

That autumn, however, there was a twist to the tale. The machines stopped and although at first the Junta de Andalucía said they had just slowed down, in fact they stopped completely. Since then, the half-built construction has seen three different presidents of the Junta de Andalucía, including the political upheaval after the elections in 2018, and two different mayors of Marbella, with the arrival of socialist José Bernal in 2015 and his removal after a motion of no confidence two years later.

At the time, the stoppage was blamed on a lack of agreement between the institutions. When the problems began, the PP's Ángeles Muñoz was mayor of Marbella and PSOE's José Griñán was the president of the Junta. However, during this decade there were all types of combinations, including periods when both institutions were governed by the same party, whether conservatives or socialists. Nevertheless a solution to the stoppage, announced many times, turned out to be impossible.

Disagreement

The origins of the halted works are to be found in a disagreement between the town hall, the Junta de Andalucía and the firm with the contract for the expansion works,



The unfinished building on the left, and the entrance to the car park. JOSELE

Ten years with no sign of progress

Marbella. The expansion works at the Costa del Sol Hospital came to a halt a decade ago and there is no sign of them being able to resume in the immediate future

HÉCTOR BARBOTTA



a subsidiary of Seville's Abengoa company. It took on the construction in exchange for the right to run the underground car park at the hospital, the construction of which formed part of the project, for 40 years. As the hospital is situated beside the main highway it is almost obligatory to drive there, and the viability of the project relied on everyone using the underground car park, something that was never clearly explained and about which the council, which was calling for the Junta de Andalucía to finance the expansion works from its own resources, was not in agreement. When the firm began to place bollards along the road to stop cars parking there and the council forced it to remove them, the problems began. The licence for the car park was never granted. The three parties all lodged court cases and the build-

ing works slowed right down and then came to a complete halt soon afterwards. An additional complication was the situation of the parent company, immersed in a terminal financial crisis which has continued until today.

In 2014, four years later, it was announced that agreement had been reached after ten months of negotiations. It was decided that the Junta, which manages the hospital, would reorganise the outside parking areas so they could only be used by staff, and would compensate the construction company to ensure its viability in exchange for a reduction in the length of the concession. Marbella council agreed to grant the licence for the car park, the urbanisation works and commercial areas. There was a solemn signing ceremony, lots of smiles and the promise that the works would resume very soon.

But something went wrong again.

Time passed and the machinery was still at a standstill. Despite the opacity which has accompanied this project from the start, it was learned that there had been disagreement between the Junta and the firm over the amount of compensation and that had thwarted the deal. Soon afterwards, the company filed for bankruptcy.

The project started to unblock again at the end of 2018, when the Junta decided to cancel the concession and gave the green light

An agreement was announced in 2014 but it came to nothing because of arguments over the amount of compensation



▲ Deterioration. The state of some of the panels in the new building. JOSELE

for 12 million euros to be made available to do so. That was the amount of investment made until the works came to a halt. It was the final point on the order of the day of the last meeting of the regional government while Susana Díaz was president before the elections which ended 37 years of socialist government in Andalucía. Once in power the new president, Juanma Moreno, paid the 12 million and the concession was cancelled. As one government made the money available and another made the payment, socialists and conservatives both claimed the merit.

Cancellation

The concession was definitively cancelled on 20 May 2019 and this released the underground car park, which became free to use. At the same time, it was announced that the works were 35 per cent completed and that it would cost 30 million euros to finish them.

However, the works had been paralysed for so long that another problem had arisen. The original project was outdated and needed updating to meet the new health care needs of the area. Two new specialist centres (CHARES) in Benalmádena and Estepona had been planned - although the latter is still not open - and therefore the requirements on the Costa del Sol had changed.

The Costa del Sol Health Agency was tasked with drawing up an operational study to decide what alterations would have to be made to the project, before the Junta puts a new contract to tender to complete the expansion. However, then the Covid-19 pandemic hit and, once again, the plans were disrupted.

We understand that the study is practically completed now, but has still to be delivered to the Junta's Ministry of Health.

Guadalhorce bridge opens to pedestrians and cyclists

The wooden structure stretches for 270 metres and is the longest bridge of its kind in Spain

FRANCISCO JIMÉNEZ

MÁLAGA. Pedestrians and cyclists turned out last weekend to cross for the first time the new bridge that stretches for 270 metres across the river Guadalhorce estuary.

Sunday's long-awaited opening of the longest wooden bridge in Spain, and one of the longest in Europe, was attended by representatives of the two authorities that funded the project, Malaga City Hall and the provincial government (Diputación), as well as the president of the Junta de Andalucía, Juanma Moreno.

The bridge closes another gap in the Senda Litoral project, the coastal footpath that will eventually run for the 180 kilometres of the Malaga coastline, between Nerja and Manilva.

This structure also provides a new access to the Guadalhorce estuary nature reserve and links the area of Guadalmar with the west side of the city, with pedestrians and cyclists no longer having to cross the road bridge alongside the main dual carriageway.

"This is a new landmark for the city of Malaga," said Moreno. "They said it wouldn't be possible because of the environmental impact, but with ingenuity, audacity, talent and will, this has become a reality," he added.

HERE AND THERE

MARBELLA

Council renews pledge on free bus travel

H. BARBOTA. Marbella council is to carry on giving everyone registered as resident in the town free bus travel into 2021. It has set aside six million euros to pay for the service, an increase as it is taking on the two lines previously run by the Junta from the hospital to Nueva Andalucía and San Pedro.

MARBELLA

Junta agrees to offer of land for new law courts

H.B. The Junta de Andalucía has agreed that land offered by Marbella council for an urgently needed new court building is suitable. The land is on the road towards Ojén, beyond La Cañada and opposite the Virgen del Carmen cemetery. The rest of the plot will be offered to the National Police.

Cyclists were pleased to be among the first to cross the bridge. Initial signs prohibiting cycling were met with indignation, but following a campaign by an association of cyclists, it was decided that a speed limit of 10 kilometres per hour would be imposed instead.



Some of the first pedestrians to cross the bridge last weekend. SALVADOR SALAS

A large advertisement for McArthur Glen Designer Outlet Málaga. It features a woman in a white turtleneck sweater and white trousers, smiling and holding several black and white handbags. The background is a solid grey. Text on the right reads "fashion SHOPPING DAYS" in a mix of script and bold sans-serif fonts, followed by "1 - 12 OCTOBER" and "Up to 30% off our outlet prices on selected items". At the bottom left is a QR code with the text "Scan the QR code to discover participating brands mcarthurglenmalaga.es". At the bottom right is the "McArthur Glen Designer Outlet Málaga" logo, with "McArthur Glen" in white on a blue tilted rectangle, "Designer Outlet" in white on a red rectangle, and "Málaga" in blue below.



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Protesters on the land where the plant is set to be built. A. JIMÉNEZ

Residents group vows to fight against construction of much-needed treatment plant

ALHAURÍN DE LA TORRE

Locals believe that the new Málaga Norte plant should be built elsewhere rather than “destroy this unique area”

ANDREA JIMÉNEZ

Residents in the Mestanza area of Alhaurín de la Torre have come together to form a new platform to fight against the location of the much-needed new Málaga Norte treatment plant (EDAR).

Under the banner “Let’s save the Guadalhorce. Sewage treatment yes, but not here”, the protesters have collected more than 1,000 signatures from people who

believe that, while the plant is necessary, the chosen location will “destroy this unique area”.

As well as having an “enormous visual impact” on the area, they say that the EDAR will destroy protected species, devalue the local economy and pose further risk of flooding. What’s more, they believe that the public consultation phase was carried out in an underhand manner - during August when many people were away.

The project has also been rejected by the town council which has asked the Regional Ministry of Agriculture and Sustainable Development to provide technical justification as to why the alternative of extending the existing plant on the Guadalhorce industrial estate was ruled out.

Torremolinos and Seville collaborate on initiative to promote diversity and equality

TORREMOLINOS

T. BRYANT. Torremolinos has joined forces with Seville once again to continue supporting the LGBT community.

During a meeting held in the Andalusian capital last weekend, representatives from both municipalities entered into an agreement to work together alongside the Red de Municipios Orgullosos de Andalucía (Network of Pride Municipalities of Andalucía), to develop a calendar of cultural and educational activities for next summer.

The initiative aims to establish a mutual commitment to equality and diversity, as well as becoming an international reference of the LGBT collective.

The meeting was attended by Torremolinos councillor for Equality Nicolás de Miguel, who said, “This initiative aims to promote diversity and equality, and we will continue collaborating in joint activities like Gay Pride.”

Mass celebrates San Miguel in what should have been a week of festivities

TORREMOLINOS

T. B. More than 100 people attended a special mass in the San Miguel Church in Torremolinos on Tuesday in honour of the town’s patron San Miguel. The service was attended by Torremolinos mayor José Ortiz and members of his council. The celebration included a performance by the Torremolinos Choral Association. This week would have seen the town’s annual fair.



Mass in San Miguel Church. T. B.

The Cortijo de la Comba, soon to be the new arts centre. **SUR**

Town hall gives green light to new arts and cultural centre in Arroyo de la Miel

BENALMÁDENA

T. BRYANT. Benalmádena town hall has given the green light to a proposal to turn the Cortijo de la Comba in Arroyo de la Miel into a new arts and cultural centre. The initiative, which was proposed by the local cultural sector, was passed during a recent council meeting and was backed by the lo-

cal opposition group, Partido Popular.

The new centre, to be named the Palacio de las Artes de Benalmádena, will include a 400 to 600 capacity theatre, a conference hall and classrooms, rehearsal and dance studios and an area for temporary exhibitions.

“We support this motion to create a great palace of the arts in Benalmádena, because our municipality lacks a large space where cultural shows and events can be staged. This will add to the attractiveness of our town, especially at a time when the cultural sector has been badly affected by the current climate,” said Socialist mayor Víctor Navas.

The mayor of Torremolinos (c) presents the Medal of Honour. **SUR**

Health workers receive medal of honour for care during the pandemic

TORREMOLINOS

T. BRYANT. During a special ceremony to mark the 32nd Día de la Autonomía de Torremolinos (to celebrate the town’s split from the municipality of Málaga) on Sunday, the prestigious Medalla de Honor (medal of honour) was awarded to local health workers as a “symbol of respect, affection and special recognition”.

The medal, which is awarded to those who have gone above

and beyond to serve their community, was presented to workers and professionals of the San Miguel and La Carihuella health clinics in recognition of their tireless work and “unfaltering commitment” to the people of Torremolinos during the coronavirus pandemic.

The medal was presented by mayor José Ortiz, who said: “Today we respectfully and affectionately award the medal of our town to our health sector. We want to express our commitment as a society, because the people of Torremolinos are aware of the great debt that we owe to those who have made their profession the care of others, and that debt in these times tests our compassion.”

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HERE AND THERE

MARBELLA

Driving force behind Costa train project dies, aged 88

I. LILLO. Jesús Santos Rein, the driving force behind the project to get a regular Cercanías train between Malaga and Fuengirola, died this Monday in Marbella, aged 88.

Santos Rein was a visionary of his time, foreseeing the need for a

train service during a time when the area was undergoing significant economic development.

The modernisation of the already existing line to Fuengirola was a major undertaking, involving the construction of underground stations, halts and viaducts and it eventually opened in July 1975.

His original aim, however, was for the train to go as far as Marbella - a project still in the pipeline.

MIJAS

Tourist guide rewritten to reach bigger audience

I. G. With the slump in visitors due to the pandemic, Mijas has seized the opportunity to rewrite its tourism guide in a bid to reach more people. The new 14-page document (in Spanish, English, French and German) includes four new sections (sport, nature, gastronomy and crafts) in line with the town's new tourism strategy.



The presentation of the guide. **SUR**

SEVILLE

Discounts up to 50 per cent on local holidays

P. MARTÍNEZ. The regional government on Thursday announced a 'tourist discount' up to 50 per cent within Andalucía for local residents. Households with an income less than 20,000 euros get the full discount on holidays booked through travel agents through the 'Andalucía Segura' scheme, while everyone else gets 25 per cent off.

Fuengirola reveals initial plans for a new 91-million-euro port

FUENGIROLA

The document from Berenguer Ingenieros says the port will take three years to build; the council is now preparing to deliver the plan to the regional government

ANDREA JIMÉNEZ

There has been a step forward in the project for Fuengirola's new marina. The council has now officially revealed the initial plan for this project, which has an estimated cost of around 91 million euros (plus IVA). The report with all these details has been drawn up over recent months by the Berenguer Ingenieros firm, and it estimates that the works will take three years, as the mayor, Ana Mula, explained at the presentation at the end of last week.

"The company that was awarded the contract to draw up the plan has provided us with this document, which contains an estimated cost, a financial study and even a possible timescale for the works," she said.

She also explained that the council would now review the document prior to presenting it to the Junta

de Andalucía.

The mayor said the council has already applied for an appointment with the regional government to show the document before starting what she described as "the most complicated phase, which is obtaining decisions from the authorities involved, which are both regional and national".

The basic plan is to transform the existing infrastructure into a marina which is open to the rest of the town, with the aim of boosting the local economy. It includes a large square which will connect directly to the seafront promenade and spacious areas to walk around, lined with shops and restaurants.

With regard to the number of berths, these will almost double from 471 to more than 800. A quay will also be built for large yachts, a special anchorage for cruise ships up to 160 metres in length and an underground car park with space for over 700 vehicles.

"So to sum up, there will be everything necessary for the new port to become the major economic motor and generator of employment in our town," said Ana Mula.

Administrative procedures

The council aims to work through the necessary procedures so the construction work can begin as

soon as possible.

"Before we can start to build we have to begin this process, which is the slowest and longest of all, and that is where we need not only the collaboration of the Junta de Andalucía, which we do have already, but also the collaboration and assistance of the State, which also has to participate in this project," explained the mayor.

In phases

Mula said the construction could be carried out in different phases. "We are talking about a project initially valued at 91 million euros plus IVA, which is expected to take three years to complete, so we are not talking about an exaggerated timescale. This is very reasonable. Also, in principle, we believe that one phase can be carried out without affecting the other, so they can overlap. We will look into that further, once we have the construction project."

Among the specifications to be considered when the project is put to tender are the length of the concession for the port, which has been set at 40 years and can be extended; that the maximum construction permitted within the port area should be no more than 30,000 square metres of roof; and that none of the buildings will be for residential use.



Benalmádena mayor Víctor Navas explains the project. **SUR**

Car park for future Marymar beachside leisure complex is given the green light

BENALMÁDENA

The new facility will be an extension of the promenade, built on the site of the seniors' home that will soon be demolished

IVÁN GELIBTER

The future Marymar Plaza commercial development on the seafront in Benalmádena took a major step forward on Tuesday with the awarding of the contract to build a new car park.

Promoter Jardines de las Cigarreras will be responsible for both the construction and the running of the underground car park to be located next to the former seniors' residence. It will have 210 spaces, distributed across two floors (88 on the first and 122 on the second) and is a key part of the project to create a shopping and leisure area for beach users on an extension of the promenade built where the so-to-be-demolished Marymar residence is located.

According to the town hall's report on Tuesday, the car park

will occupy a total of 7,650 square metres: 3,150 on one floor, and 4,500 on another. It will also have direct access to the future commercial complex.

After announcing the concession of the car park yesterday, Benalmádena mayor Víctor Navas explained that with the demolition of the eight-storey Marymar residence, which has been unoccupied for several years, "not only will our beaches be more visible, they will gain the space that the residence currently occupies, some 2,700 square metres".

After the demolition, a public square of about 4,000 square metres will be created and, below ground level, the construction of commercial premises that will serve the beach. Only five metres of the building will be built above ground level, and it will be transparent so that it doesn't obstruct the view of the sea from the road and the promenade.

This project also includes one of the council's star proposals for this legislature: the extension of the promenade from Bil-Bil castle to the area around Sunset Beach, thus connecting the town's entire coastline.



The proposed design for the new marina in Fuengirola. **SUR**



Delegates at the conference at Villa Padierna. JOSELE

Experts believe that residential tourism will make a slow recovery

Speakers at a conference this week explained that while lockdown saw more enquiries from foreign buyers, this has not so far translated into more sales

HÉCTOR BARBOTA

MARBELLA. The residential tourism market on the Costa del Sol

is expected to drop from five to eight per cent into next year and the recovery in demand from international buyers for second homes will be slow. This was the majority opinion of experts attending the 12th annual Residential Tourism conference, held at the Hotel Anantara Villa Padierna on Tuesday.

Juan Ramón Rubio Zalabardo, market expert at Deloitte said that

the pandemic had hit the Costa del Sol directly and a recovery was expected by 2022-2023.

Delegates discussed how during lockdown there was an increase in enquiries but this didn't translate into real sales afterwards. When the restrictions ended, there was a bounce back in the market for first, main homes but interest in holiday properties saw a negative effect.

Prices stable for new homes

Experts feel that prices for secondhand properties should fall, but new-builds will not change.

Mikel Echavarren, CEO of Colliers International Spain, explained that, unlike the last financial crisis, property developers aren't in debt, so aren't in a hurry to lower prices. Whereas, private homeowners may be keener to sell and take offers from interested buyers. Rubio recalled that in 2019 the market had already fallen 10 per cent with demand stagnating from international buyers, which make up a third of sales.

The effects on sales of Covid-19 will be felt for some time, as tourist activity has fallen 80 per cent and the size of the economy by 10 per cent. However the experts at the conference pointed out that the launch of new developments hasn't been affected, with a 36 per cent increase in building projects getting under way.

Concern at six-month tax obligation ruling for non-residents trapped in Spain during lockdown

H. BARBOTA / P. MARTÍNEZ

MARBELLA. The conference this week on Residential Tourism at the Hotel Anantara Villa Padierna discussed the likely effects on second-home owners of the obligation for people trapped in Spain during lockdown to pay taxes to Madrid if they were here for more than six months.

Although some non-resident expats never intended to stay more than 183 days, the limit beyond which the Spanish government generally considers a person to be tax resident, some were caught out and overstayed.

In a formal written reply to a Lebanese couple, considered a guide for other future cases, Hacienda, the Tax ministry, removed any doubt that a tax return would be due.

Its statement read, "In this case, with regard to the stated rule for stays over 183 days within any 12-month period in Spanish territory, the days spent in Spain by the married couple, due to state of alarm, would be

counted, in which case if they were to remain more than 183 days in Spanish territory in 2020, they would be considered Spanish income tax payers."

There was discontent from commentators over the decision, as the Spanish public administration had suspended legal time frames for its own activity during lockdown, a move that has not been extended to taxpayers.

At the Costa conference, businessman Ricardo Arranz said the ministry's move was discouraging. "How are they going to make a person pay income tax who has been forced [to be here] as they couldn't return to their country," he asked. "[The government] should be paying for their lockdown, not charging them."

Juan Ramón Rubio, from Deloitte, felt that the decision could have an adverse affect on the residential tourism sector by causing uncertainty. "It's not something that's going to help the market to recover," he explained.

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Mayor attempts to appease residents with tree consultation

RINCÓN DE LA VICTORIA

The council says it will go ahead with the controversial felling but has agreed to leave the iconic mulberries outside La Cala del Moral church

SUR

RINCÓN DE LA VICTORIA. Mayor of Rincón de la Victoria, Francisco Salado, announced during a council meeting on Wednesday that he would invite associations and residents of La Cala del Moral to discuss the species of tree that should be planted on the redesigned Avenida de Málaga.

The announcement comes after a week of protests by La Cala and Rincón residents over the felling of 83 jacaranda, ficus and mulberry trees.

"We want to listen to the residents because we are a team that makes decisions but also listens," Salado said.

He went on to explain that the trees being cut down are causing damage to pavements and that the



Residents protesting in La Cala del Moral last week. **SUR**

mulberry tree in particular, after which La Cala del Moral (moral is mulberry in Spanish) is named.

"We will leave the mulberry trees outside the church, but the others will be removed as this type of tree is not suitable for pavements under three metres wide," he said.

He pointed out that neighbours had been "complaining for many years" about the damage caused

by the existing trees.

The regeneration project includes the planting of cocos or queen palm trees, which Salado said was "voted on unanimously by the town hall".

Salado concluded by saying that the town will have "more trees than before" when this and other planned environmental projects have been completed.

HERE AND THERE



Florín Leonte speaking to reporters on Wednesday. **E. CABEZAS**

ARENAS

Dana's daughter to live with brother, judge rules

E. C. / J. C. A judge in Malaga has ruled that the daughter of Dana Leonte, the missing Romanian woman who police believe was murdered by her partner, Sergio Ruiz, in 2019, should live with

Florín Leonte, Dana's brother.

Among the reasons given were that the child's paternal aunt and uncle had "continuously flouted the Covid-19 restrictions for work motives and left the child with elderly relatives".

After the ruling Leonte said, "Justice has finally been done and she is no longer with the family of my sister's murderer."

PERIANA

Periana mayor to ask Junta for Villa Turística

E. C. Seventeen years since it was closed, Periana's Villa Turística holiday complex remains in the hands of the Junta de Andalucía with no viable solution. Periana mayor, Rafael Torrubia told SUR earlier this week that he plans to go to the regional government in Seville to ask that they hand it over to the town hall. However, Torrubia said that investors are needed to be able to reopen it.

TORRE DEL MAR

Eight Torre del Mar roads to be revamped

E. C. Vélez-Málaga town hall announced on Wednesday plans to revamp eight roads to the west of Torre del Mar. The area known as Las Barracas, which includes Calles Nueva, Poniente, Ancla and Caracola, will get new paving, LED lighting, improved telecommunications and water supply under the 1.86-million-euro plan. The town hall said it would be carried out in four phases.

NERJA

Discovery proves use of cave in Islamic period

E. C. A charm made of lead and discovered in the Nerja cave has been identified as belonging to Spain's Al Andalus era. It is the first find from the Islamic period, demonstrating to experts that the cave was used by Arabic speakers. The piece was already held at the Museo de Málaga and was originally thought to be from the late Roman period. Text on the protective charm is thought to be quotes from the Qu'ran.



The Islamic period charm. **SUR**

PERIANA

Footpath connects town to fountain

E. C. A new footpath has opened to the west of Periana, which connects the area to the town's public fountain, known as the Fuente de Antonio Díaz. Previously, users had to walk along the side of the main road to access the fountain. During a visit last Monday, the provincial tourism representative, Nuria Rodríguez said that tourists to the region have been especially drawn to inland areas away from crowds this summer.

TORROX

Town hall agrees lower taxes for residents

E. C. Torrox town hall approved on Monday a package of fiscal measures to help businesses and residents counter the economic impact of Covid-19. The measures include a seven per cent reduction in next year's IBI as well as a five percent drop in domestic rubbish collection fees and 10 per cent for businesses. "We want to reduce the economic impact of Covid-19 for residents," said mayor Óscar Medina.



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Tivoli World among worst debtors to Spanish tax office

MALAGA / MADRID

Former FC Barcelona star, Neymar, was the private individual who owed the most to Hacienda at the end of 2019: 34.6 million euros

F. JIMÉNEZ / L. PALACIOS

The government has published its annual report of who owes it the most money in tax. Hacienda says that there were 3,930 people or companies that each owed it over one million euros at the end of 2019.

This was a 2.4 per cent fall on the previous year, although the total outstanding from this list was still an eye-watering 14.2 billion euros.

Some firms or individuals owed huge amounts. Nationally the worst debts were with collapsed property empires, many well-known to Costa residents. Reyal Urbis heads the list nationally, owing 345.5 million euros. Also in the top ten are long-gone Arenal 2000/2001 with 148.9m and Aifos on 98.9m.

Locally, there are 146 Malaga and Costa-based firms listed that owed a total of 695m euros. This is excluding private individuals.



Neymar, a debt of millions. AFP



Tivoli World, in Benalmádena. SUR

Among the companies on the Costa that feature is the owner of Benalmádena theme park, Tivoli World. It owed 3.4 million at the start of the year to the taxman and is currently in the

hands of administrators.

Public-private firms run by Marbella council are also part of the list, although this is attributed to ongoing discussions with central government over money owed the resort after fraud in the Jesús Gil era.

Among other local names with debts at the end of 2019 were: Isofotón (2.9 million); Euralex (5.7m); Novasoft (4.8m in total); Viajes Marbesol (4.2m); Niza Cars (4m); Oleoliva (2.6m) and electronic goods chain Bazar San Juan (1.6m).

Nationally it's Neymar

The private individual that owed the most nationally is Paris Saint-Germain star and ex-FC Barcelona player, Neymar. His debt to Hacienda was 34.6 million euros at the end of 2019.

Although dominated by construction companies in the top spaces, football clubs do also feature prominently. Unión Deportiva Salamanca owed 13.44m in tax; Real Murcia, 10.77m and Xerez Club Deportivo, 10.38m.

The former president of Real Madrid Lorenzo Sanz left the list of those owing one million or more this year after dying of coronavirus in March.

The government started publishing its annual 'name and shame' report in 2015.

from the loan itself and reinvested it with Premier Group, in the Isle of Man, and the courts said that counted as an unapproved investment product.

According to Luis González of Costa-based Lawbird Legal Services, who represented the claimants, the ruling confirms that operating in breach of mandatory financial regulations is illegal speculation, even if the company was legally operating in its own country. He added that his "clients' nightmare had now ended".

lease products were designed to reduce inheritance tax and supplement pension income.

The judges agreed with the previous rulings of a Bilbao court that SL Mortgage Funding n°1 Limited (SLMF), based in Chester (UK), didn't have the proper permissions to sell in Spain.

SLMF kept most of the income

THE EURO ZONE
MARK NAYLER

Barely credible



This week saw former IMF chief Rodrigo Rato acquitted of one of his several alleged financial misdemeanours. The criminal division of Spain's High Court ruled that Rato - who served as Spain's Economy minister between 1996 and 2004, in the conservative government of José María Aznar - was not guilty of false accounting or of misleading investors about the state of Bankia's finances prior to its Initial Public Offering (IPO) in 2011. It's extremely hard to believe, though, that Bankia's downfall was just an enormous accident, and in no way brought about by the greed and/or incompetence of its top executives.

In a ruling that will surely (and hopefully) be appealed, the Court found that the pre-IPO prospectus offered to potential investors in 2011 contained "ample and accurate information" about Bankia's balance sheet. Yet despite its claims to shareholders that it had made a profit of €309 million, a later reassessment of the bank's health revealed that it had actually lost €3 billion in 2011. Share prices fell from €3.75 to €1 and the bank received a state bailout of €22 billion in 2012 to prevent its total collapse.

It was for this reason that Spain's Supreme Court ruled in favour of two Bankia shareholders in early 2016, ordering the bank to pay back the sums they had invested (€9,997 and €20,868, respectively). The Court also found that the IPO prospectus had contained "serious inaccuracies" about Bankia's

financial health at the time.

That Spain's two highest courts have reached completely opposite opinions about the same document is puzzling in itself. It might be more understandable if the brochure was fiendishly complicated and packed with specialist vocabulary, or liable to wildly differing interpretations. But a prospectus written for the ordinary investor should have presented information about the bank's finances clearly and accurately. Why, then, is there disagreement about the extent to which it corresponded with the actual state of Bankia's balance sheet? Who or what obscured the difference between fake profit and real loss, and how were so many people convinced into giving their savings to a bank in such dire straits?

Rato has always maintained that Bankia's supervisors, most importantly the Bank of Spain, knew about everything that was going on while he was chairman between 2010 and 2012. But none of the supervising bodies knew (or knew but didn't do anything) about the prevalence of "black" credit cards within the institution, which Rato and 64 other executives were said to have spent around €15 million on between 2003 and 2012, and in connection with which the former IMF boss is serving a four-and-a-half year prison sentence.

It's entirely plausible that dodgy or careless accounting prior to the ill-fated IPO was just another practice of which Bankia's supervisors had no knowledge.

Top court confirms 12 equity release mortgages were illegal

COSTA DEL SOL

SUR IN ENGLISH. Spain's Supreme Court has upheld earlier judgments that 12 mortgages sold by a British company were illegal. The mortgages, mostly taken out by Britons in Malaga province between 2004 and 2007, totalled six million euros. The equity re-

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British Chamber of Commerce in Spain

Brexit and Covid-19, a potentially "perfect storm"

Gibraltar's deputy chief minister told the Liberal Democrat conference in the UK that the consequences will be felt for years to come

DEBBIE BARTLETT



GIBRALTAR. The deputy chief minister, Dr Joseph Garcia, has said that the combination of Britain leaving the EU and the Covid-19 pandemic have the potential mak-

ings of a "perfect storm", the consequences of which will be felt for years to come. Dr Garcia, who is the leader of the Gibraltar Liberal Party, was taking part in a panel discussion entitled "Brexit in times of Covid-19" during the UK Liberal Democrat conference which was completely virtual this year.

The deputy chief minister shared the panel with Alistair Carmichael, who is MP for Orkney and Shetland and the Lib Dem shadow Home Affairs spokesman, and was previously responsible for Foreign Affairs. This provided a perspective on these issues from Gibraltar and from Scotland. The discussion, which was sold out, was chaired by the Director of Gibraltar



Dr Joseph García, deputy chief minister of Gibraltar. **sur**

House in London, Dominique Searle.

Dr Garcia explained the challenges posed to a small administration such as Gibraltar in having to deal with the pandemic and Brexit at the same time, saying this

was not easy given that the same people were often intensely involved in both areas of government activity. He outlined the way the pandemic had evolved in Gibraltar since the first positive case was confirmed on 3 March and the

measures taken to combat it.

He also said the irony was not lost on him that the discussion included elected representatives from Gibraltar and Scotland, both of whom had voted Remain. He then explained that the stockpiling of medical supplies in the face of a no-deal Brexit had actually proven very useful when dealing with the pandemic.

The DCM gave a general outline of the ongoing negotiations for a future relationship between Gibraltar and the EU and explained the importance of border fluidity going forward. Gibraltar had always enjoyed a differentiated relationship with the EU from the UK, he pointed out, given its geographical position and distinct interests. He also went over the plans for no agreement, in the event that it was not possible to conclude a deal.

Dr Garcia accompanied chief minister Fabian Picardo to Madrid for further technical talks about the future relationship with the EU this week, but at the time of writing there has been no official comment on those discussions.

IN BRIEF



Last year, the Chief Minister signed the Made By Dyslexia Pledge. **GDSG**

SOCIETY

Wear red on Thursday for World Dyslexia Day

D. B. Thursday 8 October is World Dyslexia Day and the Gibraltar Dyslexia Support Group is asking everyone to wear red to show support for those with the disorder. The Moorish castle in Gibraltar will also be lit up in red to raise awareness. The GDSG, which has been a registered char-

ity for over 20 years, facilitates the detection and provides support for individuals and their families suffering from dyslexia and other related specific learning difficulties.

This year, due to the pandemic, it can't organise its usual events but will be marking World Dyslexia Awareness Week (5-11 October) in different ways.

More information on what's happening can be found at www.dyslexia.gi

LEISURE

Boulder climbing facility at Leisure Centre

D. B. The Leisure Centre in Gibraltar is to have an indoor boulder climbing facility, replacing the ice rink which is now uneconomical to repair and update, as this would cost an estimated £470,000. It also costs about £8,000 a month in electricity. The ice rink has been leaking to the bowling alley below. This is sad news for the approximately 20 people a day who use the ice rink, but the boulder climb is said to be exciting, environmentally friendly and is expected to be popular with the community.

COVID-19

Eight bus drivers test positive for Covid-19

D. B. Amid concern after eight bus drivers tested positive for the coronavirus, the authorities insist that preventive measures on the buses are effective and they are safe. The buses, which now carry only 50 per cent of the usual number of passengers, are cleaned daily and seats, driver's cabin, handrails and push buttons are sanitised. Bus drivers are tested for the virus every four weeks. No reason has been identified for eight of them to have tested positive within a short time.

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Exiting stage right: Torra leaves the Catalan parliament after being invited as a guest for a last speech. EFE

Quim Torra stands down after public-office ban is upheld

Supreme Court ruled that Catalan President cannot hold public office over controversial nationalist banners, and regional elections will now be held

CRISTIÁN REINO

BARCELONA. The now ex-president of the Catalan government, Quim Torra, said his farewells to the chamber of the regional parliament on Wednesday afternoon. After the Supreme Court up-

held earlier rulings on Monday that he couldn't hold public office for 18 months, supporting nationalist MPs invited him back as a guest to make his last speech.

To applause from JxCat and ERC, ruling coalition parties, Torra attacked the Spanish State. "Damaging, breaking and beheading the direct link that this parliament, with its 135 seats, has with its citizens, is an intolerable State-sponsored coup," he said.

Torra was banned for not taking down political messages on public buildings ahead of national elections last autumn.

Pere Aragonès of ERC will be acting president, although he has refused to use the title. The ruling coalition was already broken and elections will be held early next year, as soon as the parliamentary rules and timetable will allow.

Agreement reached to extend and adapt ERTE furloughing plan

Bosses and unions have given the go ahead to the scheme running until 31 January and the Work minister has added that it could last even longer

LUCÍA PALACIOS

MADRID. After reaching an agreement this week for new ERTE furloughing rules for workers, the minister for Work, Yolanda Díaz, added on Thursday that they could even be renewed again when the new extension period expires on 31 January.

After the eleventh-hour deal with employers and unions, new ERTE rules came in yesterday, 1 October, as the previous schemes had expired. The new measures also allow companies only partially affected to benefit.

There are now three types of ERTE scheme for bosses to furlough staff on, all of which see the government paying between 70% and 100% of social security contributions. In return, once again, firms are not allowed to sack furloughed workers within the first six months of being brought back to work.

In the first type of furloughing, all the existing ERTes for worst-hit firms have been renewed automatically in certain sectors of the economy, with a drop of at least 65% in business activity and over 15% of the workforce mothballed. This essentially covers tourism, some transport, leisure activities and also other secondary sectors, such as jewel-



Díaz explains the measures. EP


lery and graphic arts. In addition, firms in other sectors who can prove that at least 50% of their income comes from other affected sectors can benefit.

Companies forced to close totally will get the highest rebate on their Social Security contributions.

There will also be different ERTE terms for those who have had to shorten opening hours or reduce their capacity.

For workers who are on an ERTE, they will continue to receive 70% of their basic salary from the government, even if they haven't paid enough contributions. Receiving this payment won't count against their future unemployment benefits right at least for this year.

"It's a totally ambitious project that keeps safe and defends all firms and workers in our country," Yolanda Díaz said.



Michael Anthony Bartram
British Consul in Malaga from 1990 to 2000.
Died in Malaga on 22 September 2020.
Much mourned by his friends and former colleagues at the Consulate.



Betty Gillmor
The death has occurred of **Elizabeth (Betty) Gillmor (nee Thompson).** Fuengirola, Spain and previously of Sandymount, Dublin.
Peacefully on 3rd September at the Quirónsalud Hospital Marbella. Pre-deceased by her beloved husband Billy, brother Richard. Betty will be sadly missed by her loving sister Dilly, nephews Patrick and Carl and niece Elizabeth, her sister Eva and brother Harry and all her family, her friends in Ireland and Spain especially Paco, Teresa, Caroline and Emilio.
Due to ongoing Covid-19 restrictions in Spain and Ireland, and in accordance with the wishes of the late Elizabeth Gillmor, a ceremony of remembrance will be held in Spain at a future date.
To provide your contact information please email your details to egfuengirola@outlook.ie

MADRID

PM and opposition clash over role of the king

SUR. A bitter Prime Minister's Questions took place in Congreso this week over the role of the king in the Spanish constitution.

The government has been criticised for seemingly not allowing King Felipe to attend a traditional swearing-in ceremony for new judges in Catalonia last week.

Ministers blamed diary clashes, although many suggested the move was to appease nationalist parties ahead of delicate national budget negotiations.

Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez accused opposition leader Pablo Casado of "inventing false threats" over the role of the king.

SALAMANCA

'M' plate idea for senior citizens blasted by locals

SUR. There was controversy this week after a public official responsible for overseeing road safety law in the northern province of Salamanca proposed that all drivers over 70 should have a letter M showing on the back of their car.

The M would stand for mayores (seniors) and would be equivalent to L plates on learner drivers.

The suggestion even found its way into the national Attorney General's department's annual report and was said to have come about after incidents of cars, "going the wrong

way down motorways and other sorts of less serious accidents, linked to older people driving vehicles".

In addition, the Salamanca official proposed that after a driver reaches 70, driving licences should be renewed more frequently.

Pensioners representatives in the area reacted angrily to the idea. One said, "They don't need to put an M on me, they just need to look me in the face to see how old I am."

Despite its high-profile publication, the Interior minister, Fernando Grande-Marlaska, clarified on Wednesday that it was just an idea and not on the official agenda. He added that the government's focus was on all drivers meeting safety rules, whatever their age.

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LETTERS
TO THE EDITOR

Railway to Marbella

You mention that the local government would petition for European funds to be allocated towards building a much-needed railway connection to Marbella. However, I question the actual usage of those funds. For example, more than 10 years ago the locality received a substantial European grant to erect a simple sound barrier between the motorway and the surrounding residential area of Nagüeles, Marbella, as the noise levels were in contravention of European regulations. There is still no such barrier and there seems to be no movement towards building it. Why? Where has the money gone? What controls do Europe have over their grants; why does it not follow-up? Why should we be trusted with new money?

DIL PARANJPE

The Torremolinos palms are dying

All the palm trees in Torremolinos are dying and I don't understand why. All the branches are dry and broken and, in many cases, half hanging into the street, but no one pays them any attention.

I see that they've covered the base of all the trees with a material which, from my point of view, stops water getting through and so... they're dying. I'm new to Torremolinos, but the consented death of trees, the dirt in some streets and the terrible state of some of the

buildings gives me great sadness.

SUSANA LLAMAZARES

Hotel closures in Fuengirola

The hotels Florida and Angela have posted on their Facebook pages that they will remain closed until April 2021. Likewise, the management of the Yaramar has announced they will close on 4 October until April 2021. Fuengirola is going to be like a ghost town this winter. Devastating news for so many people.

DAVID WHITE

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THE MUSIC MAKER
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I got you over my skin

A frozen wind whips in off the wild Atlantic and cuts through the historic granite streets of Aberdeen, and one thirty-five-year-old resident of the town decides that this would be the perfect time to pop a light jacket on and head down to her local tattoo parlour. There she asks a man with a beard the size of Loch Lomond for a new bit of skin decoration to make her infinite selfies more interesting or something.

So far, so hipster. Except this particular tattoo is about to propel the woman in question into the Guinness book of records. It's only her fifty-second effort, so it's not because she has the greatest number of tattoos (that dubious honour goes to a chap from New Zealand called Lucky Diamond Rich - well, of course he is - who is officially recog-

nised as having his whole body tattooed, including - stop reading here if you're having breakfast - the inside of his eyelids).

No, our Aberdonian friend is about to adorn her relatively young flesh with a twenty-eighth portrayal of her favourite musician, Eminem. Poor, poor thing - Eminem, I mean. Just imagine knowing that somebody somewhere on the face of the planet has got your ugly mug indelibly etched into her skin. Twenty-eight times. It's bad enough if your ex-girlfriend still keeps your photo in her purse years after you last saw each other, so what psychological damage this must be doing to the ageing white rapper is anyone's guess.

I've never understood the concept of tattoos. Well, for a sailor in Thailand in 1963, I suppose I can see the attrac-

tion, but not for a barmaid from Barnsley in the twenty-first century. Some faux wisdom - 'the mountain is lowest when it's at its highest' or something - written in Sanskrit on your left thigh doesn't strike me as money well spent, particularly when there's a pub next door. Mind you, I was ginger when I was younger and everyone knows that tattoos on ginger freckly people look sad and sinister at the same time. So, perhaps I'm biased.

Maybe when I'm older and sense that it won't be long before I snuff it, I'll get a tattoo just to see what all the fuss is about and if I like it, I might get twenty-nine of one my favourite musicians just to be able to get in the Guinness book of records. Probably Paul Simon or Bruce Springsteen, then - Van Morrison's hat wouldn't fit.

IDÍGORAS

Before, a squirrel could run the length of Spain, jumping from branch to branch



SUR in English

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CRISTINA MARURI

Talking about poverty

Talking about poverty in the 21st century should be like talking about the Black Death or the discovery of the wheel. It should be something almost prehistoric. A fact known only through dusty books, waiting for the delight of scholars in some prestigious library. A dark and shameful period that has been largely overcome. A time that humanity wished would be forgotten.

Talking about poverty should never, and in no way, mean that on the way to work we

meet a beggar sleeping on cardboard at the entrance of a cash machine. Or hearing on the news that an old man has died alone in his home, because nobody cared. To talk about poverty should not be that a child did not have a childhood, because along with their illusion and innocence, their childhood would have been taken away by the bombs of a war or the animal instincts of a cruel paedophile.

To speak of poverty should not imply that a woman was kidnapped, raped and forced

to marry, to live abused as a slave, so much so that she even dreamed that death would come before her. Nor should it mean deformed babies with bulging eyes, huge heads and scarred ribs, in a skin that cools off because life escapes them.

Talking about poverty should not mean the terrible suffering of parents forced to sell a child. Or talk about monsters capable of buying a child and tearing it apart, so that they can usurp the blood, liver or kidney.

Talking about poverty should not only be about strategies, figures, meetings and conventions; because talking about poverty is talking about human beings. Of people, of individuals, of lives; like yours and like mine. They are not worse, defective, inferior, or guilty. It is just that they have not had our luck. There is no other difference. No matter how hard we try, we will not find an excuse.

That is why to continue to talk about poverty is to talk about the greatest shame of humanity. Of its inability to love. Of its lack of empathy and generosity. Of a never-ending defeat: good always loses and evil wins. Of the tragic irony of reaching the moon and not exterminating hunger and thirst. Water, bread and peace.

That is why to speak of poverty with a capital "P" is not to speak of theirs but of ours. Of the meanness and rickiteness of our hearts, which are going down the wrong path and will never reach happiness.

One of their smiles, that are offered to us by those who have nothing and give everything, is worth more than the golden and stupid treasures that in our ephemeral life we are busy accumulating.

To speak of poverty, in short, is to speak of the saddest and most humiliating end of humanity.

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IN THE FRAME

A ceramic treasure trove tucked away in the Axarquía

Cajiz. Anne-Barbara Lenzin spent the lockdown creating art and contemplating opening a sculpture garden

JENNIE RHODES



Visiting Anne-Barbara Lenzin's garden and studio is a tonic for the soul during these exceptional times.

Perched on a hillside just outside the small hamlet of Cajiz, which belongs to Vélez-Málaga, Anne-Barbara's terraced garden has spectacular views over the Mediterranean sea, but that's not all there is to see there.

Here the visitor will find a veritable sculpture garden in the making and a ceramic treasure trove. Anne-Barbara works away in her outdoor studio and is gradually adding to her collection.

Colourful totem poles, African masks and female heads, with long eyelashes the most beauty-conscious could only dream of having, and a collection of eye-catching ceramic bugs adorn both the outside of the house and garden.

In fact it was one of those bugs that led to my meeting with Anne-Barbara. Nerja Arts Society Chair Helen Sijlsing had recently shown me a photo of what she'd bought with the money she received from the Marsh Award she won earlier this year for volunteer work with the society.

It was one of Anne-Barbara's giant ceramic insects, which she'd seen at an exhibition at Anne-Barbara's sister's house (Cornelia Lenzin, who owns El Molino de Cajiz). "Do you know Anne-Barbara?" Helen asked me. I wasted no time in getting in touch.

Anne-Barbara, 61, still lives between Basel in Switzerland, and Spain. When in Spain she

is in the house she bought just under two years ago.

Casa el Ventorrillo is an old inn which was once a resting and watering place used by farmers walking up to Benamocarra from the coast with their animals, according to the artist.

Early inspiration

Anne-Barbara explains that her aunt was a ceramist and that from the age of six, she was always at her house eager to make things. "I was always asking her things. She was a big influence in my life. I remember the first time I touched the clay and it was so organic. I loved it."

However, Anne-Barbara's creativity eventually led her into fashion design, a field she worked in for 20 years in Switzerland. She also worked for IBM for a period of time. "I had to survive with two kids," she admits.

The artist explains that she started to work with clay again about 25 years ago, "as a hobby".

It is a "natural antidepressant" she says, adding, "It makes me really happy to do something creative. To see how things grow and take shape."

Anne-Barbara's influences come from an exhibition of African art she once went to, which "made a big impression" on her. She says that she "fell in love with the earthy colours and beauty", although she admits she has never visited the continent.

"Maybe one day when this [coronavirus] is all over and we



Anne-Barbara Lenzin with one of her iconic ceramic clay heads at her house near Cajiz. J. RHODES



▲ One of Anne-Barbara's ceramic insects. "I can appreciate their beauty when you look at them close-up."

can travel again," she reflects.

The long eyelashes came about as an experiment, and ended up being an iconic feature on the female heads. "I like working with wire and I decided to experiment with clay and wire one day," the ceramist explains.

As for the insects, she laughs, "Don't ask me why I started making them. I prefer the ceramic ones on my walls than to see them crawling around, but I can appreciate their beauty when you look at them close-up."

The lockdown gave Anne-Barbara plenty of time to work as well as start to think about the idea of creating a sculpture garden to open to the public.

"It is a work in progress, I started to do a lot of work to the garden during the quarantine, but there would be a lot more to do if I am going to turn it into a sculpture garden," the artist admits.

In the meantime, she has a semi-permanent exhibition at El Molino de Cajiz and she will be exhibiting at Frigiliana's Ruta

"Creating is a natural antidepressant. It makes me really happy to do something creative and see how things grow and take shape"

del Arte which is on from today until Sunday.

Visitors can make appointments to see the garden and studio, where they can choose individual pieces to create their own totem poles and buy the ceramic heads, insects and poppies, as well as see the sculptures in situ in Anne-Barbara's extensive garden.

FURTHER INFORMATION

Website: www.anne-barbara-lenzin.com

Frigiliana Ruta del Arte:
Facebook:
[rutadelartefrigiliana](https://www.facebook.com/rutadelartefrigiliana)

Marbella merges its annual art and design fairs in one shared space

MARBELLA

Financial circumstances caused by the pandemic have led to the joint celebration this year in the Palacio de Ferias

HÉCTOR BARBOTA

Two fairs in one. The organisers of Marbella Design and Art Marbella, both annual events in the town, decided to merge both into one space this year. The double display opened in the town's Adolfo Suárez congress centre on Thursday last week. Marbella Design will remain open until Monday (5 October), while Art Marbella comes to an end this Saturday.

Marbella Design, considered Andalucía's most important display of luxury design and interiors, has been put together under the creative direction of Alfonso Castellón. Designs aimed at the hotel industry are a central theme with interior projects and materials destined to face the challenges posed by the Covid-19 pandemic.

Participants in the architecture and design section of the event include Erico Navazo, Marisa Gallo, Sara Folch, Nicolás Escáñez, Nezha Kanouni, Nayra Iglesias, Soledad Ordóñez Giorgiano, M^a Paz Torino, Jesús Peña, Welcome Design, RD Arquitectos, Soul Arquitectura and Amparo Macías.

Among the locals displaying their designs is Fernando Moreno, one of Marbella's most important construction and design firms; as well as Calligaris and Maderas Santaella.

The Marbella Design programme this year has included two round table events: one last Saturday entitled Interior De-

sign: Everyday Utopia; and another this Friday (2 October) will discuss health and safety in the hotel and catering industry.

Local galleries

Sharing space in the congress centre, Art Marbella brings together exhibits from numerous local galleries such as Reiners Contemporary Art, which is displaying the audiovisual installation *Wolkenbilder*, by Sali Muller. Meanwhile the Santaella stand is showing works by artists Marisa Vadillo, Javier Map and Mónica Vázquez.

The fair also brings together two special projects: two sculptures by Matías di Carlo that have never been shown before; and the Baroque photographic project by Pío Cabanillas.



Some of the exhibits at the fair. D. A.

A smaller, more Spanish, fair with strict Covid protocol

The Covid-19 pandemic has made this year's Art Marbella show a smaller, more Spanish affair than usual, with the absence of international galleries. Its fusion with Marbella Design, however, has created

something "original", explained the event's CEO Alejandro Zaia at the opening. "You won't find this in Madrid even, or Barcelona," he added. "Malaga and Marbella can be proud."

Zaia stressed that strict Covid-19 protocol is in place in Marbella congress centre for the event. "We're lucky to be able to open."



Guests at the joint opening of the art and design fairs in Marbella last week. JOSELE



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ALEKK M.
SAANDERS

THE WORLD ON YOUR DOORSTEP

All things Swiss in the south of Spain

Switzerland. Lakes, mountains, chocolate, fondues, watches and a cave full of gold... no wonder the Swiss feel at home on the Costa del Sol

At first glance you would think that southern Spain has few similarities to Switzerland. A search for Swiss connections, however, reveals that the two countries are closer than you might think.

Somewhere to stay Little Switzerland

On the Costa del Sol, German-speaking residents call the mountainous area in the Axarquía that surrounds Lake Viñuela 'Die kleine Schweiz' - 'Little Switzerland'. Though La Viñuela is indeed a man-made reservoir, it helps create a picturesque landscape within already glorious countryside. They say, it reminds them of Lake Bachsee, located above the resort town of Grindelwald in the canton of Berne. Views of the surrounding glaciers, mountains and meadows make a walk around this Swiss lake unforgettable. La Viñuela is dominated by a similar backdrop, La Maroma, which belongs to the Sierra de Tejeda mountain range. With a height of 2,068 metres it is the highest peak in Malaga province, and that is why its top is usually covered with snow and ice in winter.

Swiss people are known for being lovers of the outdoors. Here in "Little Switzerland" they can find Camping Rural Presa La Viñuela, which offers comfortable mobile wooden homes and an enormous swimming pool. Swimming in the lake as well as non-motorised watersports are also permitted. In addition, around the lake there are picnic areas, some with barbecues.

The atmosphere Hidden gold

Banking is seen as a symbol of Switzerland, where this business dates to the early eighteenth century through the country's merchant trade. Swiss banking is known for its secrecy. It is rumoured that there are vaults filled with gold under some streets in Zurich, and deep in the Swiss Alps, next to an old airstrip, is a vast bunker holding one of the world's largest stashes of gold.

It is believed that there is much hidden gold on the Costa del Sol too. There could be treasure, for example, hidden inside the rock that divides Rincón de la Victoria and La Cala de Moral. According to legend, the Moorish Almoravid king, Tashfin ibn Ali, hid his treasure in one of the caverns of the Cueva del Tesoro (Treasure Cave) in the 12th century. This was described in the 17th-century writings of Fray Antonio Agustín de Milla y Suazo.

The cave's other name, Cueva del Suizo (Cave of the Swiss), dates back to the middle of the 19th century, when it was bought by Antonio de la Nari, a Swiss noble from the Swiss Guard. According to the legend, he explored the cave for twenty years in search of the Moorish king's treasure. His search ended in 1847, when he died in one of the caverns after dynamite he had laid to open new galleries suddenly detonated.

The experience Chocolate-making

Switzerland's chocolates have earned an international reputation for their high quality. In 1875, Swiss confectioner, Daniel Peter, developed the first solid milk chocolate using condensed milk.

Nowadays Switzerland remains one of the most famous producers of chocolate in the world. If a Swiss wants to indulge his chocolate passion, he signs up for a local Swiss chocolate making course. Why not open your own chocolate factory? Eight years ago, Eli McCarthy from Ireland did just that, setting up the world's smallest chocolate factory in Mijas.

In her factory, 'Mayan Monkey', there is a longitudinal conch which was invented by Rodolphe Lindt - a Swiss chocolate manufacturer and inventor. This machine allows the refining of the chocolate particles in order to create a very fine chocolate. It represented a revolution over the granular chocolate that was the norm prior to its invention.

Now visitors to the Mijas factory learn how to make delicious chocolate treats as well as how



La Viñuela, in Malaga's own Little Switzerland.



A Swiss noble's treasure cave in Rincón de la Victoria.



The Old Swiss House, Fuengirola.

to use this machine from the famous Swiss chocolatier.

Eating Swiss Old Swiss House

Swiss cuisine on the Costa del Sol has been represented by Old Swiss House since 1981. As you approach this restaurant in Fuengirola you already feel as if you were in Switzerland as the façade is pure Swiss style.

From the very beginning, the Swiss chef Isabella Blättler tried to follow classical recipes and at the same time dared to give some of them an Andalusian flavour. On the menu there is Zurich-style meat and fondues.

The fondue is a Swiss melted cheese dish served in a communal pot and eaten by dipping bread on long-stemmed forks. Raclette is also made of melted cheese but served with boiled potatoes, pickles, and cured meats. Steaks, roasted on a

stone, are most popular. Rösti - a Swiss version of Spain's classic potato omelette - is also popular with local people. In the restaurant they also know how to prepare Malakoff - Swiss cheese bread.

As for the Swiss semi-dried sausage Landjäger, it can be easily substituted for any Spanish 'fuet' or 'longaniza de Payés' that you can find at local supermarkets.

A souvenir A Swiss timepiece

Every tourist wants to take home some chocolate from Switzerland, and if they can afford it, a watch too. Switzerland is known for watches and home to biggest brands. But Spain's 'most luxury' watch factory is situated here in Andalucía.

Today Spain is associated with the Festina Group, that includes Calypso, Lotus, Jaguar and Candino. Festina originally

started in La Chaux-de-Fonds, Switzerland, back in 1902. It was a small watchmaking factory founded by the Stüdi family.

The brand was later passed on to Willy Burkhard von Wilhelm. During World War II, the company was relocated to Barcelona. In 1984, all rights over the Festina brand were acquired by the Andalusian-born Miguel Rodríguez Domínguez. Although he left La Línea de la Concepción for Switzerland to avoid compulsory military service many years ago, the successful businessman never forgot his native Andalucía.

Besides the Festina Group's production in Herbetwil (Switzerland), Rodríguez Domínguez let the masters in Cordoba keep up their jewellery traditions and set up a factory that specialises in gold watches. The luxury version of Festina Gold Cordoba Chronograph is made in Andalucía.

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DENISE BUSH

GARDENING

Physoplexis comosa

The tufted, horned rampion is a little alpine plant native to Europe. In its native habitat it grows in deep clefts in limestone cliffs up to 2,000 metres above sea level. These growing conditions can be replicated in a rockery or alpine garden, or in a deep container.

Its botanical name is *Physoplexis comosa*, although it was originally included in *Phyteuma* as *Phyteuma comosum* and is sometimes still listed as such. A member of the large Campanulaceae family, *Physoplexis comosa* is the only species in the genus.

The flowers of this low-growing perennial are what make it so special. Appearing in late summer, the cushions of glossy, toothed leaves produce dense umbels of pale-mauve, bottle-shaped flowers from which long purple tufts protrude. Occasionally pink and sometimes white forms occur.

P. comosa produces an extensive root system so the planting medium needs to be deep but not especially rich. It is important that it is very free-draining with the addition of grit to stop water logging. As too much water is its biggest enemy (plus slugs and snails which seem to love it), it is recommended to give it some shelter from rain during the winter.

The location should receive plenty of sun, but with some shade during the afternoon in the summer. Tufted horned rampion, or Devil's claw as it is also known, is quite hardy and will withstand frost but not long periods of drought.

Propagation is recommended by division or rhizome cuttings and although seeds are offered for sale online, it is very slow growing.

In the wild *Physoplexis comosa* (the specific epithet means 'tufted') is rarely seen, probably because it grows in inaccessible places, but is listed as a plant 'of least concern' on the red list of threatened species. The majority are found in the Dolomites in Italy as well as Slovenia and Austria.

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P. comosa produces an extensive root system so the planting medium needs to be deep but not especially rich. It is important that it is very free-draining with the addition of grit to stop water logging. As too much water is its biggest enemy (plus slugs and snails which seem to love it), it is recommended to give it some shelter from rain during the winter.

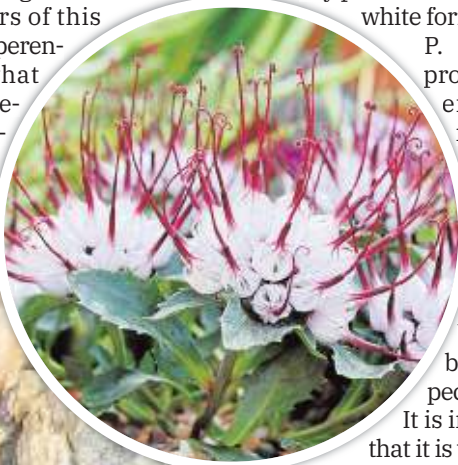
The location should receive plenty of sun, but with some shade during the afternoon in the summer. Tufted horned rampion, or Devil's claw as it is also known, is quite hardy and will withstand frost but not long periods of drought.

Propagation is recommended by division or rhizome cuttings and although seeds are offered for sale online, it is very slow growing.

In the wild *Physoplexis comosa* (the specific epithet means 'tufted') is rarely seen, probably because it grows in inaccessible places, but is listed as a plant 'of least concern' on the red list of threatened species. The majority are found in the Dolomites in Italy as well as Slovenia and Austria.



Physoplexis comosa and close up (insert). WIKIMEDIA



READERS' PHOTOS



LIV FRIDTJOFSEN

A night bloomer

This photo was sent in by reader Liv Fridtjofsen. It is of *Epiphyllum oxypetalum*, commonly called Queen of the Night as the flowers start to open at dusk. The blooms die the following day.



JAMIE STONEHEWER

The screw palm


Although commonly called screw palms, the genus *Pandanus* is not related to palms. Mature specimens have aerial prop roots and smooth trunks. These photos were sent in by Jamie Stonehewer.

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 ([@surenglish](https://www.facebook.com/surenglish)) or Twitter ([@SUR_English](https://twitter.com/SUR_English)).



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WHAT HAPPENED TODAY?

2 OCTOBER 1928

Opus Dei founded by "saint of ordinary life"

Latin for Work of God, Opus Dei focuses on the lives of the ordinary Catholics who are neither priests nor monks

Opus Dei, one of the most controversial institutions of the Catholic Church, was founded in Madrid by Josemaría Escrivá de Balaguer y Albás on October 2 1928. At the time, Josemaría was a 26-year-old Spanish Roman Catholic priest who is said to have been totally committed to the teaching that everyone is called to holiness by God and that ordinary life can be the path to sanctity. The young priest, described by Pope John Paul II as "the



Josemaría Escrivá. SUR

saint of ordinary life", worked among the poor and the sick in the slums of Madrid; a calling which he considered to be God's will for him.

Opus Dei is Latin for Work of God. The majority of members are lay people, while the remainder are priests governed by a prelate - a high-ranking member of the clergy appointed by the Pope. Around 70 per cent of Opus Dei members live with their families and work in secular occupations, while the remainder are celibate and, alongside charitable and social work, offer training in how Catholic spirituality is applied to daily life. A central feature of Opus Dei, which places special emphasis on certain aspects of Catholic doctrine, is its focus on the lives of the ordinary Catholics who are neither priests nor monks.



Thousands attended the canonisation of Escrivá in 2002. SUR

It teaches the universal call to holiness and promotes the belief that everyone should aspire to be a saint.

However, Opus Dei, which was given final approval by Pope Pius XII in 1950, has been fiercely criticised throughout its 92-year history and was described by one journalist as "the most controversial force in the

Catholic Church". Even founder Josemaría, who was canonised by Pope John Paul II in 2002, came under attack from critics, who labelled him as a "polarising figure".

Most of the criticism was based on allegations of secrecy and some even say it is a Catholic form of Freemasonry. The organisation was also criticised for

LANGUAGE FOOTNOTE

Santo	Saint
Iglesia	Church
Sacerdote	Priest
Santidad	Holiness
Fundador	Founder
Rezar	To pray
Polémico	Controversial
Celibato	Celibacy
Laicos	Lay people
Pobre	Poor
Secretismo	Secrecy
Mortificación	Mortification
Obra	Work
Voluntad	Will
Camino	Way

its support of authoritarian rule (including the fascist regimes of Hitler and Franco), the mortification of the flesh and accusations of elitism and misogyny.

Supporters claim that many criticisms are based on myths concocted by anti-Catholic opponents. The institution received global attention following the release of the bestselling novel and blockbuster film The Da Vinci Code, although this was branded as misleading and inaccurate.

Bilingual crossword inside back page

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ADVERTORIAL - ARK CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

THE ARK SCHOOL IS MOVING FORWARD

The Ark Christian School, a British school in C/ Rio Darro (behind Mijas Aquapark) for 3 to 18 year olds is moving forward under the leadership of its new bilingual Head Teacher, Katie Bertrán de Lis Jones, who has been promoted after working there as a teacher and administrator for 5 years

Mrs Bertrán is strengthening the Christian values which underpin the school's mission to be able to identify and develop individual students' talents and interests. The focus on moral values and relationships means students learn in a friendly, supportive atmosphere where they develop confidence and positive personal qualities.



The school prepares pupils for Cambridge International Examinations at age 16 (IGCSEs) and 18 (A Level) allowing access to further education in the UK, Spain and many other countries. Last year, two of its 16-year-old students were officially recognised by Cambridge as the best in Spain awards in English language and Travel and Tourism.

The school was started in 2008 by members of the Ark Christian Church, which holds services and other activities on the premises and hosts a variety of community activities. As a not-for-profit organisation, the school

offers a quality education with a limited number of children per class for very competitive fees.

Mrs Bertrán is excited about the challenge and says, "I believe it is time to lift up the future generations and help them walk into adulthood knowing who they are and how each one of them is unique with their own talents which, by working together, we can develop both academically and personally. Let's encourage our students to reach for their dreams and let them know how important they are in making this world a better place to live in."

A rock 'n' roll prodigy at just 13 years old

MARBELLA

Blanca Samper is the youngest person in the world to get a double Grade 8 in guitar and electric bass

JOSÉ MARÍA MARTÍN

Blanca Samper's story is certainly not a common one among people her age. At thirteen, she can boast of being part of a rock 'n' roll band that has performed over fifty concerts, as well as having an album on sale. But now she has one more feather in her cap: she has just become the youngest person in the world to obtain a double Grade 8 qualification in guitar and electric bass at the prestigious Trinity College Music in London - the equivalent to a higher conservatory degree.

However, these achievements don't seem to faze this teenager

from San Pedro who is very calm and self-confident. Despite this, she says: "When I saw them I didn't know how to react. It was crazy, I didn't expect it."

At that time she didn't know she had achieved something no one else her age had until she started to receive messages from acquaintances and strangers alike who wanted to congratulate her on her success.

Blanca, who studies at the Rock Factory music school in San Pedro, has seen her progress stunted by the pandemic. She had to take her exam via video, but things are starting to look up as her band, Devils in the Sky, met up last week for their first rehearsal since the lockdown.

"They sounded great," says Rafael Reyes, Blanca's teacher. "In ten years' time there will be a lot of talk about San Pedro, as many of the children who have come through here will be in the best groups in the country."



Blanca, with her electric bass, outside Rock Factory. J. M. M.

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TAPAS fashion show raises funds for cancer support and abandoned animals

ALHAURÍN EL GRANDE

TONY BRYANT. The Andalucía Performing Arts Society (TAPAS) raised 500 euros during its fashion show held in Alhaurín el Grande last weekend. More than 80 outfits were showcased by 11 models and then sold to raise funds for local charities.

This year's beneficiaries were the cancer support group, Un Sí Por La Vida; and 4 Paws Adoptions, a Malaga-based association that finds homes for abandoned animals.

The guests also enjoyed a special performance by the amateur theatrical group's choir.

Part of the event was televised



The show raised 500 euros. SUR

and will be shown on a mainstream UK channel early next year.

TAPAS chair Betty Ross said: "It was incredibly hard work to put this together, but immensely rewarding. This shows once again that TAPAS is not just a choir, but a resourceful family who pull off the most amazing events for charity and have great fun in the process."

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EXHIBITIONS

Alejandra Millén

LAS LAGUNAS, MIJAS. Until 9 October. Casa Cultural, C/San Valentín. An exhibition of oil paintings entitled 'El Eterno Amor de Colores Complementarios'. www.alejandramallen.com.

Yul Hanchas

MIJAS. Until 19 October. Casa Museo de Mijas. An exhibition of drawings and paintings entitled Andalucía de Hanchas.



Yul Hanchas, Mijas.

Women

LA CALA DE MIJAS. Until 26 October. Centro Cultural la Cala. This is a collective exhibition by twelve artists and a sculptor with

works based on the theme 'Women'.

Art Marbella

MARBELLA. Until 3 October. Palacio de Ferias y Congresos. Art Marbella will be holding its sixth international modern and contemporary art fair. This year it will be coordinating with Marbella Design for the first time.

Ana Barriga

MARBELLA. Until 21 November. Galería Yusto/Giner. La Ermita industrial estate, C/Madera, 9. Tonight, 25 September at 7pm, the exhibition La Vida del Difunto by Ana Barriga will be inaugurated. It consists of 12 large format paintings using mixed media (oil, enamel, marker, spray can). Attendance is by previous appointment only. Email: galeria@yusto-giner.com Call: 951507053

Chandy Haggett

MARBELLA. Saturday mornings. Marbella bullring. Local artist Chandy Haggett is displaying a selection of her screen prints in an exhibition entitled Feelings of Andalucía. www.chandyhaggett.com/

ACA exhibition

MARBELLA. Until 2 November. Magpie Art Gallery, C/Virgen del Pilar. The Art and Culture Association Marbella are presenting a new exhibition on 2 October. The works on display are by Granada resident Andrés



ACA, Marbella.

Aguilera Teruel.

Diálogos con Picasso

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

Centre Pompidou

MALAGA. Muelle Uno. Nicolás de Staël. Until 29 November. Born in St Petersburg in 1914 but exiled in France, Staël exhibited for the first time in 1944. His abstract works reflect an austere and sombre time, but gradually incorporate more light and colour towards 1952 when he adopted a more figurative style of painting.

From Miró to Barceló. The semi-permanent exhibition is entitled De Miró a Barceló. Un siglo de arte español. (A century of Spanish art). Pablo Picasso, Joan Miró, Salvador Dalí and Luis Buñuel were precursors of new ways of seeing and creating and their legacy still lives on. This chronological journey through a century of Spanish art shows that the generation of contemporary artists has kept alive the spirit of the avant-garde with extraordinary energy. **Charo Carrera.** Until March 2021. The main staircase in the Centro Pompidou is the site for the painting Si yo, Si tú by veteran artist Charo Carrera.

Centro de Arte Contemporáneo MALAGA. C/Alemania.

Nan Goldin. Until 25 October. American artist Nan Goldin is the author of a sequence of video clips entitled Siren in Espacio 5 of the gallery. **Bosco Sodi.** Until 6 December. Ergo Sum is the first solo exhibition by Bosco Sodi in Spain. It consists of 30, large, black, monochromatic paintings and several golden sculptures. **Philippe Pasqua.** Until 29 November. El Lado Oscuro is the title of this exhibition which encompasses 40 works completed by artist Philippe Pasqua over the last 30 years. It includes large format paintings, drawings and sculptures. The majority of the pieces portray faces and nudes of disabled children, transgender persons, prostitutes and members of his own family.

Cela - Picasso

MALAGA. Until 4 October. Museo Casa Natal Picasso. The exhibition entitled Trozo de Piel demonstrates the relationship between two geniuses, Pablo Picasso and Camilo José Cela. It consists of documents and photos symbolising the shared affinities and passions of the two friends.

Luis Alhama

MALAGA. Until 10 October. Casa Amarilla, C/Santos. Fisuras en el Paisaje is an exhibition by sculptor Luis Alhama. The author is interested in questions related to how we define the natural with respect to our human condition and how this idea allows us to situate ourselves in the environment and transform it. He has created a series of pieces that aim to provide an answer through cement sculptures with landscapes emerging from cracks forming a small bunker that hides the sound of the thrush or a group of slugs.

Carmen Thyssen Museum

MALAGA. C/ Compañía, 10. 9.30 - 2.30pm. 7 - 9pm Tuesday to Friday. 9.30am - 9pm Saturday and Sunday. **Masks. Metamorphosis of Modern Identity.** Until 10 January 2021. The new season's exhibition running consists of over 100 works by national and international artists.

Charo Carrera

MALAGA. Until 22 October. Sala Alfajar, C/Císter. El Legado de Egeria (The Legacy of Egeria) is an exhibition by artist Charo Carrera. Egeria (Etheria or Aetheria)

was a Hispanic aristocrat whose letters to friends telling of her trips around the world are some of the earliest of their kind, written in the fourth century. A fragment of her 'Itinerary ad Loca Sancta' is kept in the library in Arezzo, Italy. The artist pays tribute to this woman, to her spirit of adventure and curiosity.

When words transform into art

MALAGA. Until 31 October. Malaga Public Library. Patrimonio Bibliográfico Malagueño: La Biblioteca de la Económica. Una Herencia Compartida is an exhibition of around 60 books, magazines, photographs and documents from the 1850s that record the modernisation and culturalisation of Malaga.

Los Machados

MALAGA. Until 12 December. Centro Cultural Fundación Unicaja. Around 200 pieces are on display that form the legacy of the poets, the Machado brothers Antonio and Manuel. It includes photos, drawings, documents and transcripts, many of which have not been exhibited in public before.

Enrique Brinkmann

CHURRIANA. Until 5 January, 2021. Casa Gerald Brenan, Calle Torremolinos. Artist Enrique Brinkmann has an exhibition of 12 of his works entitled Estrellas para Brenan, Obra Gráfica, a personal tribute to the writer. Brinkmann has exhibited in the MOMA in New York as well as many other museums and art galleries around the world.



Diálogos con Picasso, Malaga.

Nigel Gilbert

EL MORCHE. Until 28 October. Bio Beach Club. An exhibition of prints influenced by comic strips and Japanese woodcuts. Ink line and wash are used to set down shapes, tones and textures. Colours washes are overlaid to build up a graphic effect in-depth.

ANEDA

NERJA. Until 17 October, 11am 2pm; 7-10pm. La Sala Municipal, C/Almirante Ferrándiz. ANEDA are a group of 20 international artists. They will be exhibiting a selection of their works.

Ruta del Arte

FRIGILIANA. Until 4 October, 11am-2pm; 4-8pm. Over 40 artists representing 14 dif-

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ferent nationalities will be exhibiting their work. The event will raise money for sarcoma research. Visitors will be able to meet the artists and ask them about their work, which ranges from painting and photography, to ceramics, mosaics and sculpture. Email: rutadelartefrigiliana@gmail.com

LIVE CONCERTS AND MUSIC

Malaga Philharmonic Orchestra

MALAGA. 2 October, 8pm. Teatro Cervantes. The orchestra plays pieces by Mozart and Carl Nielsen. Flautist Pilar Constanancio. Tickets: www.teatrocervantes.com/

Cervantes Theatre anniversary concerts

MALAGA. Teatro Cervantes. To celebrate the 150th anniversary of

the theatre the concerts are free but seats must be reserved in advance.

6 November, 8.30pm. Camilla George, Jamaican jazz band.

20 November, 8pm. Juan Diego Flores, opera singer. Accompanied by the Malaga Philharmonic Orchestra.

OFM Chamber Music concerts

MALAGA. Auditorium of the Museo Picasso de Málaga.

17 November, 8pm. Cuarteto Mainake.

Tickets: www.museopicasso-malaga.org

Coyote Saloon concerts

LAS LAGUNAS. Fridays and Saturdays throughout October.

10 October. ZZ Rated, ZZTop tribute band.

16 October. Punk rock band the Reinfecto with covers of the Sex Pistols, The Clash and The Damned.

17 October. Stereo 80pop band.

23 October. The Moneymakers

30 October. The Lost Boys.

Reservations essential. More info Coyote Bowling Saloon Facebook page.

Flamenco al Compás

MIJAS. 16, 17 October, 9pm. Teatro Las Lagunas

The Heredia Cuadro Flamenco will be performing on the first night and the exceptional flamenco guitarist Carlos Haro on the Saturday. Entry is free but booking essential. Book from ten days before at the Casa Museo Pueblo de Mijas, at the Casa de Cul-

tura Las Lagunas or in the Centro Cultural La Cala de Mijas.

THEATRE AND DANCE

Danza Málaga

MALAGA. From 6 October until 1 November. Teatro Cervantes / Echegaray.

As part of the Teatro Cervantes 150th anniversary celebrations the dance festival includes 29 events and 16 shows throughout October. Tickets cost 20 euros for Teatro Cervantes and 15 euros for teatro Echegaray. There are also two shows for children (tickets 6 euros).

Lindy Hop dance classes

MALAGA. La Térmica.

Throughout October, November and December, Málaga Swing will be holding courses in Lindy Hop, a style of dancing that originated in a bar in Harlem in 192. www.malagaswing.com/intensivo-lindyhop/



Carlos Haro, Las Lagunas.

Salon Varietés reopens with country music hoe-down

Johnny G and Melissa Carver present Cowboys and Kisses, the legendary hits of Johnny Cash, Kenny Rogers, Dolly Parton and more

TONY BRYANT

FUENGIROLA. The Salon Varietés Theatre in Fuengirola will celebrate its grand reopening on Friday 9 October with Cowboys and Kisses, a night of country and western classics. Presented by Costa favourites Johnny G and Melissa Carver, the show presents the best of country music legends like Johnny Cash, Kenny Rogers, Dolly Parton, Glen Campbell, Garth Brooks and Shania Twain. The show will be complimented by a troupe of dancing cowgirls performing country waltz and line dancing, so the night promises to be must for lovers of a traditional-style country hoe-down.

Tickets for the show cost 18 euros and can be obtained



Costa favourites Johnny G and Melissa Carver. SUR

from the theatre box office, which reopened this week, or on 952 474 542, Monday to Friday between 11am and 2.30pm.

Full social distancing measures will be in force and masks must be worn inside the audi-

torium. Show starts at 7.30pm.

The theatre's next production will be the West End hit musical Evita, which will be staged from Wednesday 14 until Sunday 25 October.

For more information, see www.salonvarietes.com

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TALKS / LECTURES

The Arts Society

NERJA. Lectures online.

The Arts Society Nerja starts a new season of lectures free online for members and supporters. The broadcast can be seen live on the Art' Society YouTube channel.

27 November, 2pm. Indian Modern Art. Lecturer Georgina Bexon.

18 December, 2pm. Great Exhibitions and the World's Fairs. Lecturer Matthew Denney.

Online art course

MALAGA. Lectures online from 29 October.

The online course is in Spanish and is called Arte de Vanguardia 100 Años Después. It consists of six lectures totalling 25 hours by art professionals on some of the most important art movements of the 21st century including cubism, surrealism and dadaism. More information: cursovanguardias@mpicassom.org

CHARITY

ARCH

ALHAURÍN EL GRANDE. Open every Sunday 9am - 2pm.

The ARCH team at the Rescue Centre for Horses and Donkeys have resumed their popular Sunday open mornings. Visitors can come and meet the volunteers and the current residents. More information on Facebook: Centro Andalusi de Rescate de Caballos or www.horserescue.spain.org

Horizonte Proyecto Hombre market

MARBELLA. 4 October, from 10am. Parque de la Alameda.

The charity has professional workers who help people with emotional, self-esteem and drug abuse problems. They are a non-profit organisation and regularly hold fundraising events such as this open-air market selling new items of clothing, accessories, home decor etc. <https://horizonteproyectohombremarbella.org/>

La Cala de Mijas Lions



Online art course, Malaga.

LA CALA.

Calle Torremolinos. The La Cala Lions Club is holding a massive sale at its charity shops which will include ladies' fashions, menswear, golf clubs, bric a brac and books in several languages - plus cds and dvds.

Clubhouse Gibraltar

GIBRALTAR. Until 2 October. 304a Main Street.

There is 50 per cent off all clothes and bags at the charity shop. Clubhouse offers mental health support.

Lux Mundi

TORRE DEL MAR. Fridays, 11am - 1pm. Lux Mundi Ecumenical Centre, Avda Moscatel.

Coffee mornings with coffee, tea or fruit juice with a piece of cake. A boutique with a range of new and nearly new clothing and accessories and also a wide stock of second hand English books. Lux Mundi is unable to accept donations of clothing or books etc at the moment.

15 October, 19 November, 17 December. Trip to Gibraltar. Various departure times and pick-up points.

Tel. 952 543 334 or email: luxmundi@lux-mundi.org

MORE IDEAS

Free Spanish courses

NERJA. Nerja Cultural Centre, Calle Granada, 45.

Free Spanish courses for beginners, basic and conversation levels. Limited spaces. To enrol call 671567105. Classes run until June 2021.

Lux Mundi

TORRE DEL MAR. Lux Mundi Ecu-

menical Centre, Avda Moscatel.

Mondays 10.30am - 1pm. Knitting and crochet group, learn how to knit / crochet or help make items for charity.

Mondays 10am - 1pm. Craft group. **Wednesdays 10am - 1pm.** Art group.

Lux Mundi Taize Prayer Meeting

TORRE DEL MAR. 30 October, 8.15pm. San Andrés parish church.

Place a candle with the names of loved ones who have departed and pray for all those who have lost their lives through the pandemic. Send an email or Whatsapp to be included in the prayers. Call: 952 543 334 or email: luxmundi@lux-mundi.org

Guided walks

CÁRTAMA. Cártama town hall.

Limited places. Reservations up to Friday before the walk at Cártama town hall or call: 951 010 872

4 October. 15km hike through Sierra de las Nieves, Yunquera and El Burgo. **25 October.** Cordoba mountains and Sierras Subbéticas.

22 November. 16km Quejigo Route into the town of Jubrique in the Seranía de Ronda.

13 December. 8km tour of El Peñon de Algámitas in Seville.

O. V. FILMS

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

Yelmo Cines, Plaza Mayor

MALAGA. Centro de Ocio, Plaza Mayor, Avda Alfonso Ponce León. Tel:

902902103. www.yelmocines.es

Greenland: 21.00 (Tues).

Room: 22.20 (Tues).

Tenet: 19.05 (Tues)

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www.yelmocines.es

Rifkin's Festival: 19.20 (Tues).

Yelmo Cines, Vialia

MALAGA. Centro Comercial Vialia.

Tel: 902220922

Falling: 20.20 (Tues).

Rifkin's Festival: 20.30 (Tues).

Tenet: 21.20 (Tues).

Cine Albéniz

MALAGA. C/ Alcazaba, 4. Tel:

902360295. www.cinealbeniz.com

Rifkin's Festival: 16.30, 20.10, 22.05 (every day).

Falling: 16.40, 20.15, 22.25 (every day).

The Trial of the Chicago 7: 20.00 (every day).

Tommaso: 22.25 (every day).

Love Sarah: 18.20 (every day).

Song to Song: 22.30 (every day).

Cinesur Miramar

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Encarnación. Tel: 952198600.

Greenland: 18.00 (every day).

Rifkin's Festival: 15.45 (Sat, Sun);

18.00 (every day); 19.00 (Mon, Tues,

Thurs).

Cinesur Ingenio

VÉLEZ-MÁLAGA. Avda Juan Carlos,

1. Tel: 667773187.

Rifkin's Festival: 21.00 (Tues).

TORREMOLINOS

Ruta del Rock called off but plans for new events are being made

TONY BRYANT. Torremolinos town hall has announced that the ninth edition of the Ruta del Rock, which was due to be held over two weekends in November, has been cancelled. The cultural department has now decided that it would be difficult to adhere to the health and safety regulations set out by the regional government regarding gatherings.

Councillor for Culture David Tejeiro explained that the town will wait until the situation is "more favourable". However, the councillor explained that plans had been set in motion to organise a new series of live music events in the bars on the town's fairground later this year. "At a time when the health situation has worsened again, we consider it unwise to organise outdoor concerts without strict capacity control, and that is why we have decided to postpone this event for now."

"However, we have set up a new cultural programme to take place in the last quarter of the year and we will be announcing the details shortly," the councillor said.

A month of gastronomy and subtropical fruit in Almuñécar

The stars of the show, which will take place in restaurants, instead of the Majuelo park, will be custard apples, mangoes and avocados

JENNIE RHODES

ALMUÑÉCAR. The twenty-second Almuñécar gastronomy fair (Feria Gastronómica) will be taking place in a number of restaurants in the town from 9 to 25 October.

Unlike in previous years, the event won't be taking place in the Majuelo park due to the coronavirus restrictions.

Instead restaurants in the town had until 30 September to register their intention to take part. Once the final list has been drawn up, details of the participating establishments will be available on Almuñécar town hall's website and social media pages.

Locally grown subtropical fruit will be the star of this year's fair and each dish must



One of the dishes served at last year's fair. SUR

include either custard apples (chirimoya), mango or avocado - or indeed all three.

Each dish will cost between six and 10 euros and prices will be set by the individual restaurants.

Revealing plans for the event in September, Almuñécar's councillor for Business, Francisco Robles Rivas, said, "We still want to go ahead

with the event, which is always popular with the general public, although due to the pandemic, we have decided to hold it in the participating restaurants.

"We also want to help promote the subtropical fruit sector."

For information on participating restaurants visit: www.almunecar.es.

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What's that whistling noise I can hear? "Tinnitus can be reversed, but the majority of people learn to live with it"



ELENA MARTÍN

You come home from the nightclub with a constant whistling sound in your ears; it is something that has probably happened to everyone at some time. It is due to an irritation of the nerve endings of the inner ear, caused by prolonged exposure to loud noise, and it normally disappears within a few hours. What some people find, though, is that they start to hear this noise and it is still there months later, with no apparent cause. If it happens to you, it's not because somebody is saying bad things about you, as old wives' tales would have us believe, because it is almost certainly due to tinnitus.

Tinnitus occurs in response to noise, which can be constant or intermittent, and can be in both ears or just one. We hear it even though there is no exterior acoustic stimulus. It can take different forms: buzzing, ringing, whistling, clicking or hissing.

The volume of sound varies in each person and in some cases it can be so loud that it affects concentration or makes it difficult to hear anything else. In fact, in 70



per cent of cases tinnitus is accompanied by a loss of hearing and is one of the principal causes of deafness.

It is calculated that in Spain about seven per cent of the population suffers from tinnitus and, curiously, singers such as Phil Col-

TWO REAL CASES

Alberto Martín

Madrid Age 37

"Two years ago, before going to bed, I noticed a whistling in one ear as if I had just come back from a discotheque. I didn't take much notice because it had happened before and had always gone by the next morning, but this time that didn't happen. Since then I have had a constant whistling noise in both ears, especially the left one, and above all when everything around me is quiet. I couldn't think what had set it off. I have always looked after my health, including my hearing. At first it was dramatic, because it completely changed my life. I couldn't sleep at night, sit in silence, listen to music, watch a film, or stop thinking about the whistling sound because I heard it

all the time.

As a result my health suffered through the lack of sleep and the stress, and it affected my family and social relationships. Since then I have seen all the specialists imaginable, from ear, nose and throat to neurologists, psychiatrists, maxillofacial and even an acupuncturist, who was the one that helped me most. The treatment that I follow is a wide combination of therapies, including a change in my diet (no coffee, very little sugar or salt), change of habits (sleep hygiene, exercise, relaxation, avoiding loud noises), acupuncture, sound and psychological therapies, some nutritional supplements and medication. With all that I have managed to recover a certain normality and be less aware of the tinnitus."

Raquel García

Madrid Age 19

"I started to have a whistling sound in the ears when I was 15, a couple of days after I had come back on a plane (there was a change in pressure that caused a barotrauma). I looked on the internet to see what might be happening to me and what I read really worried me. That night I couldn't sleep, but as I didn't want to worry my family I didn't say anything. Finally, in desperation, I just had to tell my parents. They took me to an otologist, who prescribed tablets to help me sleep and told me that I should try not to take any notice of the noise, but I couldn't do that. At that time I was suffering all the normal problems that teenagers have and I found it very hard to

deal with the tinnitus. It was especially bad in quiet indoor places, especially before going to sleep or when I was studying, but finally there came a time when I got used to it and almost stopped noticing it. Unfortunately, during the lockdown it became very bad because I was shut indoors for so long, so I have started to go to a centre which specialises in tinnitus now. They give me psychological help and physiotherapy, because it turns out that the ear in which it is loudest (the left one) is on the side of my body which is most tense. However, people need to know that despite the initial shock, having tinnitus isn't the end of the world. If you tackle it positively and you are well emotionally, you learn to live with it without it restricting your life".

lins, Bob Dylan, Barbara Streisand and actors like Gerard Butler, Halle Berry and Robert Redford have undergone treatment for it.

Clinically, tinnitus is divided into two types. One occurs in response to real sounds that are produced elsewhere in the body (such

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How to differentiate between symptoms of flu and Covid

as blood vessels, or small bones in the middle ear) and they can be detected by the sufferer and also by a doctor using a machine.

The others can only be heard by the patient and occur without any perceivable outside source or corporal activity.

Diagnosis and treatment

The causes are varied, from hearing loss due to age, exposure to continued loud noise or blockage by ear wax.

"There are also some medications that cause ototoxicity (damage in the ear), such as aspirin, quinine and certain antidepressants," said Francisco Lorenzo Molina, head of the Ear, Nose and Throat department at the Viamed-Virgen de la Paloma hospital in Madrid.

Other factors that can make tinnitus worse are depression, anxiety, stress, high cholesterol, diabetes and auto-immune illnesses, among others.

Diagnosis is carried out by an audiometry test, an acuphenometry (to determine the frequency and intensity of the tinnitus) and a magnetic resonance scan.

When it comes to treatment, this may be medical, if the tinnitus is a symptom of an undiagnosed condition; rehabilitation, using sound therapies with white noise; or through medication.

"Surgical treatments are still not well documented," said Dr Lorenzo.

Is there a cure for tinnitus, or not? "It is reversible, but what happens in 70 per cent of cases is that the patients learn to live with it without it affecting their everyday life," he said.

This autumn coronavirus, flu and common cold will all exist at the same time. They share some symptoms but there are also some variations which help to differentiate between them

RAQUEL MERINO

MALAGA. Autumn is the start of the dreaded flu season, and that is particularly worrying this year because it will overlap with the Covid-19 pandemic.

Because of the risk of possible co-infection of both viruses, the Junta de Andalucía has brought forward the date for the start of flu vaccinations to 15 October, following recommendations from the Ministry of Health.

People who are considered vulnerable (the elderly, chronically ill, those with a number of health conditions and medical workers) will have the flu jab first, and this year teachers will also be included and will be among those who receive the first doses.

This fear of flu and the new coronavirus existing at the same time, and that of health centres becoming overwhelmed, has led the authorities to recommend that the population in general should have the flu jab, so they have ordered extra supplies to be distributed to health centres. However, this has led to a shortage of the vaccine at pharmacies, and they are now warning about the problems this could cause.

So much is abnormal in this 'new normal' and, given the confusion which could arise with the appearance of symptoms which



A runny nose is a symptom of both a common cold and flu. SUR

also occur with Covid-19, flu and a simple common cold, we thought it would be a good idea to look at the differences between these three conditions, to help us determine which is which.

Coronavirus symptoms

The World Health Organisation (WHO) says the most normal symptoms of Covid-19 are fever, a dry cough and tiredness. Other, less common symptoms which affect some patients are aches and pains, nasal congestion, headache, conjunctivitis, sore throat, diarrhoea, loss of taste or smell, skin rashes or a change of colour in the fingers and toes.

In the most serious cases, Covid-19 patients have difficulty breathing, pain or pressure in the chest and the inability to speak or move. The illness can lead to pneumonia, kidney failure and even death.

The WHO says that people of any age who have fever or a cough and find it difficult to breathe, have chest pain or difficulties in speaking or moving "should seek immediate medical attention".

It advises ringing the local health centre first, so they can

organise for the patient to be taken to the most suitable medical centre or hospital. As to how long Covid-19 lasts, that is very variable.

Flu symptoms

Covid-19 and seasonal flu have

various symptoms in common, such as fever, generally feeling unwell, a very runny nose with mucous in the throat or respiratory passages, and while some people with Covid-19 might get a headache, with flu it is very usual. People with flu also have muscular pains, alternate between feeling hot and cold and can have a red face, vomiting and diarrhoea. The symptoms happen all at once, while in the new coronavirus they tend to be more gradual.

With regard to how long it lasts, flu needs at least a week of rest, although some symptoms such as the cough can last for a week or two longer.

Symptoms of a cold

The common cold is characterised by a runny nose or congestion, in other words a great deal of mucous, cough, sore throat, sneezing and in some cases generally feeling unwell and hoarseness. Fatigue, fever and diarrhoea are not symptoms of a cold. A cold normally lasts for about ten days.

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Ketchup, the umami of the West

US icon. Tomato ketchup's main market is in the US where it is more than a sauce, it has become a cultural symbol



▲ Low sugar.

For a healthier ketchup choose a low sugar or low salt product.

► Spices.

Ketchup usually contains spices that accentuate the umami flavour.

◀ Choose quality.

Check the list of ingredients when picking a brand of ketchup and consume in moderation.



ESPERANZA
PELÁEZ



In Spain, according to the last ketchup consumption report of Mercasa (public company of the food distribution sector), 21.4 million litres of the tomato sauce were sold in 2018, which means a consumption of half a litre per person, per year, only surpassed by mayonnaise from a jar, which monopolises more than 50% of the sauce market.

The highest consumption occurs in middle and upper class homes, in families with children between 6 and 15 years old, and in homes where the purchaser is

under 35 years old. Are you sure you don't have a bottle in your home?

Junk food

It is true that it is considered a symbol of junk food, because it usually accompanies burgers etc, rather than its composition, in which a high amount of sugar stands out (22.8g per 100g in the world's best-selling brand, Heinz, of which one fifth is provided by ripe tomatoes and the rest by corn syrup) and 1.8g/100g of salt, in addition to the main ingredient, concentrated to-

mato paste, vinegar and spices. It is precisely the predominance of concentrated tomatoes in ketchup and its popularity in the United States where 97% of homes consume it daily, that in 1981, the Department of Agriculture (USDA) proposed to give it the category of vegetable and subsidise it as a component of school menus. It didn't work because it was considered a condiment and not an ingredient. However 100g of ketchup contains only 108 calories, few compared to the 552/100g in a jar of mayonnaise, and 0.1g of fat.

From a palatability point of view, it contains the three flavours that we are biologically predisposed to consider palatable (umami, sweet and salty) to which is added a touch of acidity that makes everything light up. From the point of view of texture, it's a gel. This explains its resistance to coming out of the jar when it has been stored for a long time, because the solid part of the sifted tomato forms microfibrils that adhere to each other, which when shaken, break. The gel becomes fluid and the ketchup comes out easily (it is widely used as

an example in school experiments on fluids of varying viscosity). But in addition, this texture allows it to expand and coat the tongue, stimulating the taste buds for longer than if it were liquid.

Henry John Heinz

The inventor of modern ketchup was Henry John Heinz, born in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania in 1844, three decades after the physician and horticulturist James Mease published the first recipe for 'tomato ketchup' in the United States. In England, someone had al-

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ready had the idea of using this fruit, which originated in Central America, for a sauce.

The food historian Andrew Smith in his book 'Ketchup, a history of America's national seasoning' traces its arrival in the US brought by British immigrants. English sailors had introduced the sauce to the UK in 1680, coming from Southeast Asia. In Indonesian, 'kecap' (or 'kecap') means sauce, and in particular, the word alluded to sauces with a powerful umami flavor from fermented soybeans or fish, sometimes thickened with starch, which so pleased the British palate that they immediately began to imitate them.

To make it, all sorts of produce was used, from mushrooms (mushroom ketchup was one of the first marketed in packaging), to oysters, anchovies and even nuts. The problem was the results were not always satisfactory and it did not keep well. As tomatoes were seasonal they had to be preserved, either by fermentation which did not help the development of the umami flavours like cooking did, or with the addition of large quantities of rum or whisky which made it unsuitable for children. Finally sodium benzoate was added, a chemical preservative that began to be widely questioned in the mid-nineteenth century.

In 1876, Heinz, one of the greatest opponents of benzoate (which today is still used in many commercial brands), launched his first batch of ketchup. He chose a glass bottle that allowed the intense red colour of the ripe tomatoes to be seen. The ripe to-

English sailors brought 'kecap' back from Indonesia and British immigrants later took the sauce to the US

atoes, which besides having a sweeter flavour than the green ones, were also richer in pectin and thickened the sauce, and he added more vinegar instead of alcohol to help preserve it and distinguish it from other types of tomato-based sauces. A secret mixture of spices and the extra addition of sugar made his sauce addictive. A few years later, it was selling 13 million bottles a year worldwide. Today, the company, now in the hands of

multinationals in the food industry, sells 650 million bottles a year. The Dutch plant alone, which produces for the EU, manufactures 1.8 million bottles per year - 175,000 tonnes.

In an interesting article in The New Yorker ('The ketchup conundrum', the enigma of ketchup), journalist Malcolm Gladwell describes how attempts by certain firms to launch gourmet ketchups have failed in the face of the roundness of the Heinz formula, which remains the model for all brands, although in recent years the firm has launched low-salt varieties with no added sugar or corn starch, in line with the growing concern for dietary health in its main market, the US, where ketchup is for many reasons a cultural symbol.

Homemade ketchup

Ingredients:

1 kg very ripe tomatoes or one large tin of pureed tomatoes, 70g brown sugar, 100ml vinegar, ½ tsp celery salt, 1tsp onion salt, ½ tsp garlic salt, ½ tsp powdered mustard, 1 clove, ½ glass water, ground black pepper.

Preparation

Peel, chop and sieve the fresh tomatoes if using. Put the puree in a saucepan, add the spices, the vinegar and 50g of the sugar and heat slowly, stirring occasionally until the tomatoes have reduced

in volume by about a half. Remove the clove and check the seasoning, adding more salt and sugar if required. Add the black pepper and mix well. Liquidise to make a smooth sauce.

Note: it is advisable to add the sugar in two steps as very ripe tomatoes contain natural sugars. This way you can check that the sauce is not going to be too sweet.

This can also be done with the vinegar.

Fresh onion, garlic and celery can also be used but these must be fried first until they start to caramelize.



Investor's Guide

ANDREW J. LINN



There is no country where restaurants are not falling like nine pins, so it is not rocket science to predict that no new ones are likely to open in the foreseeable future. Traditionally most restaurant projects have relied on private investment. No banks will finance them unless franchises and big-name chefs are involved. This is not surprising when we take into account that across the board the majority of ventures do not survive past the six-year mark, probably because there is more to running a restaurant than cooking and serving food. There are endless operational procedures, suffocating regulatory requirements, and antisocial hours resulting in minimal family life.

So it was rather unexpected that a veteran sponsor of the catering industry went on record last week as having been delighted with his investments. Clearly, he knows something most people do not. The key is food trucks. He has financed four, and in every case has recovered his investment with profits in less time than anticipated.

From Delhi to the West Bank, from Hong Kong to Lima, limit-

less success stories abound, to the extent that food trucks currently appear to be the best investment in catering. Setting up in the business costs 30% of that for a conventional restaurant with much lower capital and running costs. Best of all, if the first location does not work, drive off around the corner and try there.

Eating at food trucks is not for every age group, but the market is big enough to guarantee a profitable return on the investment.

WINE OF THE WEEK

Aragonia Vendimia Seleccionada 2013

Supermarket wines are the biggest national sellers and for this reason the large chains are taking increasing care to refine their offer. A red Garnacha from Campo de Borja, this Lidl selection has obtained international awards, and is really very good value at around seven euros





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Efficient Malaga get off to a winning start on their long-awaited return to La Rosaleda

Cristian's first goal for the club made it two wins on the bounce for the Blue and Whites on Saturday evening

1-0

MALAGA-ALCORCÓN

Malaga: Dani Barrio; Calero, Juande, Escassi, Matos; Cristian, Ramón (Bou-lahroud, 86'), Benkhemassa, Rahmani (Juan Cruz, 93'); Orlando Sá (Jozabed, 65'), Caye Quintana. Unused substitutes: Gonzalo, Benítez, Luis Hernández, Quintana, Rolón, Mini, Issa, Larrubia, Hoyos.

Alcorcón: Dani Jiménez; David Fernández, Castro, José Carlos; Laure (Víctor García, 74'), Boateng, Gorostidi, Bellvis (Samu Sosa, 58'); Hugo Fraile; Óscar Arribas (Barbero, 58'), Marc Gual (Ernesto, 74'). Unused substitutes: Samu Casado, Escobar, José León, Aguilera, Reko, Guito, Cavafe, Juanma.

Goals: 1-0: Cristian (43').

Referee: Pulido Santana. Sent off Boateng for a second yellow card (85'). Yellow for Ramón.

Ground: La Rosaleda.

DARYL FINCH



The three points were Malaga's on Saturday evening as they returned to La Rosaleda for the first time since the summer break for the visit of Alcorcón.

As is often the case in Segunda,



The players rush to celebrate the goal with Cristian just before half time. **SALVADOR SALAS**

there was just one goal in it; Cristian's superb volley from the edge of the box - his side's only effort on target during the whole game - sealed a win which, despite the lack of efforts on goal, never seemed in doubt.

Coach Sergio Pellicer made significant tactical changes to his side, fielding a 4-4-2 rarely seen during his spell in charge, with both Orlando Sá and Caye Quintana leading the line. This, however, completely nullified Alcorcón's threat with the Madrid side unable to get their most creative players on the ball and rarely getting near Dani Barrio's goal.

The only chance the visitors had in the first half came from attacking midfielder Óscar Arribas whose shot from 25 yards out threatened to catch the Malaga keeper out but Barrio was ultimately able to fist the ball away in unorthodox fashion.

Malaga grew into the game as the first half wore on and their opening came just before half time when Cristian, coming in off the right, was picked out by José Matos' inch-perfect cross from the left, volleying his effort in off the inside of the left-hand post.

Trailing, the visitors were on the front foot during the second

half but could only muster two half chances. The first saw Iván Barbero head a cross from the right well over the bar while Samuel Sosa's freekick was hit straight down Barrio's throat and the keeper was able to hold on.

What's more, Alcorcón's hopes of an equaliser were further hampered in the closing stages when Richard Boateng received his second yellow card.

"To get six points from the first three games is fantastic for us," said Pellicer following the game.

"When the team gives everything, no one can criticise us. You can see we have a solid [defen-

sive] block, but to get there you have to work very hard so the credit goes to the players, to everyone.

"The group is getting stronger. But nobody can afford to relax. We have 24 hours to celebrate, then on to prepare for the Rayo game [on Saturday]."

This sentiment was echoed by match-winner Cristian: "We're forming a family; we understand the situation we're in, and we fight every day. Very few teams are going to beat us; we'll give it our all, with humility and with our feet on the ground. We know the season is very long."

The players will still choose the next captains, but Pellicer will have his say

The club has now changed its policy, giving the coach more power compared to previous years

SERGIO CORTÉS

MALAGA. In recent seasons the players have been, in the words of the club hierarchy, "the owners of the club". When it came to travel and hotel arrangements, the choice of food service and even the naming of the three club

captains, the decision always lay with the players themselves. However, in the case of the latter, there will be a change in policy: head coach Sergio Pellicer will this time get to choose one of them.

Until now, the coach didn't have much say beyond what happens on the training ground and during match days. Now, though, there will be a slight shift to give the coach greater overall power. That said, decisions made by the coach will still require the backing of sporting director, Manolo Gaspar and the judicial administrator, José María Muñoz.

On the first match day this season, Pellicer sprung a surprise by naming young defender Ismael Casas as the captain, even with more senior players on the pitch at the time.

The coach said that he took the decision because the full-back has the necessary values for any player who wears the armband. The second to meet his criteria was another young defender, Juande, who took it over in Castellón when Ismael was substituted and retained it against Alcorcón.

Pellicer stressed that when the transfer window closes on 5 Oc-



Ismael wore the armband for the first time in Tenerife. **AGENCIA LOF**

tober, it's the players who choose the captains - though only two of them. This therefore leaves the

door open for Ismael to remain captain for the remainder of the season.

New-look squad almost complete as four fresh faces arrive and redundancy plan goes through

Jairo, Pablo Chavarría, Juan Soriano and Josua Mejías all joined this week as the club managed to let eight players go as part of its ERE mass redundancy plan

ANTONIO GÓNGORA

MALAGA. Malaga are showing no sign of slowing down in the transfer market, completing their tenth, eleventh, twelfth and thirteenth signings of the window during a busy week at La Rosaleda.

Defender Josua Mejías, 23, is the latest to arrive, joining on a season-long loan from Leganés on Tuesday. This was announced shortly after the signing of winger Jairo Samperio, who has been given a two-year deal after leaving German side Hamburg.

Jairo, the most high-profile of the signings so far, returns to Spain after a spell in Germany with Mainz and Hamburg. The 27-year-old first came to prominence with Racing Santander, making his debut having just turned 18, before earning a move to Sevilla with whom he won the Europa League.

Monday was also a busy day for the club as both Pablo Chavarría and Juan Soriano completed year-long deals, filling spots in what have been two problem positions for the Blue and Whites for the past year.

Thirty-two-year-old Chavarría joins on a free transfer after negotiating his exit from Real Mallorca, while Soriano, 23, joins on loan from Andalusian rivals Sevilla.

The former is the third striker to sign this summer (after Orlando Sá and Caye Quintana) though the Argentinian can also play on the wing. With Mallorca in La Liga last year he made 15 appearances but failed to score a single goal. In the previous season with French side Reims, he scored five goals in 30 appearances in Ligue 1.

Soriano was also playing in La Liga last season, making 11 appearances between the sticks for relegated Leganés. He will come in to provide competition for Dani Barrio who was up until now the only goalkeeper on a professional contract.

ERE completed

Despite having made 13 new signings already, the work is not done for sporting director Manolo Gaspar. Central defence remains an area with little cover and the signing of Luis Muñoz, whose contract with Malaga expired in the



Sporting director Manolo Gaspar with new signing Jairo on Tuesday. MALAGACF.COM

summer, remains a priority.

Muñoz's second coming, however, has been reliant on the outcome of the club's ERE mass redundancy plan coming to fruition.

An agreement was reached on Monday between the club and the committee appointed to represent those affected and it was finally ratified on Tuesday.

This means that eight players (Juanpi, Luis Hernández, Dani Pacheco, Badr Boulahroud, Emanuel Cecchini, Diego González, Renato Santos and Esteban Rolón) have had their con-

tracts terminated.

The club had announced earlier in the summer that all first-team players would be included in the drastic measure to reduce the wage bill, but some players were sold in the meantime (Keidi Bare, Tete Morente, Álex Mula and Iván Jaime), while others left on free transfers (Adrián, Juankar, Munir and Cifu).

Defender David Lombán, who was included in the ERE, will remain at the club after agreeing to take a pay cut. Likewise, Mohamed Benkhemassa will remain

part of the squad as his wages were relatively low to begin with.

This means that with the only two survivors from last season (Benkhemassa and Lombán), plus the 13 signings, the imminent arrival of Muñoz and the conversion of defender Juande's contract into a professional one, that there is only one place left in the squad to fill (La Liga only permits 18 in the case of Malaga for rule breaches) ahead of the deadline on 5 October.

There may be a surprise yet to come...

Four ex-employees arrested over role in buying shares with club funds for the Al-Thanis

A. GÓNGORA

MALAGA. Investigations into the Al-Thani family's conduct at the helm of Malaga CF continue and this week it was revealed by police that four former directors at the club had been arrested and questioned over their role in the purchase of new shares in the club on behalf of the Qataris using club funds.

The unnamed individuals, under investigation for fraud and money laundering, were at the time of the acquisition (July 2015) the executive vice-president, deputy director general, head of the legal department and head of the finances.

Irregular payments made by the Al-Thanis have also been detected with regard to the sale and repurchase of vehicles, property renovation, courier services, dry cleaning, hotels and travel, mobile phone top-ups, credit card payments, pet food, petrol, the payment of fines and much more.





A LOOK AT LA LIGA
ROB PALMER
Commentator, Sky Sports

Out with the old...

There is a quiet revolution taking place at the Camp Nou under Ronald Koeman with plenty of young talent being brought in under the radar



managed to make the eyes of Pep Guardiola light up this week with one simple question "How much pleasure does it give you to introduce an academy player, compared to spending millions on a superstar?"

It related to him giving 18-year-old Cole Palmer his Manchester City debut on a wet Wednesday at Burnley but clearly stoked up his desire to carve careers and create players rather than sign finished articles. It's what he did back in the day at Barcelona, and what his old club have reverted back to.

After the tortuous summer, there is a quiet revolution taking place in Catalonia. With the focus on Lionel Messi's rebellion, little attention has been paid to the complete change of agenda within the walls of the Camp Nou.

Look at the team picture for this season and you'll be forgiven for not recognising half of the squad. When fans are allowed back into the stadium, a programme will be a necessity to identify some fresh and exciting new talent.

With a clear out of the 'thirty-something' stars who have



Ansu Fati controls the ball with coach Ronald Koeman watching on. EFE

served the club well, there have been pegs up for grabs within the changing room.

Nélson Semedo, Ivan Rakitić, Luis Suárez and Arturo Vidal

moved on and needed replacing as Barcelona also needed to balance the books.

Ansu Fati has already claimed countless headlines by becoming

Spain's youngest ever scorer and hitting two on the opening day of the season. But let's park the 17-year-old for a moment. There's a first teamer a month

younger!

Pedri arrived from the Canary Islands, where he'd been the most-used player at Las Palmas last season. His grandfather ran the FC Barcelona 'penya' in Tenerife. It was written in the stars.

The narrative doesn't end there. Sergiño Dest, half Dutch, half American, turned down the chance to play for the Netherlands a year ago. The coach was Ronald Koeman. Luckily Koeman doesn't hold grudges and invested 21 million euros to sign the 19-year-old from Ajax.

Another summer recruit was 20-year-old Francisco Trincão who cost 31 million euros from Braga. The fact that he's already made his Portugal debut and has a buy-out of 500 million euros suggests he's going places.

Another statement is giving Carles Aleñá the coveted number six shirt. He made his debut in 2016 and was loaned out to Real Betis last season but has returned as a serious contender for the first team. The same goes for Ronald Araújo, a 21-year-old centre-back who has been on the fringes despite getting sent off thirteen minutes into his debut last season.

It could be a memorable season if the kids can become united.

La Liga's official Man of the Match sponsor may also require a rethink. Budweiser needed to select an alternative to Ansu Fati after his outstanding display against Villarreal because he isn't old enough to consume the product.

Maybe it's time to launch a non-alcohol product with the Barcelona next generation in mind? That's "WhassUp"!

Malaga Femenino fall just short of a place in the Copa de Andalucía final

Despite thrashing Cadiz 10-0 in the quarter-finals, a single goal from Benalmádena-born Noelia was enough to win the game for Granada

MARINA RIVAS

MALAGA. A single goal from Benalmádena-born Noelia was enough to seal Malaga's women's team's exit from the Copa de Andalucía at the semi-final stage last Friday.

After thrashing Cadiz 10-0 in the quarter-finals against Cadiz, Malaga came up short against Granada in Alhaurín de la Torre.

Granada, managed by former Malaga coach José Herrera, differed greatly in style to Malaga, choosing to keep their shape and trying to hit on the counter-attack while Nati Gutiérrez's side took the initiative for much of the first half



Malaga came into the game on the back of a 10-0 win over Cadiz. MCF

but couldn't find the breakthrough.

The tables turned somewhat in the second half as Granada restarted on the front foot in search of the goal as quickly as possible - and it eventually came in the 64th minutes. Noelia's header at the far post converted a great cross from the right by Laura Pérez.

Though Malaga didn't let up and maintained their intensity until the final whistle, 1-0 proved to be enough for Granada to book their place in the final.

This pre-season competition, however, was ultimately won by Real Betis, who ran out 2-1 winners to claim the trophy.

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Potros make statement of intent with signing of Väänänen

AMERICAN FOOTBALL

The Finn is the first international signing in the club's history and comes with good pedigree, having represented his country

ENRIQUE MIRANDA

FUENGIRIOLA. The Fuengirola Potros have pulled off a major coup by signing 26-year-old Finnish quarterback Henri Väänänen.

A simple internet search proves his credentials: he is an international player with Finland, one of the European powerhouses in American football; he is 26 years old; has a tremendous physique and a long record of success (Finnish champion for the last four seasons).

Initially, at this modest club on the Costa del Sol, they were surprised by a player of this level showing interest in joining.

"We contacted him by video-



Henri Väänänen in action for the Helsinki Roosters. SUR

conference and he explained to us that his great motivation is to spread American football across Europe, that he was attracted by our project and that he wanted to come and play in Spain with us," explained Nacho Ponce, head coach of Potros, the only Andalusian team in the A series, the elite of American football in Spain.

The Costa club has to perform a delicate balancing act every season to manage its finances so they were aware that they couldn't offer Väänänen a salary or a job, as other Spanish teams can.

"He's not going to be paid anything, we will try to help him find a flat and he will collaborate with us in other facets of the club, but we cannot give him a salary," says the coach.

For the Finnish player, who is a personal trainer by profession, this is no obstacle and he will move to Fuengirola to become the first international signing in the history of the club.



SALVADOR SALAS

Fans return to the Carpena

Spectators made their first return to the Martín Carpena arena in Malaga on Tuesday night for Unicaja's EuroCup game against Boulogne Metropolitans 92. The 225 fans were treated to a 96-88 win.

Verdasco disqualified, leaving Davidovich facing early French Open exit

The youngster from Malaga was set to partner the veteran in the double's before he tested positive for Covid-19

DARYL FINCH

MALAGA. A bizarre turn of events has left local tennis star Alejandro Davidovich facing an early departure from the French Open at Roland Garros.

The 21-year-old lost to Andréi

Rubliov in the second round of the Grand Slam tournament in Paris on Thursday evening, 5-7 1-6 6-3 1-6.

He had set up the clash with Rubliov by seeing off Harold Mayot 7-6 (7-5) 6-3 7-5 in a rain-interrupted first round match on Tuesday.

Davidovich had hoped, however, to be competing for a chance to win his second double's trophy too. The player, who calls Fuengirola his home, confirmed last week that he would



Davidovich during his first-round win over Mayot. EFE

be partnering up with veteran Fernando Verdasco for the first time. However, he was dealt a blow at the weekend when it was announced that Verdasco had been disqualified for testing positive for Covid-19.

The 36-year-old had coronavirus in August but tested negative before the Rome Masters 1000 and the Hamburg tournament. "My team and family travelled to Paris and had the corresponding PCR test done again. Everyone was negative except me. I tried to explain my history and situation to try to apply for another test, especially after seeing what happened in similar cases with other players," he said. However, the tournament's organisers refused to allow him to take another test and he announced on Thursday that he intended to sue them.

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THE STARS

Aquarius
January 21st - February 19th
Someone may be looking to shift the blame of a mistake onto someone else. Be busy for a while or fail to answer the phone to negative and moaning people.

Pisces
February 20th - March 20th
A decision made this week will help you to balance your life for long time to come. Take advice by all means but realise that you really do sometimes know best.

Aries
March 21st - April 20th
When you know that you are right it is very frustrating to have others disagree. Having patience now saves a lot of stress.

Taurus
April 21st - May 21st
Avery tempting offer comes from a new direction. Showing an interest does not mean that you have to go ahead or make a decision right now.

Gemini
May 22nd - June 21st
Using imagination and being optimistic can shake you out of any gloom that may seem to be descending. Indeed, your funnier side is wanting to burst forth!

Cancer
June 22nd - July 23rd
Waiting for something exciting to happen? Been promised that things will change and even get better? Keep up the pressure on those who you know can help you move forward.

Leo
July 24th - August 23rd
Give someone a chance to realise their mistake. It is better to show patience even if you feel quite the opposite. There is much to gain from making a new friend who could be lifelong.

Virgo
August 24th - September 23rd
Have you been taking one day at a time? Afraid to move forward in case things change again? Be confident in the reality that you could get so much more out of your life and future.

Libra
September 24th - October 23rd
Mood swings are not unusual for such a sensitive soul as yourself. Could your lack of action be because you are confused about what you want? Some time alone could be the answer.

Scorpio
October 24th - November 22nd
This week, give yourself time to improve on your own life and life chances. Being as healthy as possible should involve a good diet and exercise.

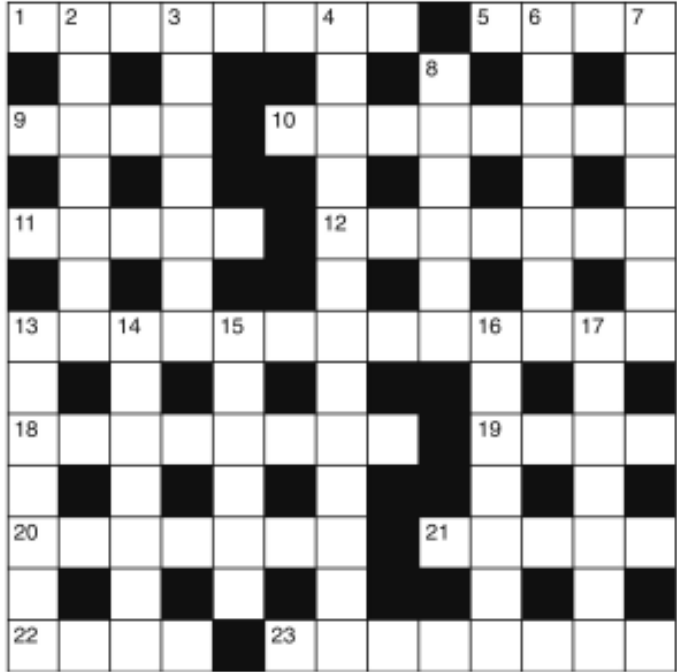
Sagittarius
November 23rd - December 21st
Been held back too long from achieving your dreams? Find others who are in the same situation and see if you can work it out together. You are not looking for problems here but solutions.

Capricorn
December 22nd - January 20th
The last few months may have changed your point of view as well as your ambitions Being flexible is the best talent that you can show right now.

THE SEVEN DIFFERENCES



CRYPTIC CROSSWORD N° 11429

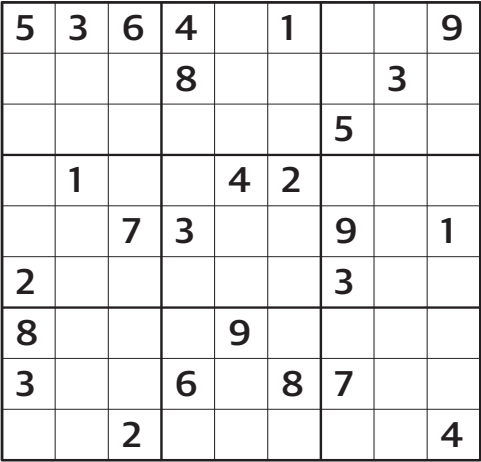


- Across
- 1 Teas spilt causing hazard for star (8)
 - 5 Boat company in the South-West (4)
 - 9 Weapon of the Peelers? (4)
 - 10 When the cashier runs out of money, just the same (2,6)
 - 11 Possibly a pint of emulsion (5)
 - 12 Extracted when dated? (4,3)
 - 13 Fellow soldier being held? (7,2,4)
 - 18 It's a crop cultivated as fruit (8)
 - 19 They sound like trips to the hills (4)
 - 20 Isn't one upset by stress? (7)
 - 21 Fairly easy to pick up? (5)
 - 22 Stratagem about to take us in (4)
 - 23 Subject studied from various angles? (8)

- Down
- 2 New parson revealing love for a singer (7)
 - 3 Girl found near Leo perhaps (7)
 - 4 Terse statement from a judge? (5,8)
 - 6 Frank's quality? (7)
 - 7 Tributes to the dead of the wars? (7)
 - 8 Cast from the monarch's seat, say (6)
 - 13 Novel part of a Hell's Angels gang (7)
 - 14 Possibly the remains of servicemen (7)
 - 15 Worker leaving one polar region for another (6)
 - 16 Straddling with one step (7)
 - 17 One taking steps to protest? (7)

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



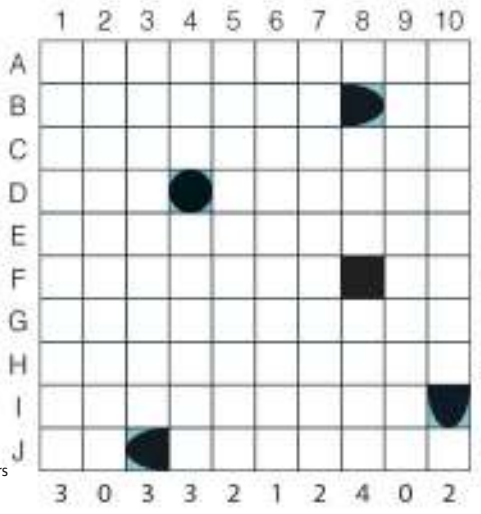
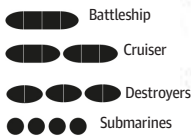
THE WORDPUZZLER



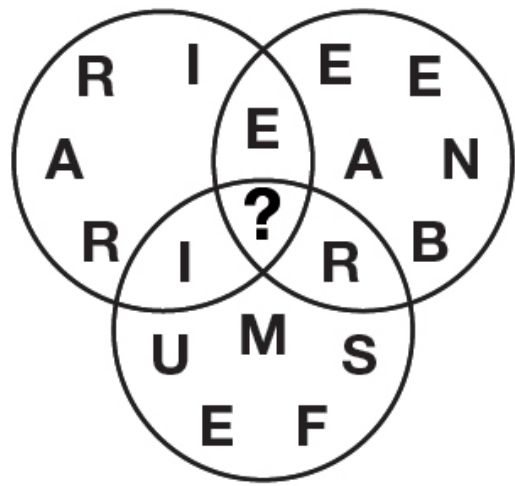
- Can you identify the words that contain 'gin' from the clues listed below?
- 1. Heart disease
 - 2. --- marbles, Greek sculptures
 - 3. Ornamental fringe
 - 4. Oliver Twist character
 - 5. Motor
 - 6. The R of ER, the Queen
 - 7. Spice
 - 8. Encouraging
 - 9. Page's border
 - 10. Start

BATTLESHIPS

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



CIRCLEGRAM



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

LANGUAGE CROSSWORD FILL IN THE SPANISH WORD

- Across
- Down
- 1) Spirituality (14)

7) Job (7)

12) Followers (10)

13) I pray (4)

14) Goodness (6)

16) Clothing (4)

18) Mortification (13)

19) Anchor (5)

22) Lay people (6)

24) Incorrect (m) (7)

26) Here (4)

27) Friend (m) (5)

28) They joke (7)

30) It pricks (6)

32) Such (3)

33) Chirp (3)

35) Day (3)

39) Hoax (4)

40) Priest (9)

42) Poor (pl) (6)

45) Thought up (m.pl) (7)

47) I dampened (8)

49) Church (7)

50) Maturity (7)

51) Placid (f) (8)

53) Uncle (3)

54) Authoritarian (m) (11)

55) Secrecy (10)
- 1) Teaching (9)

2) I hit (4)

3) Indian (m) (5)

4) Atheist (m) (4)

5) To go (2)

6) Oil (6)

8) Supported (m) (7)

9) You walk (pl) (6)

10) Ordinary (m) (9)

11) Trusting (m) (8)

15) Will (8)

16) Rank (5)

17) Controversial (m) (8)

20) Way (6)

21) South (3)

23) Holiness (8)

25) Work (4)

29) Sick (m.pl) (8)

31) To canonise (9)

33) Film (8)

34) Founder (m) (8)

36) I'll go (3)

37) Axes (6)

38) Celibacy (8)

41) Vermouth (6)

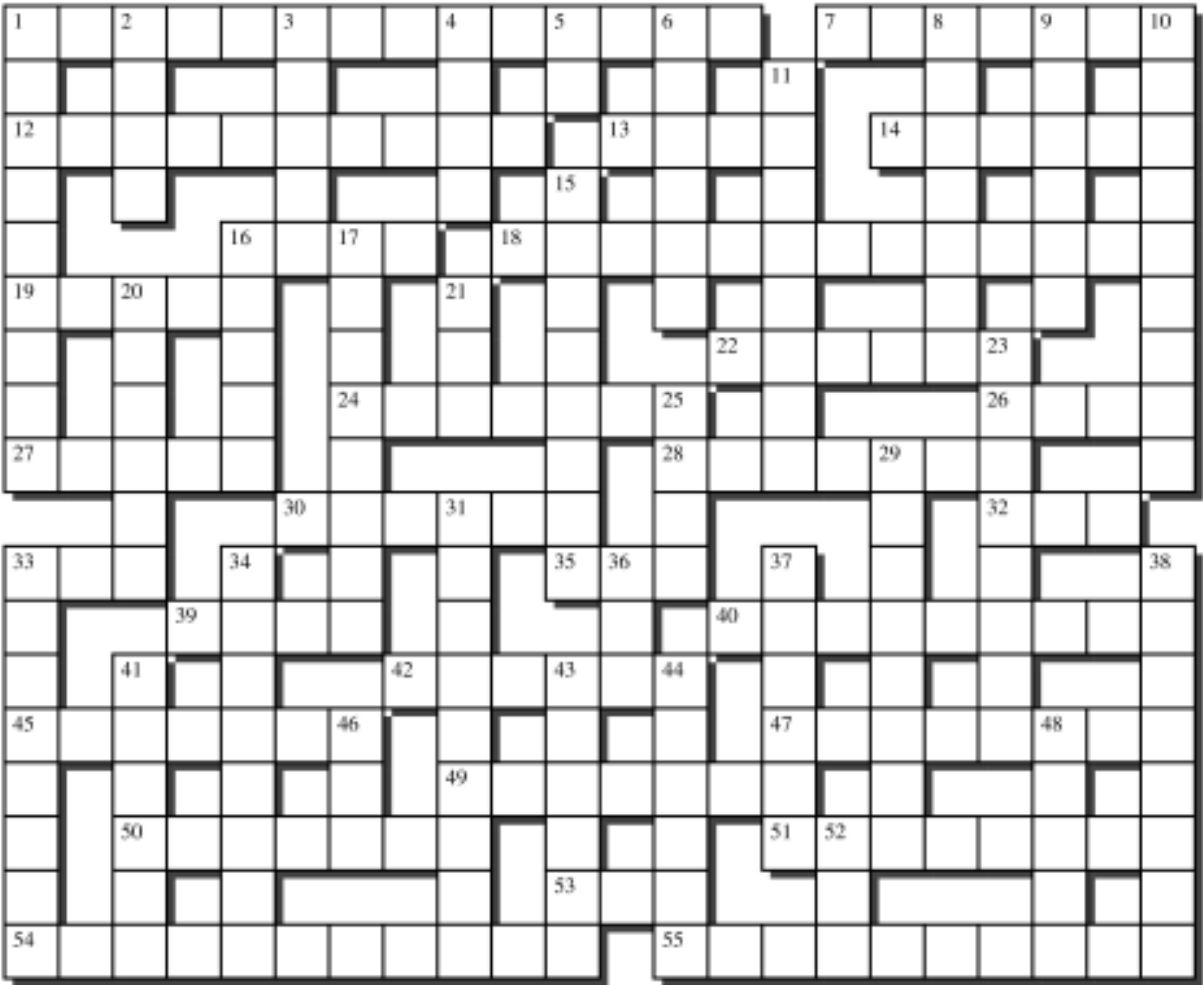
43) Tale (6)

44) Frights (6)

46) To be (3)

48) You were (pl) (5)

52) To hear (3)



ANSWERS

Quiz answers

very last of their ammunition.
at fighting off the enemy with the
meant that they had tried their best
ammunition. When they ran out, it
equipped with nine yards of
Of interest: Fighter pilots were
Answer: WWII pilots
on the register as Hitler.
but for some reason it was entered
take his stepfather's name Heidler,
Alois was promoted he decided to
mother Klara was his cousin. When
descendant) and it's rumoured Adolf's
never prove he was of true Aryan
was illegitimate (Adolf Hitler could
Of interest: Alois Schicklgruber
Answer: Adolf Hitler

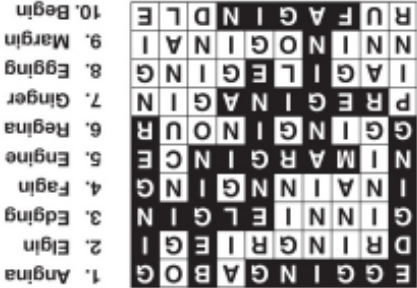
Language Crossword



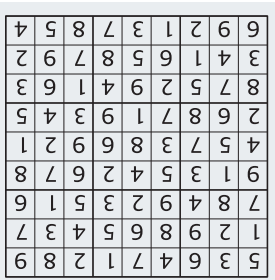
Cryptic Crossword

Solution: Across: 1 Astoria; 5 Snow; 9 Epoca; 10 No change; 11 Print; 12 Took out; 13 Comrade in arms; 18 April; 18 Tare; 20 Tension; 21 Light; 22 Fuse; 23 Geometry; Down: 2 Soprano; 3 Elation; 4 Short sentence; 6 Candour; 7 Whaling; 8 Throwing; 13 Chapter; 14 Minutes; 15 Archer; 16 Astoria; 17 Marcher.

Wordpuzzler solution



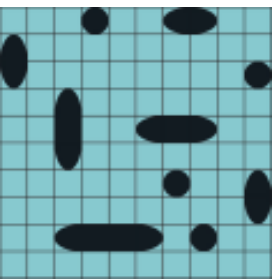
Sudoku solution



Circlegram

The letter represented by the
question mark is D. Airdrie,
Aberdeen, Dumfries, all
Scottish towns or cities.

Battleships



WHERE IS THIS?



A spiky metal sculpture

Last week:
Baza

This plaza is named after José Luis Martínez, four times shotput champion of Spain who died aged 46 in Baza, Granada in 2016.



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A bassoon, a bathroom and all that jazz

Music. Ernesto Aurignac gave Juande Robles an impossible task to make him stop asking for lessons: to play a complicated bassoon solo from memory with his eyes closed, in the shower. The video of him doing it went viral on social media

REGINA SOTORRÍO



Juande Robles, a classically trained bassoonist, had been trying for some time to persuade Ernesto Aurignac to teach him “the language of jazz”, but the successful local composer and saxophonist said he was too busy with other things, writing music and giving concerts.

In the end, after a stream of insistent WhatsApp messages from Juande, Aurignac came up with the idea of asking him to do something impossible in order to get some peace.

His message was: “Today is Thursday. If on Saturday you send me a perfect performance of Lenie Tristano’s Line Up played from memory, with no mistakes, your eyes closed and in the shower, I’ll give you lessons. If not, then I can’t. I’m sorry, but I need to

rest...”

The message he received in response was “Perfect”.

That Saturday at 8am Ernesto Aurignac received a video. And yes, Juande Robles was standing in the shower at home, playing Line Up with no score and his eyes closed. A day after it was posted on social media, the recording had already been shared over 160 times on Facebook, there were hundreds of comments and it was viewed nearly 1,000 times on Youtube. On Sunday, Juande posted a video at the start of his first lesson.

“It was meant as a joke. I never thought he would do it. It is an incredible solo, really difficult to play, especially from memory and in the shower!” said Aurignac.

Albert Reig, the bassoonist with

the Malaga Philharmonic Orchestra, corroborated that in one of the many comments posted on Facebook: “As a bassoonist myself I can tell you that what he did in the video is extremely difficult

and very few people could do it.”

Another comment was from Juande’s father, who plays the horn in the Jaén municipal band: “Ernesto Aurignac, I’m Juande’s Dad. Please give him lessons so



◀ Robles and Aurignac pose for photos in a shower after the story went viral on social media. **SALVADOR SALAS**

he gives us a bit of peace.” To which the saxophonist replied: “Your son is going to need to give me lessons... let’s see if he wants to...”

In the municipal band

Juande, 23, says he actually enjoyed doing it. He spent about ten hours a day preparing for the challenge set for him by the maestro. He was born in Baeza but has been living in Malaga for five years, since deciding to continue his studies at the Music Conservatory in the city.

As soon as he arrived he was given a place in the municipal band, and is still a member today. He has also been a stand-in at the Malaga Philharmonic and the Orchestra of Cordoba.

Perhaps his next move will be to a jazz combo, because Juande Robles wants to introduce the bassoon to improvised music. It is unusual to hear that particular sound in this genre. There are some jazz bassoonists, but very few.

“In a jam session if you go with a bassoon, people wonder what you’re doing there,” he said. He wants to fit in with the other players, and that’s why he says it is important to learn from the greats.

“I’m going to have to give him some lessons now, so let’s see how I do. I’m a bit worried,” joked Aurignac. He applauds Juande’s determination and said he will find a way to fit the lessons in: “It’s a joy to find someone like this.”

It will be one great musician teaching another. And at the start of their first class they were happy to pose for the cameras: in the shower, of course.

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