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EasyJet to open its second Spanish hub in Malaga next spring, creating 100 jobs

The airline, which currently only uses Palma de Mallorca airport as an operations base, aims to run three A320 aircraft from the Costa del Sol airport

UK airline EasyJet announced on Thursday that it had chosen Malaga Airport as the location for its second Spanish hub, which will open next spring. The move, which is expected to create around 100 jobs, comes as the airline forecast losses of 900 million euros. **P3**

THE PLIGHT OF THE EAGLES

The falconry centre in Benalmádena is struggling to keep its 160 birds of prey with few visitors and little support **P22**



Co-owner Jan, with an American bald eagle. **GERMÁN POZO**

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INSIDE

The ordeal of getting tested for Covid-19

As pressure eases in hospitals, health centres bear the brunt **P8**

Mijas gets green light for province's biggest park

The Las Lagunas project is to cost 20 million euros **P15**

Job done for Malaga CF as the transfer window closes

The books have been balanced and the squad rebuilt **P36**

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The agencies say they have lost 90 per cent of their business this year. **NITO SALAS**

Refunds, a further ordeal for travel agencies in crisis

Tourism. The businesses say they are trapped due to a lack of funds, because the money they have to refund to clients is still being held by airlines and tour operators

JUAN SOTO



After having to deal with the closure of borders and a drastic fall in the number of travellers, travel agencies are now facing the ordeal of trying to obtain refunds for services not provided. Six months after the state of alarm began, numerous people have still not re-

ceived the money they had spent because of delays in payment by airlines and tour operators, and this is overwhelming a sector which is already suffering from a lack of business.

The travel agents, who act as intermediaries between the clients and service providers, say

they feel they are trapped in a deadend, because the money their clients entrusted to them for their holidays is still in the hands of the companies or hotel chains, and they cannot refund it until these operators give it back to them.

The president of the Agencias

de Viaje Asociadas de Andalucía association (Aedav), Sergio García, says they are well aware that many payments have still not been refunded since the crisis began. "We are the weakest link in the chain," he complains. According to Aedav's calculations, the sector has suffered losses of 90 per cent compared with turnover last year.

The problem for the agencies, he adds, is that most of them are small businesses with little financial muscle so they are unable to refund clients from their own resources. And, of course, all the consumers can do is be patient and wait for their money. Nor do the travel agents feel they have enough power to go into battle with major airlines which operate all over the world.

The law called Ley de Viajes Combinados stipulates that refunds must be paid to clients within a maximum period of 14 days, or within seven days if they had only contracted flights. Despite this, the vast majority of agencies are unable to pay these sums within that time and they are asking patients to understand their situation.

"In general they know we are suffering from the pandemic and they are being patient; but they need to know that it isn't a case of us not wanting to refund their money, it's just that it hasn't been repaid to us, so we can't," says García.

Joint action

The delays in payment and problems being suffered by the agencies have led the sector to call for the government to intervene, although so far there has been no progress. Sergio García says they are even thinking of taking joint action: "We are talking about millions of euros that are in the hands of the airlines. If they have liquidity problems, let them sell planes or do something like we have had to, such as apply for loans so we don't have to close down."

José Luis Ruiz, who runs the Shalam travel agency, admits that he still has to refund his clients about 16,000 euros. He explains that some airlines are offering vouchers instead of money, but not all clients want those. When the state of alarm began the government author-

Travel agents are considering joint action against the companies that have still not issued the refunds

ised refunds in the form of vouchers, but later had to back-track on that to comply with EU regulations. Now, vouchers are only offered if that option is accepted by the clients. For that reason, many cases are ending up in the hands of consumer organisations.

For Ruiz, the issue of refunds is causing a significant financial loss, because 100 per cent of the cost of the trips is being returned, including the commission the agency normally receives. "The losses are incalculable; we don't know how all this is going to end, because of the restrictions," he says.

However, he is confident that the agencies will come out of this crisis stronger, because people who have made reservations online have nobody to fight for them with the airlines or travel providers.

"Those people are on their own. The clients who booked through us do at least know that sooner or later they will get their money back," he explains.

Ana Belén, who runs Viajes Gastor, agrees. In her case, she spends part of each day sending emails and calling the companies on behalf of her clients. "They give you the runaround; they answer, but the time limits keep being extended," she says.

Ana Belén says it would be impossible for her to refund the clients directly because her business would have to close and then the clients would never receive their money.

"When I phone the clients with good news, I am almost more excited than they are; I don't want to hold on to anything that isn't mine," she says.

For this reason, all the travel agents agree that customers need to be prudent and patient, because it is better to be paid a little late than never receive any money back because thousands of small businesses have gone into liquidation.

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Malaga chosen to become EasyJet's second operations hub in Spain

The airport's third biggest airline will create around a hundred new jobs when it steps up its presence in the spring

PILAR MARTÍNEZ

British low-cost airline EasyJet announced on Thursday that it had chosen Malaga to open its second operations base in Spain, which would lead to the creation of around a hundred new jobs next spring.

The airline is currently the third biggest at Malaga Airport in terms of passenger movement, moving almost 2.5 million people last year.

"Until now, Malaga was the most popular destination on our network that did not yet have a base, which is why we are very proud to be able to announce it today," said Javier Gándara, EasyJet's General Manager for Southern Europe, on Thursday. Another hub in Faro (Portugal) would also



Two EasyJet aircraft at Malaga Airport. SALVADOR SALAS

be created, he said.

The opening of a new base in Malaga will mean that this airline will have three A320 aircraft, with a capacity to transport 156 passengers, based at the airport. In addition, it will lead to the creation of around 100 direct jobs for pilots and crew, who, the company says, will be employed on Span-

ish contracts.

"Malaga is one of the strategic summer destinations for EasyJet. Since the start of operations in the city in 1999, the airline has transported more than 36 million passengers, which places Malaga among the favourite destinations in the company's network," said Gándara.

Currently, the airline connects Malaga with 18 European airports. "Reinforcing the international connections that link this tourist destination with other cities of reference in terms of business and leisure tourism, such as London, Paris or Berlin, will contribute significantly to the recovery of the Spanish economy,"

Expected losses of 900 million euros

This expansion by EasyJet comes against the backdrop of the company's financial results for the fiscal year (which ended on 30 September). In a statement to the London Stock Exchange on Thursday, EasyJet reported that it expects a gross loss of between 900 and 930 million euros - the first time in its history that it will end a year in the red.

The Luton-based airline carried 50 per cent fewer passengers than in the previous period, due to a 48 per cent reduction in capacity, down to 55 million seats available.

he added.

For his part, Turismo Costa del Sol president Francisco Salado described this as "great news that comes at the best time".

Salado said that ever since he learned that EasyJet was looking to create a new hub, "we let the company know that it had the support of all the public administrations and the private sector". In those conversations, Salado also informed the airline of the Junta's proposals to provide PCR testing to open up a safe travel 'air bridge' with the UK.

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MARBELLA - FUENGIROLA - MANILVA

112 REPORTS

MALAGA

Irish hikers rescued from Los Montes de Málaga

SUR. Two women of Irish origin, 30 and 31, had to be rescued by National Police on Sunday night after they got lost while hiking in the Los Montes de Málaga area.

The pair told a friend that they couldn't find their way out who in turn informed police. After hours of searching, made more difficult by the large number of people in the area at the time, the women were located using their mobile phone location. Both showed signs of exhaustion but didn't require medical assistance.

FUENGIROLA

Suspended sentence for Brit who killed man that "bothered" his daughter

J. CANO. A British man has been given a two-year suspended sentence and a 183,500-euro fine after he admitted causing the death of a 66-year-old man who had been "bothering" his daughter in a bar in Fuengirola in 2018.

The victim, Mario Sauco, who was drunk, immediately left Churchill's bar when he was asked to by the owner. The father of the girl, Mark T., having heard about the incident which was neither sexual in nature nor constituted any form of abuse, followed him onto the street and punched him twice.

The victim suffered severe head injuries when he hit the floor and died days later after being in a coma.



The victim, Mario Sauco. SUR

Submachine gun linked to Brits held over Estepona shooting is found

Five police officers were injured trying to arrest the two men, 27 and 30, who appear to have been extorting money from a third person

F. TORRES / J. CANO

MALAGA. The weapon linked to a shooting in Estepona last Thursday has been located and identified by police as a submachine gun, according to SUR sources.

The National Police recovered the weapon, classified as a weapon of war, on Sunday, three days after the two British citizens were arrested in connection with the events.

Five officers were injured, none seriously, during the chase and subsequent arrest of the suspects, who rammed a police vehicle and resisted police officers who were trying to subdue them.

Extortion

Progress has been made in the investigations into last week's events, according to sources. It appears that the two detainees, two British citizens aged 27 and 30, were ex-



Police arrested the two individuals last Thursday. SUR

torting money from a third person by using a submachine gun. No one was shot but the sound of bullets being fired resulted in several calls to the emergency services.

The National Police were deployed to the area and a patrol car located the two suspects in a vehicle, which then reversed into the unmarked police car, injuring two officers.

However, once the car was blocked, the two suspects resisted arrest and caused a massive commotion, with multiple witnesses at the scene, many of whom recorded events on their mobile phones.

Several police officers were eventually required to place them in handcuffs. The investigation continues.



The fire produced thick black smoke. SALVADOR SALAS

Smoke visible for miles as fire rages through unit on the Guadalhorce industrial estate

FERNANDO TORRES

MALAGA. A fire on the Guadalhorce industrial estate on the outskirts of Malaga city raged through a unit on Tuesday afternoon, sending up a large column of smoke, visible as far away as Alhaurín de la Torre and El Palo.

The 112 emergency hotline received various calls at around 3.20pm from people reporting "dense, black" smoke quickly rising from the area.

The plot from which the fire originated is an industrial unit where various materials were

stored, from broken-down trucks to mattresses and scrap metal. Several witnesses and workers in the area told SUR that it was common to see a lot of movement in and out of the warehouse.

Thanks to the quick action of the emergency services, the fire was prevented from spreading any further, including to the adjoining dog kennels, but almost all of the property on the unit was destroyed.

Paramedics were quickly at the scene but no one was reported injured.



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Operation Save the Otters

Marbella. The first cleaning of the Guadaiza riverbed in a decade has exposed the need to protect the local wildlife

HÉCTOR BARBOTTA



The Guadaiza estuary boasts some of the greatest biodiversity in the Marbella area. JOSELE

Alarm bells started to ring at the start of the month when machinery began operating to clear the Guadaiza riverbed in Marbella, classified by the Andalusian regional government as a ZEC (Special Conservation Zone) and EFS (Outstanding River Area).

Around ten years have now

passed since the last clean-up, but now that the rainy season is approaching, the risk of flooding in the area has reappeared. In recent years the bridge that connects the districts of San Pedro and Nueva Andalucía via the Carril del Potril has flooded often, leaving whole areas of Marbella completely cut off and cre-

ating perilous conditions for drivers trying to cross the bridge.

However, the first cleaning works, carried out with a large

machine, quickly attracted opposition. Environmental groups, parties, such as Opción Sampedreña (OSP) and Impulsa Ciu-

dad, and individuals warned that the clearing was destroying a natural area of special value.

The Guadaiza, a river that runs for 22 kilometres and marks the boundary between the districts of San Pedro and Nueva Andalucía, is the natural habitat of, among other species, the Eurasian otter (*Lutra lutra*), an animal that eludes humans and is rarely seen.

Biologist Diego Rodríguez, one of those who raised the alarm, documented in an extensive report the existence of fresh otter excrement next to the riverbed on 3 October, evidence of the presence of specimens in the area. He also warned that this is the breeding season, and that the first phases of works did not take the necessary precautions to avoid environmental damage.

In the report, he says that the action already carried out by the town hall has eliminated the native willows, tarayas and oleaners on the riverband and has left behind invasive species such as acacias and eucalyptus, which



Town hall authorises the construction of 300 new homes in the Higuerón area

FUENGIROLA

A detailed study was approved by the local council this week and will see four-storey buildings constructed across three plots

IVÁN GELIBTER



Fuengirola town hall has given the green light to the detailed study of three plots in El Higuerón (in the upper part of Carvajal) which will enable 300 new properties to be built over the next few years.

As explained by the Town



Cranes are frequently seen in this area of Fuengirola. SUR

Planning councillor, José Sánchez, this is a development authorised in the current town plan (PGOU) and will see the construction of four-storey buildings across an area of slightly more than 48,297 square metres, distributed on three different plots (14,167; 8,948; and 25,182.8 square metres).

The developer of the land will be responsible for implementing the network of water distribution, sewerage, electricity, street lighting, telephone and paving throughout the area. What's more, "as stated in the current PGOU for Fuengirola, it is mandatory that two parking spaces are built for each dwelling constructed, as well as one parking space for every 80 square metres of land devoted to commercial or office use," said Sánchez.

Enrique Pérez Flores, founder of La Zagaleta, dies aged 97

HÉCTOR BARBOTTA

MARBELLA. Businessman Enrique Pérez Flores, known for founding La Zagaleta, died on Sunday, aged 97.

In 1991 Pérez Flores, who had just retired after a career in banking in Switzerland, acquired the land from Saudi magnate Adnan Khashoggi, who had populated the area with Central European wildlife.

Despite being in the boom years of the Gil era with the chance of building 3,000 homes, Pérez Flores opted to maintain the green areas and create one of the most exclusive developments in Europe.



Enrique Pérez Flores

has altered the structure of the riverbed.

According to Rodríguez, the section of river bank to the south of the Tirso de Molina bridge, just a few metres from where the machines have operated, is the last to retain the original configuration of the Guadaiza in the form of pools and river-bank vegetation that provides natural shelter for the young.

If this stretch, he says in the study, is subjected to the same clearing process as in the upper part, the otters would be permanently displaced from the area in the middle of the reproduction season and would be exposed to a serious risk of extinction in the area.

The town hall says that the actions to be carried out downstream will be different to those carried out in the area around the bridge, precisely to preserve the natural environment of the otter.

Forty metres

The head of the Environment department at the town hall, Vic-

toria Martín-Lomeña, told SUR that of the 22 kilometres of the Guadaiza, nine are protected and the cleaning undertaken by the council will only take place in the last two. Of these, so far only 40 metres have been cleared to prevent El Potril bridge being cut off again by flooding, which could cause a serious safety problem.

She added that the machine used so far will be replaced by another, smaller one and that it will be assessed section by section to carry out a selective cleaning that, she says, will not affect the pools where the otters find their natural habitat. "It will be a slower and more meticulous job," she says.

For this reason, she explained, it is not yet possible to say how long the work will take, initially estimated at two or three weeks.

OSP councillors have argued that the town hall doesn't have the permission to use machinery for the cleaning of the riverbed and that it should be carried out manually.

Special police unit to be set up in Marbella to prevent squatting

Mayor Ángeles Muñoz said that while there was not a problem in the town, the council wanted to provide security to foreign owners of second homes

HÉCTOR BARBOTTA

Marbella town hall is going to assemble a team composed mainly of Local Police officers in a bid to prevent the illegal occupation of homes, mayor Ángeles Muñoz announced on Tuesday.

While she acknowledged that squatting isn't currently a big problem in the town, it was important to be proactive to pre-

vent it, above all to provide security for owners of second homes who are primarily foreigners.

The team, she said, will be made up of 30 officers from the Prevention Unit and the Administrative Police, who will work in collaboration with the Foreign Residents department to deal with queries, offer information and advice and facilitate the filing of complaints in their native language if necessary. It will also collaborate directly with the National Police, the force responsible for dealing with squatting cases.

Networks

Muñoz explained that the team would be in contact with neighbourhood associations, property administrators, promot-

ers and estate agents and would work actively to gather information and search social media for groups or profiles publishing squatting "manuals".

The unit will also organise different informative campaigns in order to raise awareness and help property owners to avoid becoming a victim of squatting. It will also draw up a map of vulnerable areas in the municipality so that surveillance can be stepped up.

"In short, it is once again a question of being ahead, living up to what is demanded of us and offering a quality service to our residents and visitors," she said.

The mayor concluded by insisting that security is a priority for the Marbella local government team.

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Project for 73 council-subsidised flats in Nueva Andalucía put out to tender

MARBELLA

Fifty of these apartments will be reserved for young people, with a maximum price of 142,000 euros

H. BARBOTTA

Marbella town hall has set the ball rolling for the construction of 73 council promotion housing units on a municipal plot of 1,713 square metres in Nueva Andalucía.

The project is currently out to tender with the expectation that the properties will be built in less than two years, according to the mayor, Ángeles Muñoz.

"Our commitment is to once again make it easier for young people with limited resources to own property," she said. In addition to having a lower than market value



Muñoz (c) on the plot of land where the flats will be built. JOSELE

price (approximately 60 per cent), the town hall will provide a 6,235-euro grant, she said.

Muñoz explained that 50 of these properties would be for young people. They will be flats of approximately 70 square metres with a garage and storage room and an estimated maximum price of 142,000 euros, including the municipal subsidy.

Twenty-three will be reserved for the ordinary public housing scheme. These will be approximately 90 square metres and have a maximum price of approximately 197,000 euros, with a garage and storage room, including the municipal subsidy which in this case would be 8,200 euros. Three of the homes will be reserved for people with reduced mobility.

Iconic Coca-Cola bottling plant to close after almost 60 years in operation

MALAGA

The factory's activities will be moved to a larger, more modern plant in Seville province which can produce the full portfolio of products

NURIA TRIGUERO

Coca-Cola European Partners announced on Thursday that it would be closing its iconic bottling plant, close to Malaga Airport, which on 7 November would have been celebrating its 60th anniversary.

The activity that this factory has been carrying out until now, focused primarily on glass bottles and 'bag in box' production for the catering industry, will be

moved to the company's larger, more modern factory in La Rinconada (province of Seville), which the company announced a few months ago will be further expanded thanks to investment worth more than 44 million euros.

Part of the 77-person workforce in the Malaga plant will relocate to La Rinconada but a number of early retirements are also likely to be finalised.

New strategy

The company says that the decision to close its historic bottling plant, beside the Cercanías train line which runs between the airport and Plaza Mayor, is due to its new strategy of concentrating production in larger factories that are capable of producing its entire product portfolio.

Going round in circles to get a PCR test

Covid-19. The battle against the virus has moved to the local health centres, where doctors increasingly warn they are overstretched

ALBERTO GÓMEZ



Pressure on hospital beds in this second wave of Covid-19 is a long way off the March peak, so far. At the moment, the real healthcare battleground has switched to local public health centres, where family doctors are getting more frustrated.

Between giving advice via phone appointments and seeing people in person, these centres are now overwhelmed. On top of this is the work tracing the contacts of new Covid-positive patients, which is never ending.

To tell the authorities that you might be positive and then get a PCR test has become an ordeal of unanswered calls and waiting that tries anybody's patience.

From the moment you suspect you might have Covid-19, or symptoms appear, or somebody that you have had contact with tells you they

are positive, through to getting an appointment for a PCR test, four to 12 days can go by.

As the peak viral load happens on the fifth or sixth day after getting infected, this means that by the time the average person is having a test at the moment, the bulk of their infectious stage is over.

Self-isolation dilemma

As a result, voluntary self-isolation, without an official diagnosis, becomes a difficult trade off between acting responsibly and whatever personal or work-related commitment could get in the way. All in all, these delays are helping to fan community contagion as infections go unchecked.

The average waiting time for a phone appointment in health centres is 4.6 days, according to latest regional government data.



A test in an Andalusian village. EFE

Patients who cannot get appointments turn up to stand in a queue, which in turn stops doctors getting through their daily list of phone patients

That's if you can get one, as the online app, Salud Responde, frequently advises users that there is no appointment available for 14 days.

One medic said the online systems just aren't meant for the new normal: "We are overloaded with work, we do overtime and many have put off their holidays."

Spain has fewer family doctors than the European average, 76 per 100,000 people compared to 123.

Trapped in a vicious circle

There is a fear that everyone is about to get trapped in a vicious circle, as patients who can't get phone appointments turn up in person to stand in a queue to be seen, which in turn stops doctors getting through their list of phone patients for that day. And so the cycle repeats itself the next day.

Enrique Gavilán, a doctor and also an author on health service issues, said: "We came into this crisis in such a precarious state that everything has been blown out of the water. We're now paying the price for the historic lack of investment in primary healthcare." There is a consensus that a new model is needed. "We're doctors, not administrators," he adds.

Lack of personnel to do tracing

The lack of people to carry out the tracing of contacts is also worrying the medical community. "It's a lie that they have taken on more tracers," claims one doctor asked by SUR.

The most immediate worry is the likely effects of any wave of normal winter flu, on top of the Covid-19 patients and despite masks helping stop the spread of any virus in general.

Concern over asymptomatics

One Intensive Care doctor said that the other worry is the inability to find asymptomatics. "Although they may wear a mask and respect social distancing, they do live with other people." The health authorities are therefore increasing their focus on controlling meetings in people's homes.

Local case rates steady as Junta says the curve is being flattened in Andalucía

SUR

MALAGA. On Thursday this week (8 October), latest daily Covid-19 testing data showed 179 new cases in Malaga province, including the Costa del Sol.

The rolling rate of contagion per 100,000 people in the last 14 days in Malaga province was 124.5, down from 157 a week earlier.

This figure was still below the Andalusian average of 189 cases per 100,000, which had risen from 167 last week as more cases have been detected in the inland provinces of the region.

Situation "under control"

Andalusian vice-president Juan Marín said on Thursday that the region was on "the downward curve of the second wave", with the situation "very much under control".

Marín said that the 1,900 daily cases in the middle part of the week in Andalucía were down to an increase in tests. He added that, fortunately, this was not turning into an increase in hospital admissions.

The rate of contagion in Malaga province per 100,000 people in the last 14 days was 124.5 on Thursday, down from 157 a week earlier

The number of people in regional hospitals with Covid-19 dropped by 30 on Thursday this week, to 1,028, of which 139 were in intensive care, five fewer than Wednesday.

In Malaga province there were 175 in hospital, of which 22 were in intensive care, also a slight drop on the day before.

Below national average

On Tuesday in regional hospitals, 7.21 per cent of beds had Covid-19 patients, just below the national average of 8.97 per cent, and 10.81 per cent of Intensive Care beds were occupied. The national average was 17.85 %.

The Junta de Andalucía continues to monitor case levels in towns with a view to increasing restrictions and testing.

Linares (Jaén) and Almodóvar del Río (Cordoba) have been placed in semi-lockdown this week.



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Bar owners demonstrate at council's "lack of support"

More than 40 proprietors and staff of the bars and restaurants located in Fuengirola port held a protest against the town hall on Sunday evening. The group, which has set up the Fuengirola Port Matters platform, are disappointed at the town hall's lack of support and are claiming that the council are ignoring their pleas for help. The group held a meeting with mayor Ana Mula last week, but say they think she is "dragging her feet" with regards to publicising the area, which they say has become like a "ghost town" to due to the lack of visitors.

Parents protest to highlight overcrowding in La Cala school

Parents claim the high increase in students has had a strong impact on their children's education

T. BRYANT

MIJAS. Parents of students attending the IES La Cala secondary school have organised a protest demonstration to highlight the

problem of overcrowding. At a meeting with the Delegation of Education in June, the parents' association was assured that pre-fabricated classrooms would be installed as a temporary solution in time for the start of the new term. The Junta de Andalucía previously promised that IES La Cala would be expanded and that a new primary school would be constructed in the future.

However, the parents claim that the prefabricated classrooms have not yet materialised, so the library, several laboratories and audiovisual workshops have had to be converted into classrooms. They say the increase in students has had a strong impact on their children's education and so they intend to protest outside the school gates this Friday morning (9 October).

Parents' association president Sandy White said, "We have fought so hard to lower the amount of children in each class, but we have really been let down by the authorities."

BENALMÁDENA

Town hall ordered to pay up for port project that never happened

I. GELIBTER. Benalmádena town hall has been ordered to pay 435,600 euros for an engineering study that was requested in a "verbal and direct" way by then mayor Paloma García Gálvez (PP) in 2012, without putting the project out to tender.

Not only did the project to expand the port not come to fruition, the company didn't receive any money for the study it had carried out, despite having written confirmation of the fee in an email from the also former mayor Enrique Moya, at that time a councillor.

"Not only did they not pay the company that carried out this report, they lost the concession to expand the marina in September 2014 - something which they didn't announce publicly," said current mayor Víctor Navas in an attack on the PP.

IN BRIEF

MALAGA

Disorientated vulture rescued in Churriana

SUR. The Nature Protection Group (GRUPRONA) of the Malaga Local Police had to rescue a griffon vulture in Churriana on Saturday after several residents reported having seen a bird of prey beneath a large tree.

When officers arrived, they confirmed it was a griffon vulture but as it didn't fly away in the presence of people, they concluded that it was dehydrated and disorientated so was taken to the Municipal Animal Health Centre.

BENALMÁDENA

Archaeological visitor centre out to tender

SUR. Benalmádena council has this week put the project to build a visitor centre at the Los Molinillos archaeological site on Avenida Antonio Machado out to tender.

According to mayor Víctor Navas, who estimates that the project will cost around 457,000 euros, the council will study all of the offers and award the contract in the next few months with a view to the works getting under way next year.



New unit will offer protection and security to Torremolinos. SUR

TORREMOLINOS

Police introduce new canine unit during demonstration of obedience and skill

T. BRYANT. Torremolinos Local Police presented its new canine unit during a special presentation held in the town centre on Monday. The new team, which consists of ten police officers and 15 dogs, gave an exhibition that included obedience and protection skills. The specially trained dogs also demonstrated their ability to detect illegal substances and explosives. The display was attended by the Chief Inspector of the Lo-

cal Police, José Manuel Avila; and mayor José Ortiz, who claimed the unit would offer "protection and security to the town's residents and visitors".

"This is a very important unit for Torremolinos, not only for its security, observation and surveillance work, but for its fight against narcotics," Ortiz said.

The canine unit will be employed in the town's pedestrianised and main shopping area.

BENALMÁDENA

Benalmádena to honour Islamic botanist with new park

T. BRYANT. Benalmádena town hall has announced an initiative to plant 250 trees as part of its development of the new ibn al-Baytar Park. The trees, which include pine, ash, cork oak, white and black poplar and mulberry, are part of the first stage of the new green space, which will be a Mozarabic style garden (in homage to the Islamic botanist who gives the park its name) with shaded areas and water features costing approximately 35,000 euros. The environmental restoration project is aimed at promoting recreational, sports and cultural ac-



Islamic botanist ibn al-Baytar. T.B.

tivities in a natural environment.

The park, which will be located in the old sewage treatment plant in Benalmádena, will be "a place of recreation for neighbours and will become a green lung for Benalmádena," mayor Víctor Navas said.

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Town hall and residents' group discuss solution to tree felling in La Cala del Moral

RINCÓN DE LA VICTORIA

SUR. The first meeting between the local council and a residents' group took place on Tuesday afternoon at the town hall in order to find a solution to the future of Avenida de Málaga in La Cala del Moral, where 83 trees have been cut down as part of a project to redesign the area.

A spokesperson from the organisation, La Cala no se Tala (don't chop La Cala), said that the town hall had been "disposed to listen" to their anger at the trees being cut down and the lack of shade caused by the felling.

The group also expressed concern about a rise in allergies if the council goes ahead with plans to plant Cocos palm trees. "We have read that this species causes allergies in a lot of people in this country," the spokesperson said.

Mayor of Rincón de la Victoria, Francisco Salado, said during the meeting that he hoped the two parties would "reach a consensus". Another meeting is planned for next week.



Visitors enjoy Frigiliana's Art route

Frigiliana's fourth Ruta del Arte attracted a large number of visitors during the three day event last weekend. The event was organised by Brendan Taylor and Maribel Martín, who own the AmArte gallery in the town. Over 40 artists representing 14 different nationalities exhibited their work.

AXARQUÍA

A Place In The Sun to return to the Axarquía

E. C. / A. P. Channel 4's A Place in the Sun has announced that it will be back in the Axarquía to film more footage for the long-running programme, which helps British couples find their dream home abroad.

Following a visit to the area in March, this time they will be filming in Cómpeta, Alcaucín, Frigiliana, Canillas de Aceituno, Canillas de Albaída, Sayalonga, Sedella and Arenas.

Axarquía tourism spokesperson, Juan Peñas said, "The Axarquía is a safe destination for the film industry."

President of the Axarquía's authority, Mancomunidad de Municipios, José Juan Jiménez, highlighted the fact that the programme makers had chosen to return to the Axarquía, leading to the promotion of the area abroad.

A Place in the Sun was first shown on British television 20 years ago and is now aired on More 4, Discovery Real Time and Discovery Travel and Living, meaning it is viewed not only in the UK and across Europe, but as far afield as South Africa, New Zealand and Australia.



The presenters

AXARQUÍA

Project started to make Axarquía roads safer

A. PELÁEZ. Malaga's provincial authority, the Diputación, has started a series of improvement projects on roads around the Axarquía.

A budget of 48,375 euros has been set aside to improve surfaces on the MA-3116 access road to Benamocarra from the A-356 and the MA-5103 Árchez to Corumbela road. Further work will be carried out to the MA-3107 between Benamargosa and Riogordo, the MA-3108 from Benamargosa to Cútar and the MA-5104 and A-7206 near Árchez. A Diputación spokesperson said the work was essential to make driving "safer and more comfortable."

MARO

Eight rescued from burning fishing boat

E. C. Eight crew members of a fishing boat were rescued off the coast of Maro after an emergency call was made at around 10.20pm on Tuesday. Another fishing boat came to the rescue and all eight people were taken off the burning vessel unharmed.

The crew were taken back to Caleta de Vélez fishing harbour. The boat eventually listed and sank into the sea in front of Maro beach.

RINCÓN DE LA VICTORIA

Public invited to comment on dino park

SUR. The Junta de Andalucía regional government published on Monday a public consultation document detailing plans to create a dinosaur park in Rincón de la Victoria.

Members of the public have until 3 November to comment on the report, which includes plans for the installation of 35 replica dinosaurs, 19 of which would be lifesize and 16 with movement. The project also includes a Jurassic hiking route, green areas, a dining area and other attractions.

Paalwin Park S.L. is a private investor behind the park. They hope to be able to obtain a licence in the coming months to start the project, which would be developed on land belonging to the town hall in the Parque Victoria development.

The project has been subject to delays due to the coronavirus pandemic. If it gets the go ahead, the park should open in 2022 and entrance to the park is expected to cost between 17.50 and 20 euros.



2020 Nerja feria poster. SUR

NERJA

Feria to be broadcast on social media

E. C. Nerja town hall will be broadcasting elements of its annual fair online this year, in an effort to "keep the spirit of feria alive", according to festivals councillor Elena Gálvez. From today until Monday, anyone can watch events such as the feria king and queen competition, to flamenco and other performances via the town hall social media sites. Nerja's feria was last cancelled in 1910 due to a cholera epidemic.



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The Axarquía is the only area in Malaga at risk of drought

The Junta de Andalucía puts the higher levels of water in other reservoirs in the province down to a lack of tourists

AGUSTÍN PELÁEZ

VÉLEZ-MÁLAGA. In a report released earlier this week, the regional government, Junta de Andalucía, declared that the Axarquía is the only area in Malaga province at risk of drought as the new water year commences.

The Junta's representative for Malaga, Fernando Tapia Ruano, said the 2019 to 2020 water year (the 12-month period from October to September used to measure precipitation totals) had been "dry", with rainfall 18 per cent lower than average in the province.

BREXIT

House of Lords votes to allow EU family members to live in the UK with British partners

JENNIE RHODES

The UK's House of Lords on Monday voted in favour of an amendment which would enable EU and Swiss partners and family members of British citizens to go and live in the UK after March 2022.

The Lords voted 312 in favour and 223 against amendment 11 of the Immigration and Social Security Coordination (EU Withdrawal) Bill. The amendment, which British in Europe (BiE) - the group campaigning for the rights of UK citizens in the EU in Brexit negotiations - has been lobbying the UK government for, will now go back to the House of Commons.

BiE co-Chairs, Jane Golding and Fiona Godfrey, wrote to peers in the House of Lords to ask for their support. In the letter they said, "Amendment 11 seeks to allow those of us who fall within scope of the Withdrawal Agreement to continue to bring our non-UK spouses/partners and other close family members to live with us [...] should we choose to or have to return to live in the UK."

Without the amendment, until 31 March 2022 non-UK partners may go to the UK with their families. After then the non-UK family member will be subject to visa and economical situation checks before being granted permission to stay. BiE has now started lobbying MPs for their support.

La Viñuela reservoir, which supplies the Axarquía, is currently standing at 28.7 per cent capacity, at a key time for the subtropical fruit industry in the area.

However, while the Axarquía has been warned of a risk of drought,

other reservoirs in Malaga are starting the 2020-21 year with good levels of water. The Guadalhorce-Limonero is currently at 65.8 per cent capacity, which Tapia Ruano said was "enough for the year".

The Western Costa del Sol dis-



La Viñuela is 28.7% full. A. PELÁEZ

trict has 17 cubic hectometres more than this time last year and La Concepción is 64.3 per cent full. Tapia Ruano put the higher levels down to a lack of tourists.

He said that the Junta was waiting for authorisation from Nerja town hall to take water from the Chillar river to help the situation.

The mayor of Vélez-Málaga, Antonio Moreno, said he will meet with growers in the area to discuss their concerns as the mango harvest is in full swing and the avocado growing season under way.

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EDUCATION



The participants during the virtual discussion. SUR

SPECIAL 'BACK TO SCHOOL' MEETING The online discussion organised by SUR took place between: Melissa Butler, founder of The American College in Spain; Lucie Whiddon, educational director of Novaschool Benalmádena; Natasha Kremer, head of studies at The British School of Málaga; Katie Bertrán de Lis Jones, head teacher at The Ark Christian School; and Mercedes Colmenar, head of admissions at Laude San Pedro International College

Adaptation, creativity and commitment; the keys to a different school year due to Covid

MALAGA

SUR. Six months ago, our normal way of life changed radically because of the Covid-19 health crisis. After these months of battling the pandemic on all sides, with lockdowns, restrictions and many other preventive measures, we now understand the magnitude of the problem and the need to learn to live with it successfully while waiting for another solution. This is why the administrations and schools decided that pupils should go back in September. They believe it is important for them to be taught in a classroom, albeit with numerous safety protocols in place.

Last Thursday SUR organised a virtual discussion on education, moderated by journalist Carmen Alcaraz, to analyse the situation. The participants were: Melissa Butler, founder of The American College in Spain; Lucie Whiddon, educational director of Novaschool Benalmádena; Natasha Kremer, head of studies at The British School of Málaga; Katie Bertrán de Lis Jones, the head of The Ark Christian School; and Mercedes Colmenar, head of admissions at Laude San Pedro International College.

The session began with a general overview of the present situation in the different schools, from how the difficult challenge of the start of term was handled to the impressions of the first weeks.

"It was complicated because right up until the last minute we didn't know for sure what was going to happen. Even so, we worked to make sure the pupils could learn safely in any scenario," explained Melissa Butler. She said that as her school only has small class numbers, it had been possible to implement all the safety measures effectively, thanks to the commitment of the whole educational community.

Lucie Whiddon pointed out that the Novaschool did not consider any option other than physical attendance. "That's why we worked so hard all those months, to make sure the pupils could return safely. However, the lockdown taught us to have other options ready in case there are any more restrictions for small groups or classes," she explained.

Mercedes Colmenar agreed that the educational community had learned from the experience. She also had praise for the teaching teams. "Our school is part of

The participants stressed the essential role being played by the pupils and their families, thanks to their involvement and mature attitude in dealing with the unusual situation

the International Schools Partnership (ISP), which helped us understand the reality and learn from the experience of others in different parts of the world so we could make the leap to online tuition faster and efficiently," she explained.

For her part, Natasha Kremer made the point that apart from training on the new protocols and safety measures, the preparations at The British School of Málaga included "training on the students' wellbeing, physical and emotional, because for us the most important thing is that they are happy in their studies and they enjoy learning as much as

we enjoy teaching them".

With regard to what the experience has been like, Katie Bertrán said that as a Christian school, faith had been a fundamental pillar for them. "It helped us to successfully cope with the changes, implement the measures, arrange the classrooms and be aware of the new reality," she said. She agreed with Whiddon on the need for the children to return to school. "Parents were asking me if I thought we would go back, and I always told them yes, we would. We had faith that we would return. We knew that changes would be necessary, but we were convinced that we would manage them. Everyone needs social contact, and the children really wanted it. We know that technology is the future, but there is nothing like meeting up with your best friend again, being in the classroom face to face, even with a mask and all the protocols. At least we were seeing each other again".

All the participants also agreed that the pupils and their families are playing a fundamental role in dealing with the situation, thanks to their involvement, maturity and awareness. They also praised the

support from health centres and the relevant administrations, from whom they have received a flow of information which is very necessary at this time.

A difficult term, full of challenges

The participants also discussed how they have had to adapt to the pandemic. They already used technology as part of their academic curriculum, and are now continuing to use digital resources despite the difficulties. For example, The American College in Spain has installed screens in classrooms so the lessons can be streamed for students abroad who, because of air restrictions or delays in obtaining visas, have not yet been able to resume their classes. Laude San Pedro International College is using its digital platforms to facilitate contact with families so they don't have to go to the school, and Novaschool, which uses the My-Agora group's own platform, has multiplied its virtual teaching resources.

Natasha Kremer said when she came to The British School of Málaga two years ago she was one of the few teachers with experience in digital learning, and the students hadn't used these resources much either. "However, we have taken a major step now, not only with the online classes but also contact with the pupils and their families, and this term we are now a totally digital school, with Google laptops in the classrooms," she said.

Nearly all these schools have programmes abroad, where students can complete their studies in schools in other countries or do exchange trips, but these are now on stand-by, as are sports and art activities where social distancing is not possible and individual materials can't be provided. Some, however, are giving pupils personal material which they must not share with others, and they organise sports activities with no physical contact, like Laude San Pedro International School and The British School of Málaga. Novaschool Benalmádena has also extended its outdoor lessons.

All these teachers seemed positive and forward-looking, and appreciative of what has been learned during these months. They said that common sense will be needed to face situations which may arise in future, but that "together, and with commitment, we can overcome all problems".

Junta gives green light to new park in Mijas which will be the biggest in the province

MIJAS

The town hall hopes to put the 20-million-euro project out to tender next year with the intention of opening the park in 2023

IVÁN GELIBTER

After several years in the pipeline, the Junta de Andalucía regional government has finally given its approval to the future park in Las Lagunas, Mijas. This will be the largest in the province of Malaga when construction is completed - with initial sights set on 2023.

This park was proposed by the council during the previous term of office and is now one of the main

projects of the PSOE and Ciudadanos coalition.

Its path so far has not been easy. Various key aspects had to be analysed in detail by the regional Agriculture, Fisheries and Sustainable Development ministry and have taken years to resolve, but now all approvals are in place.

"This is one of the most important projects of recent years for our municipality, at it will become a benchmark for the Costa del Sol," mayor Josele González told SUR on Wednesday.

The park, which has been given a budget of 20 million euros, will cover almost 350,000 square metres (twice as big as the nearby La Paloma park in Benalmádena). Of that around 110,000 square metres will be reserved for woods and garden areas.



Martín (l) and González (c) on the site of the future park. I. G.

The council's intention is to put this project out to tender in the first months of 2021, which could see work beginning in the coming year.

"It is a project of great importance that will generate jobs and wealth during its construction and later will become one of the biggest tourist attractions of our

town," said the councillor for Public Works, José Carlos Martín.

Neither the mayor nor the councillor would be drawn on an exact date, but with an estimated 18-month construction schedule, the park could open to the public by mid-2023.

The project will involve the construction of two access roundabouts, car parks and a boating lake with a bridge. The area also has to be made floodproof.

When finished, the park will boast a running track around the perimeter, a cycle path, skating rink, a climbing wall, an extensive children's play area, outdoor games tables, as well as a pétanque area.

The architectural style will be typically Andalusian with several references to symbols of Mijas, including the famous donkey taxi and Arabic tiles. These symbols will be present on fountains, kiosks and a pavilion.

Among the most striking features of the park will be an open-air theatre for concerts, plays and other performances.



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COMMUNITY SPIRIT

New English-speaking Rotary Club launched in Marbella



Members and guests at the launch this week. SUR

MARBELLA

SUR IN ENGLISH. The Costa del Sol has a new English-speaking Rotary Club following the launch of the Marbella-East

branch on Wednesday evening at the Villa Tiberio restaurant.

The event was attended by around 70 guests, accompanied by Rotary District gover-

nor Ricardo Molina.

The Marbella-East branch, which meets regularly at the Beach House in Elviria, joins the more than 35,000 Rotary Clubs worldwide and with 1.2 million members, or Rotarians.

The group looks forward to promoting new projects and actions "to improve surrounding communities and support humanitarian organisations on the Costa del Sol," Labeed Hamid, president of the new club, told SUR in English.

Ongoing projects include: raising funds to buy food for needy families in Marbella and its surroundings, the purchase of medication and medical equipment for Cudeca; donations to Hogar Betania to house homeless people; donations to the Rotary Club Beirut - Lebanon's restoration projects of victims' homes. The proceeds from the gala dinner evening will be donated to local charity organisations.

La Cala Lions Club donation goes to help animals in need

MIJAS

TONY BRYANT. La Cala de Mijas Lions Club has come to the rescue of the Last Chance Animal Rescue Centre with a donation of 2,000 euros to enable the charity to buy a much-needed new van.

Established in Malaga in 2012

to rescue and rehome abandoned animals, the charity has now expanded with shelters located in Malaga, Mijas, Pizarra and Coin.

"We rely entirely on donations, so we are extremely grateful to the Lions Club for their continued support," spokesperson José Safont said.



La Cala de Mijas Lions present the cheque to José Safont. SUR

Shares in Liberbank and Malaga-based Unicaja surge as merger talks resume

The firms discussed joining in 2019 but didn't reach a deal, and now pressure for the banking sector to consolidate has pushed them to try again

NURIA TRIGUERO / N. H.

MALAGA. Unicaja Banco and Liberbank confirmed on Wednesday that they are starting formal talks over joining forces. Any successful negotiation to merge would create Spain's fifth largest bank.

Malaga-based Unicaja and Madrid-based Liberbank have started detailed talks in the past, but these were called off in May 2019 after no agreement was reached on which company would have the most weight in the new entity.

The share prices on the Spanish stock exchange of both banks shot up on Monday on the fresh news. Unicaja Banco closed the day with a rise of 14.55% and Liberbank with 13.58%.



The directors of the banks have agreed to appoint auditors . EP

The rest of the Spanish banking sector also saw rises, as investors hoped for more mergers and acquisitions. The European Central Bank has been calling for a consolidation in the European banking sector, which is seen as vulnerable in the wake of a fall in profits due to the Covid-19 crisis.

At the end of June, Unicaja Banco, a big employer in Malaga province, had 63 billion euros in assets, 6,274 staff and 1,029 branches

A merger is already under way between CaixaBank and Bankia to create Spain's largest bank and Banco Sabadell is viewed as vulnerable to a takeover.

Unicaja Banco and Liberbank said on Monday their conversations had so far been "routine" to analyse "possible opportunities". However on Wednesday it was confirmed that the boards of both firms had given the go ahead for auditors to come in to value them.

The last negotiations in 2019 foundered when Unicaja refused to have less than 60% of shares in the new company and Liberbank wanted more than 40%.

At the end of June, Unicaja Banco, a big employer in Malaga province, had 63 billion euros in assets, 6,274 staff and 1,029 branches. Liberbank had 45bn assets, 3,698 staff and 579 offices.

Unicaja grew out of savings banks principally in Andalucía, while Liberbank was formed in 2011 by former savings banks in the centre and north of Spain.

Some 70% of 'autónomos' could pay more Social Security under planned reforms

NURIA TRIGUERO

MALAGA. The government is working on a sweeping change to the way the self-employed ('autónomos') pay Social Security contributions. The aim is for autónomos to pay a percentage reflecting their real income and increase money paid in.

Currently some 80% of self-employed pay in only the basic, stipulated amount, which means low-earning autónomos are forced to hand over the same amount as high-earners, such as company directors, who choose to pay only the minimum into their State pension and healthcare coverage.

Self-employed representatives, who support a change, have said that, with the current economic crisis, now is not the right time to put pressure on autónomos. Estimates are that 70% of self-employed may have to pay more each month, but some would pay less.

THE EURO ZONE
MARK NAYLER

Spend it wisely



In a speech to business and union leaders on Wednesday, Pedro Sánchez belatedly rolled out a spending blueprint for the next three years, in part designed to reassure the EU that the €140 billion of recovery funds that it's sending to Spain will be used constructively. But one wonders whether Brussels will be happy with the proposals contained within the government's grand-sounding "Recovery,

Transformation and Resilience" plan, especially as none of those unveiled this week seem to be directed at managing the fallout from Covid.

Ever since the EU funds were earmarked for Spain, the country's opposition has been urging the government not to use them to pursue its own ideological agendas; but if Wednesday's speech is anything to go by, it looks as if this is precisely what the Socialists - along with

their junior coalition partner, leftist Podemos - plan to do. The focus was primarily on the environment and digitalisation, with Sánchez promising the production of 250,000 electric cars over the course of a year and the refurbishment of half a million homes to make them more efficient. Sánchez also announced the extension of the 5G mobile network, so that it covers 75% of Spain's population.

Electric cars and mobile networks: really? The Spanish government's draconian lockdown and chaotic handling of the virus, especially earlier this year, has resulted in an extremely vulnerable economy. Unemployment and debt are set to soar in 2020 and, unless tackled head on, may not im-

prove for years. None of the measures announced on Wednesday directly addressed these issues, although Sánchez did say that his plans will result in 800,000 new jobs by 2022. But what kind of positions they'll be and how exactly they'll be created remains unclear.

Mariano Rajoy, Sánchez's conservative predecessor, also pledged to create 500,000 new jobs every year during his term, a promise he more or less fulfilled; but most of them were worthless temporary positions that offered no stability to employees.

It would have been far more encouraging if Sánchez had announced that some of the EU Covid recovery money was going to science and research, in order

that his government's handling of the virus can be properly examined by the people qualified to do so - i.e. scientists and doctors, not politicians.

This was one of the requests made in a document released by 55 of Spain's leading scientific and medical associations last week, provocatively entitled "On Health Matters: You're In Charge But You Lack Knowledge".

If their proposals are listened to, the imposition of regulations with zero or little scientific basis (the Spanish government's preferred method to date) could be avoided if another virus strikes, which it will do at some point. That is surely more important than increasing the number of silent cars on Spain's roads.

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Calpe Conference on the natural history of Gibraltar takes place next week

CULTURE

This year's talks will be streamed live online and members of the public are encouraged to send in their questions and comments

DEBBIE BARTLETT

GIBRALTAR. This year's Calpe Conference, entitled The Natural History of Gibraltar, Past, Present and Future, will take place from Thursday 15 to Saturday 17 October with a host of interesting speakers and a wide range of subjects. As in previous years, the event is organised by the Gibraltar National Museum.

As usual, the conference will take place at the university but due to the coronavirus pandemic there will be no audience this year. Instead, all the lectures can be watched online via livestream broadcasts from the Calpe Conference YouTube channel.

There will be two livestream sessions per day, morning

(9.30am to 1pm) and afternoon (2.30pm to 6.30pm).

The public will be able to follow the presentations online and the organisers are encouraging people to send in questions and comments during the presentations. These must be submitted before the end of each lecture via the comments section in the YouTube stream itself or via the museum's Facebook and Twitter pages.

Questions will be moderated by the person chairing the session. If time runs out before the next speaker is due, questions may be held back to the discussion at the end of each day.

The subjects covered include research into plants by the Alameda Botanic Gardens, ants and insects on the Rock, an ecological overview of the Gorham's Cave World Heritage Site, bird ringing and migration, bat conservation, humans and their relationship with the sea, and a great many more. The full programme can be downloaded from the Gibraltar National Museum website.



University members supporting the cause. UNIVERSITY OF GIBRALTAR

World Dyslexia Day activities paint Gibraltar red

EVENTS

DEBBIE BARTLETT. Anyone visiting Gibraltar on Thursday might be forgiven for thinking National Day was being celebrated late this year because so many people were dressed in red. However, this was a very different occasion. They were answering the call from the Gibraltar Dyslexia Support Group for people to wear red to mark World Dyslexia Day.

This active group is helping to create a dyslexia-friendly society where everyone is supported so they can succeed, and

it has organised a number of activities to mark this year's Dyslexia Week from 5 to 11 October, including the iconic Moorish castle being illuminated in red.

Dyslexia is a learning disorder that can affect the ability to read, write, spell and speak. All too often people with dyslexia suffer because the condition is not recognised and they are treated as unintelligent when the opposite is the case.

For further information about the work of the Gibraltar group, see their website dyslexia.gi or email info@dyslexia.gi.

IN BRIEF

TRADE

Georgian ambassador to UK visits Gibraltar

D.B. Sofia Katsarava, the Georgian ambassador to the United Kingdom, paid an official visit to Gibraltar this week. She met the chief minister, Fabian Picardo, and minister for Business, Tourism and the Port, Vijay Daryanani, for talks about developing the relationship between Georgia and Gibraltar, and also paid a courtesy visit to the Governor, Sir David Steel.

COVID-19

Call for cooperation with contact tracing

D.B. The Gibraltar government has urged people to cooperate fully with the Contact Tracing Bureau as the number of active cases of the virus rose to a record high earlier this week. Anyone who tests positive is asked for the names of people with whom they have been in contact, and those contacts are then required to self-isolate. The authorities say it is essential that information given is accurate.

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Tougher lockdown in Madrid is illegal says regional court

MADRID

National government and regional officials hold crisis talks to decide next move as the capital area still had 575 cases per 100,000 this week

SUR

The Madrid region was plunged into more uncertainty and chaos on Thursday this week in its fight against the high levels of Covid-19 in the area. A top regional court ruled that the tough new restrictions, that started last Friday night and were imposed by central government, were illegal.

After the legal decision, the opposition-led regional government of Isabel Díaz Ayuso, who had complained about what she felt were the over-strict lockdown measures, called for Pedro Sánchez's national government to work with them to find legally acceptable rules. Ayuso explained that Madrid "can't take any more".

The Madrid regional court overturned the tough national government measures on lockdown for towns over 100,000 people, applied, among other factors, where contagion rates reached over 500 people per 100,000 in the previous 14 days.

The court was critical of central government for not having put in place a stronger legal mechanism



Stricter measures had been resisted by the Madrid regional government. EP

to secure localised lockdowns in the time it had had since the start of the pandemic. Current legislation couldn't be used to restrict citizens' rights and didn't replace a formal state of alarm.

On Thursday, prime minister Pedro Sánchez said that all avail-

able legal measures now needed "to be put on the table", refusing to rule out a return to a state of alarm to control Madrid.

Officials from the national government and the Madrid region were due to sit down on Thursday evening to argue out the next

course of action.

Isabel Díaz Ayuso in the meantime urged people in Madrid not to leave the region and to exercise caution over the upcoming long weekend for the October 12 Hispanic Day celebrations, which this year have been severely curtailed.

Despite disagreeing with national government's new rules last week, Madrid's regional health ministry had implemented the move in the City of Madrid itself and nine large towns around it with high Covid-19 numbers. In the meantime local officials waited for a court decision on the legality, which came out against the measures on Thursday.

On Thursday evening (8 October) the national health ministry announced 12,423 new positive Covid-19 cases in Spain, the highest figure in the week so far. Madrid was still heading the daily list of contagions, but the smaller Navarra region had the highest case rate per inhabitant. Earlier on Thursday, Isabel Díaz Ayuso said that the Madrid region had 575 cases per 100,000 in the last two weeks.

Pablo Iglesias says he is victim of the dark reaches of the State, as judge asks for him to be investigated

BARCELONA

CRISTIAN REINO. Pablo Iglesias, Deputy Prime Minister and leader of left-wing Unidas Podemos (UP), said on Catalan radio on Thursday that he had no intention of resigning.

The angry reaction came after an investigating judge asked the Supreme Court to formally look into Iglesias over three possible al-



Pablo Iglesias

leged offences.

These cover: damaging electronic data; spreading confidential personal information; and false accusation. All stem from the UP leader's supposed link to mobile phone evidence belonging to a former assistant, in the so-called Dina Case, itself part of the much wider Villarejo Case on eavesdropping and corruption.

Iglesias said he and his party were victims of the "sewers" of the State. "It is an incomparable breach of rights," he said, adding that there was a conspiracy including the political right to force the UP out of the coalition government. He said it was "inconceivable" that he was going to be formally investigated by the court.

King Juan Carlos's former lover heaps criticism on Royal household in wide-ranging interview

MADRID

SUR. Corinna Larsen, the former lover of King Emeritus Juan Carlos, has spoken out about the Royal household and also King Felipe VI for "benefiting" all his life from the opaque finances of his father, which are currently being investigated by Spanish and Swiss authorities. No proof of the accusation about the current king was offered in the



Corinna Larsen

detailed and widely reported video interview given in London to the OK Diario website, other than mention of court documents.

She said that there had been a substantial change in the attitude of the Crown since the new monarch took over from his father and that King Felipe was "trying to move to a more transparent era in terms of financials".

In the interview she said that Juan Carlos's administrators moved large sums of money between Switzerland and Spain, and did not deny reports in international media that his fortune could be between 1.2 to 2.4 billion euros.

She said that she had been shown a cash room at the Zarzuela Palace, where Juan Carlos lived, including a counting machine for banknotes.




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LETTERS
TO THE EDITORRoads, past, present
and future

Belated congratulations to Andrew Forbes for his article Rebuilding Travel, about the future of tourism (May 29th). I'm sure at my age I will not see much of the transformation. As a child, I used to read the Eagle, had all the annuals and looked forward to the 21st century. Monorails in all cities, hovering cars and commercials, totally moving pavements and a lot less poverty. Where are they?

We came out here west of Malaga in 1980 in a time share next to the "Carriage-way of Death" for many years and then moved over here permanently in 1998.

After lockdown, I drove over to Fuengirola to Iceland (65km) for the first time for ages. What a wonderful and pleasant surprise! The best drive I have had since our arrival. The traffic mainly keeping to limits, indicators were being used and better than most times, lane discipline being kept. I knew it would not last.

Digressing slightly, as a teenager when the musical Hair came to Nottingham I went to see it and went on stage at the end to strut my stuff. Married, Hair was back

in town again and I went with my wife, and much to her consternation I went up on stage again, looked down at her, but she was smiling as if to say, 'he's not with me'.

Long story short, the drive was so pleasant I felt so elated that I put the Hair tape in the cassette player and was loudly singing away to it as I drove home, much to the amazement of my dog on the rear seat as I normally drive in silence. The radio was there for my late and wonderful wife, but now it is for any passengers that might want it.

I just thought this might bring a smile.

PEDRO GROVES

Beware handbag
thieves

My friend, who is 78 years old, was coming out of a supermarket in Estepona on Tuesday when she was approached by two men shouting at her. Of course it was a distraction. They stole her handbag which contained her driving licence, NIE card, bank cards...

I just want to alert people, especially the older ones, who are so trusting!

SHEILA JONES

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Swimming against the tidy

Tidy people are losers. Everybody knows this, including - indeed, maybe especially - tidy people. Putting everything in order when you could be doing other, much more interesting things like, for example, being untidy, is surely the road to perdition.

Imagine my surprise, then, when earlier this week I felt an all-consuming and visceral urge to tidy the kitchen in The Shakespeare. Just to be clear, what we call 'the kitchen' would have been a bona fide cooking space if someone with the slightest trace of business acumen had taken on the premises five years ago. The reality is, it was me who took it on with a vision that was largely based on pubs in 1974 episodes of The Likely Lads and thus it just became a place to chuck stuff into whenever the need arose,

which was often.

Anyway, I descended on 'the kitchen' with a vim and vigour I'd not enjoyed since I lost a fiver down the back of my mate's sofa in our student days. Out with the old in with the new, then. It's quite extraordinary what had accumulated in the previous sixty months. All the things customers had found, and all the things customers had lost plus all the things we had found and all the things we had lost. To wit, I fully expected to come across a medium-sized box marked 'Peter's Dignity' at some point but, mercifully, nothing of the sort occurred.

Necklaces, bracelets, scarves and skirts abounded but that's enough about the blokes' stuff, this is an equal opportunities article. At one point, I came across a beautifully ornate book with 'Accounts 2015' written

on the cover (this was the year we began the project). Tentatively, I opened it, only to discover that all the pages were blank. Not an inaccurate summary of proceedings to be fair. I'd clearly had some romantic notion - though I really can't remember having it, it's all been such a haze - about writing down the day's transactions with a sturdy quill by candlelight, in a Dickensian pastiche that only I were to be privy to. Like I say, the pages were blank.

But, really. There were so many ghosts scattered around that kitchen. It took me three and a half hours to do a half decent job and by the time I'd finished, I'd filled five humungous bin bags with burnished memories. Five years, five bin bags. Wasn't that the title of a song by The Smiths? If not, it should have been.

PACHI



SUR in English

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ANA BARREALES

Come on, trace me

Tracers are supposed to be the people who go looking for close contacts of a person who has coronavirus to see whether they have given it to anyone else.

Well here it seems that we, the general public, are the ones who have to chase after them and the health authorities to get someone to test us for Covid-19.

First because getting someone to answer the phone at your health centre is

nothing short of mission impossible, and sometimes all you can do is turn up in person and wait in a queue, either because you're ill and can't wait one or two weeks for a doctor to call; or because you have symptoms that could be Covid-19, or you have been in contact with someone who has tested positive, and all this can't wait for days and days.

You almost feel like going to the airport to see if they'll give you one of those

rapid PCR tests that the Junta announced last week for the tourists.

Then we wonder why the figures continue to rise even though we are doing as we're told. With all these obstacles in the way of getting a diagnosis, to think that everyone is going to self-isolate at the slightest sign of a symptom, while they wait patiently for someone to contact them, sounds like science fiction. Especially as a lot of people have to work for a living and cannot afford to self-isolate for two weeks just in case.

If we then add in the asymptomatic cases and those who have been with a Covid sufferer but haven't been traced, the curve carries on growing.

And all this within a framework of measures that are a little perplexing; such as limiting family gatherings to six

people. There are five of us in my house, for example, and so my parents would have to visit one at a time, according to the recommendation... you can see how this is encouraging us to go out to bars, where ten people can get together.

Incidentally, the biggest killer in Spain is cardiovascular disease, ahead of tumours and respiratory illnesses. The bad news is that Andalucía leads the board in terms of deaths from that cause. Obesity, diabetes and associated socio-economic factors are to blame for our death rate being almost twice that of Madrid. The good news is that it's not contagious and we have a 'vaccine' well within reach: exercise and a healthy diet.

Of course people rarely talk about that because political leaders can't blame each other for it at heated meetings.

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The eagles of Benalmádena are not flying high

160 birds from all over the world. One of the biggest private collections of birds of prey in Spain, in difficulties due to a lack of visitors and institutional support



▲ **American bald eagle**
Jan, with an example of the bird which is the symbol of the USA. **GERMÁN POZO**

◀ **Birds of prey**
The Valle de las Águilas centre is on top of the Calamorro mountain in Benalmádena. **GERMÁN POZO**

► **In flight**
Right, a griffon vulture in the air, and below, a golden eagle. **GERMÁN POZO**



IGNACIO LILLO



The sound of screeching eagles and hooting owls greets visitors to the Valle de las Águilas wildlife centre at the top of the Calamorro mountain, beside the cable car top station in Benalmádena. What was once the dream of falconer Jurgen Nikolaus and his son Jan has become a reality: one of the biggest collections of birds of prey in Spain with about 160 examples from all over the world, including eagles, vultures, falcons, owls, goshawks and even a female Andean condor.

Unfortunately, the tourism crisis resulting from the coronavirus pandemic has left this business in a "critical" financial situation and a staff shortage (they have all had to be temporarily laid off), and it receives no support except from a few volunteers who lend a hand with the very long list of tasks that have to be fulfilled at this privately run zoological centre.

Before the pandemic, they had between 200 and 300 visitors every day; now there are no more than 20 or 30 at weekends, which is the only time the cable car runs.

Those who come to the centre - and many people do not even know it exists - discover birds from almost everywhere on the planet. Visitors can watch the birds scheduled for a training session that day demonstrate their flying and hunting skills. The biggest attraction is seeing an eagle swoop down to attack a fox-fur lure, but there are other examples of the ancient art of falconry as well.

Jurgen, who is originally from Germany and is an elite judo player, lived in Japan for several years and when he returned to Europe he set up a successful sports and martial arts centre in Strasbourg. At the same time, he cultivated his passion for birds.

One day, tired of that way of life, he abandoned his businesses and brought his golden eagle Max, who is still with him (now at 35 he is very elderly and watches visitors from a safe perch) to the Costa del Sol, after it was proposed that he should set up a falconry centre in Marbella.

That was in 1996. The Marbella project came to nothing, but he set up an alternative centre in Benalmádena, giving demonstrations for the public in the garden of the Colomares castle.

He and his son Jan, who came not long afterwards to help him, had to take flight when construction work started in the area and in 2001 they landed in their pre-

sent location, beside the exit from the cable car top station.

Bred and sold in captivity

As well as the visits and demonstrations, they breed and sell birds to falconers.

"We don't sell to just anybody, only to people with experience and professionals," says Jurgén, adding that they are bought especially for use at airports and other places where bird control is necessary.

"We try to educate and raise awareness among the public and we protect the birds, so they don't become extinct," he explains.

He says visitors sometimes ask if it's cruel to keep birds of prey in captivity, but he explains that in the wild these birds only fly when they need to "because it means wasting energy and they don't want to be flying all day, they want to be on their perches". In any case, all the birds are taken out to fly in turns, from Monday to Sunday, according to each species' needs and whether or not there is a show that day.

Their carers feed them as closely as possible to what they would find in the wild, such as

small live animals (pigeons, rabbits, rats), with chicken and turkey as a dietary complement for the eagles and falcons; fish for some species and goats and sheep for the vultures. A regular component of their feed are newborn male chickens which are discarded by the meat industry (those reared and sold in butchers' shops are always female because they grow faster).

"We get through 80 ten-kilo boxes every month and a half," he says. In all, they need several tonnes of different meats to feed such

an extensive brood.

Olga, an eagle owl, is the first to welcome visitors. Among the most striking examples at the centre are Ulan, a golden eagle, who is one of the stars because of his hunting skills; the American bald eagle (the

"We need people to find out about us and visit us. A lot of people who live in Malaga province have no idea this exists," says Jan



Two generations. Jurgén, with golden eagle Ulan on his arm, and his son Jan, at their falconry centre. **GERMÁN POZO**

one on the American flag); several species of falcon, including a striking one from Mexico with spectacular colours, and Sherpa, a 24-year-old female Andean condor, one of the few existing in Spain. But the list for enthusiasts is long: kites, southern crested caracaras, Central European and Siberian owls, ospreys, booted eagles, bateleurs, Cooper and Harris hawks; and also griffon, African and red-headed vultures.

No visitors or support

Jan and Jurgén's business is in a "critical" situation, not only in economic terms but because they are having to look after the birds practically alone; the workers have had to be temporarily laid-off and there are only a few volunteers to help.

"We have virtually no income, only enough money to feed them for a few days and our savings are running out," they say. To make matters worse, the cable car is only operating at weekends at the moment and few people are taking the trip. International tourism, especially British visitors, used to be their main business, along with a few local animal lovers who came

quite regularly.

"We need more people to find out about us and come to visit us. A lot of people who live in Malaga province aren't even aware that we exist," says Jan, who admits that they feel "beseiged", in the same way as birds in the wild do with human pressure.

"I am fighting to make sure the birds don't realise what is happening and are still kept in perfect condition. I don't want to have to sell them because they are my father's legacy. They are our life and we are theirs, after so many years' work they are like children to us," he says.

Jan admits that he feels "worn out", trying to obtain resources for the birds, which is why he is hoping for some type of support from the public and the institutions, bearing in mind that this centre in Benalmádena is one of the biggest private collections of birds of prey in Spain. He and his father would also like to be allowed to give demonstrations at schools.

They just want a little bit of support for themselves and their birds. If they don't, they will be doomed to extinction.

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The sky's the limit for four girls raising funds for charity

Laura Leanne Downes, Hannah Conlan, Sharon Anderson and Rachael England will be jumping from a height of three kilometres on Saturday

JENNIE RHODES



NERJA. This Saturday, 10 October, at 9am, four British women, all residents in the Axarquía, will take the plunge from three kilometres (9,842 feet) to raise money and awareness for local charities.

Laura Leanne Downes, Rachael England, Sharon Anderson and Hannah Conlan will be doing a skydive from Córdoba airport to raise money for Nerja Solidaria, as well as the APAA Nerja Rescue and Axarquía Animal Rescue (AAR) organisations. Nerja Solidaria is a Nerja-

based charity which raises funds to help feed and support local families in need.

"These fabulous causes are close to all our hearts and rely on all and continuing support," the girls told SUR in English ahead of the jump.

Donation buckets and sponsor forms can be found in Fitzgerald's bar (below Supersol), the Fountain bar, Sparkles hairdressing salon and the APAA charity shop, all of which are in Nerja.

Laura, 33, has been in Spain for 18 years. She lives in Frigiliana and works as an estate agent. She explained to SUR in English that she did a sky dive three

years ago and raised over 2,000 euros for APA animal rescue.

"I thought the first sky dive I did was just amazing and loved the adrenaline of the days before, during and after. When I posted to do another one, us crazy lot got together and said we'd do it together for the three chosen charities."

She added that she "really can't wait to do it again and feel all the excitement all over".

Rachael, 29, lives in Nerja and has been in Spain for 10 years. She has run Sparkles hairdresser's for over six years.

"I've never done a skydive but can't wait. I've always wanted to do one and it's even better if we can raise money for our local charities," she said.

Sharon, 56, has lived in Nerja for nine years, where she part owns the Fountain bar, which she explains opened one week before lockdown.

She has been a volunteer with AAR for seven years and took part in the charity zip wire event in Comares, also to raise funds

A GoFundMe page has been set up and donations can be made in a number of establishments in Nerja

THE SKYDIVERS

Hannah Conlan
Waitress

"Bring it on. I'm petrified and excited. Luckily I'm with three great girls"



Laura L. Downes
Estate agent

"When I posted to do another skydive we all got together and said we'd do it for charity"



Rachael England
Hairdresser

"I've never done a skydive but I can't wait. I've always wanted to do one"



Sharon Anderson
Bar owner

"I'm looking forward to doing it but I think I will need to be pushed!"



for AAR in 2019.

Sharon says of the forthcoming jump, "It is something I have wanted to do for a long time and I'm looking forward to raising some funds for the three very worthy charities," adding, "I think I will need to be pushed!"

Hannah, 41, has been living in Nerja for five years. She works at Fitzgerald's bar and restaurant. "During lockdown Laura posted about wanting a challenge when we got out and, after a vino, I agreed," she told to SUR in English.

"Bring it on, I'm petrified and excited. Luckily I'm with three great girls," she said.

"Supporting our chosen charities is our foremost opportunity to help our communities during a really tough time," Hannah concluded.

The girls have all known each other for a number of years and met through their various jobs; Laura said she had sold or rented property to the others at one stage or another; Rachael has cut the others' hair and they often meet up at either the Fountain or Fitzgerald's bar.

"Pretty please support us bonkers and lovely ladies testing ourselves to literally the sky's the limit," they asked.

A GoFundMe page (4 crazy chicas - 3 charities - 1 sky dive), has been set up and donations can also be made there.

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READERS' PHOTOS



ANDREW SLOAN

A living stone

Reader Andrew Stone sent in this photo of *Pleiospilos simulans*, a 'living stone' cactus that he grew from seed. He says, "its flowers open in late afternoon in autumn before their winter dormancy."



ANN PENNINGTON

Strelitzia reginae

Commonly called the bird of paradise plant (or crane flower), *Strelitzia* is native to South Africa and needs plenty of sunshine to flower. This photo was sent in by Ann Pennington.

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)).

GARDENING

Paeonia cambessedesii

Native to the Balearic islands, *Paeonia cambessedesii* is a clump forming herbaceous perennial with reddish, leathery leaves and single, pink blooms. It is commonly called the Balearic or Majorcan peony and is a member of the *Paeoniaceae* family, which only has one genus (*Paeonia*) but around 33 species, all of which are believed to

have descended from two Asian ancestors million of years ago. The Balearic peony dies back to the ground completely in winter and produces sturdy, red shoots from buds just under the surface in early spring. The red colour is caused by high levels

of anthocyanins which absorb sunlight and prevent freezing of the tender, new growth. The lower leaves are oval shaped leaflets while the upper leaves are deeply lobed. The characteristic oval leaflets are what makes this peony unique. The bluish-green leaves have prominent veins and are purple-red underneath.

Each stem bears just one flower bud which opens to display a cup shaped bloom six to 12 cm across with pale pink petals and lots of fluffy, yellow anthers. The flowers have a sweet scent, said to be similar to roses.

The flowers of the Balearic peony don't last long and are followed by carmine coloured fruits containing shiny black seeds. These can be used for propagation after a lengthy stratification but may take years to germinate and then several more years to flower. However, dividing the clump is also going to delay flowering as peonies in general hate root disturbance.

An ideal situation would be in a location that gets plenty of sun and has deep, well-drained soil, preferably alkaline.

The carrot shaped roots were once used as a cure for epilepsy but all parts of the plant are very toxic.

Paeonia cambessedesii is one of Spain's endangered plants and it is illegal to collect specimens from the wild.



Paeonia cambessedesii and flower (inset). WIKIMEDIA / FLICKR

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WHAT HAPPENED TODAY?

9 OCTOBER 1238

A special day of celebration in Valencia region

On 9 October, Valencia celebrates its freedom from 500 years of Moorish rule and the region also enjoys the equivalent of Valentine's Day

The Valencia region is not as well-known abroad as its neighbour Catalonia and many people are surprised to learn that it is an autonomous region in its own right, but it has an interesting history and part of that has led to 9 October - 'Nou d'Octubre' - being celebrated as its 'national day' each year.

The celebrations are held to commemorate 9 October 1238, when King James I entered the city of Valencia,

a week after liberating it from 500 years of Moorish rule. Surprisingly, the king didn't just annex the kingdom of Valencia to his own territories, but established it as an autonomous region, with its own governing bodies and courts. This was the birth of the Valencian Community as we know it today, and it is a source of great pride for the people of the region.

One of the traditions associated with this day is the ceremonial lowering of the region's Senyera flag outside Valencia City Hall, and instead of being carried out through the main entrance it is passed down over the main balcony and taken in procession to the Parterre, where a floral tribute is laid before the statue of King James. Then, after the



The statue of James I the Conqueror. **SUR**



The flag is passed over the City Hall balcony in an image from 2018. **SUR**

Valencian anthem has been sung, it is transferred to the History Museum. The flag has red and yellow horizontal stripes with a blue patterned strip down one side.

Of course, a Spanish festival wouldn't be the same without a party, and celebrations take

place all over the region, including fireworks and Moors and Christians parades, although the most spectacular events are to be found in the city. This year, with the pandemic, of course, Valencia's National Day will be a much quieter affair than usual. However, 9 October also hap-

pens to be the day of St Dionysius, which in Valencia is the equivalent of Valentine's Day, and local confectioners bake little marzipan figures so men can present their wives and girlfriends with a 'Mocadorà', a bundle of these sweet treats, as an expression of their love.

Bilingual crossword inside back page

LANGUAGE FOOTNOTE

Conmemorar	To commemorate
Conquistador	Conqueror
Celebración	Celebration
Tradición	Tradition
Territorio	Territory
Comunidad	Community
Pirotecnico	Fireworks
Catedral	Cathedral
Procesión	Procession
Musulmán	Muslim
Bandera	Flag
Estatua	Statue
Rey	King
Reino	Kingdom
Ciudad	City
Estandarte	Standard
Región	Region
Mazapán	Marzipan

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◀ Clío Yusto Giner, María Rodríguez Molero, Flor Reiners, Marifé Núñez and Isolina Arbulu, together in the Yusto/Giner gallery. :: JOSELE

Marbella aims to be the Golden Mile of modern art



► Sholeh Abghari opened her gallery a year ago.

Enterprise. Half a dozen private galleries have opened in recent years, multiplying the opportunities in an area which has a sizeable community of international collectors

ANTONIO
JAVIER LÓPEZ



When she announced her news, the response was nearly always the same: a couple of slaps on the back, a forced smile and the words “good luck”, a sort of commiseration in advance. Time has gone by and her idea, far from fading, produced an art gallery with her name above the door: Isolina Arbulu.

“There are plenty of collectors in Marbella, but they have always bought works of art from elsewhere. If you go to someone’s house there are usually some very important pieces there, so we have to work on our credibility so that clients in Marbella come to the galleries in Marbella,” she says.

The luxury Costa resort has seen a significant increase in the number of private art galleries with a focus on contemporary art. Half a dozen have

opened in the past three years, following in the footsteps of the Yuster/Giner, which has been in operation for around seven years.

“Juan Pablo (Yusto) has discovered many artists, and that is essential work,” says Flor Reiners of Reiners Contemporary Art.

“We opened our gallery in February 2019. I had already worked beforehand as an adviser to museums and private collections in Brazil and Germany and I decided to open a place of my own,” she says.

She has an international background. After studying Economics in her native Brazil, she expanded her training with art studies in Germany. Five years ago she moved to Marbella, and 18 months ago she opened her gallery which places a special focus on young artists.

“We need to have a good base now in order to have a good future. Many of our clients buy their first work of art from us, and that is very important. After all, we don’t sell sofas, we sell stories,” says Reiners.

Social media is also a crucial shop window for her business, especially Instagram. “It provides us with a very fast and agile form of communication,” she explains.

The digital window

“During the lockdown it became clear that digital platforms are the present and the future. Applications like Instagram are ideal for small galleries like us, while a website tends to be more formal. However, the work people do online shouldn’t make them forget how important it is to have premises as well, because a physical space is still a

way of giving a gallery an identity,” say María Rodríguez Molero and Clío Yusto Giner, when talking about Marbella’s growing protagonism in the art world.

“In Marbella there is extraordinary scope for development,” says Marifé Núñez, who runs Es Art Gallery, which opened in San Pedro Alcántara three years ago.

She says her clientele has an “international profile”, coming especially from Scandinavia, Germany and the UK. “Although it is almost impossible to draw up a set profile of a Marbella collector, because there is such a wide variety,” she says.

These galleries also use digital platforms as a support to market what they have to offer

Nevertheless, all the gallery owners say that most of their clients are foreigners, many of them resident in Marbella or the nearby area.

Sholeh Abghari, of the gallery of the same name, agrees. She opened her business in the centre of Marbella a year ago. She previously worked in Teheran, Dubai, Milan, Paris and London, and has now settled in Marbella, where she met her husband.

“We decided this would be a good place to open a gallery,” she says. “Firstly because my family are here, and secondly because Marbella is changing a great deal and it has great potential as an artistic destination. These days, people prefer to come to places like Marbella rather than those where there are more people and pollution. Especially with the Covid-19 situation,” says Abghari, who trained at the Hotel Drouot in Paris and Sotheby’s in London.

Women leading the growth

The new art scene in Marbella has a definite feminine aspect. Four of the six most recently opened galleries are run by women, with Juan Pablo Yusto at Yusto/Giner and Mattias Tonnheim at Wadström Tönnheim being the exception. Together, these six have completely revitalised the art scene in the Costa resort.

As Isolina Arbulu explains: “Ten years ago there were hardly any designer furniture shops in Marbella. People who lived here used to buy elsewhere for their properties here. That has changed now. What is happening with contemporary art is similar. The clients exist, but until a short time ago there was nothing for them to buy here.”

Arbulu combines well-known Spanish and international artists with up-and-coming youngsters, from Javier de Juan to Pablo Mercado, Aixa Portero to Rosa Muñoz, to mention a few examples of the creators whose works have been on display at this gallery. The owner is of Peruvian origin but decided two years ago to “follow in the footsteps” of the Yuster/Giner in Marbella.

“Initially, you’re so excited about opening a gallery because of the pure pleasure of discovering artists and sharing with other people what inspires you about their works. Then, when I saw how good the response was, I got hooked. So here we are,” says Arbulu, whose eyes still shine with enthusiasm despite the crisis, the pandemic, the forecasters of doom and those condescending slaps on the back.

EXHIBITIONS

Robert Harding

MÁLAGA. Until 25 October. Estudio Ignacio del Río, C/ San Lorenzo. The exhibition Shinto shows recent work by British sculptor Robert Harding, inspired by the Eastern Taoist philosophy.

Yul Hanchas

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

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.

Ana Barriga

MARBELLA. Until 21 November. Galería Yusto/Giner. La Ermita industrial estate, C/Madera, 9. The exhibition La Vida del Difunto by Ana Barriga consists of 12 large format paintings using mixed media (oil, enamel, marker, spray can). Viewing is by previous appointment only. Email: galeria@yusto-giner.com Call: 951507053.

Michelle Span

ESTEPONA. Until 22 October. Casa de los Tejerinas, Plaza de las Flores. Tuesday to Saturday, 9am to 8pm. The Colours of Elegance is an exhibi-



Michelle Span, Estepona.

tion of painted fans by Dutch artist Michelle Span.

José Miguel Chico López

MÁLAGA. From 9 October. Galería JM, Duquesa de Parcent 12. De Gente en Gente is an exhibition of works by José Miguel Chico López.

ACA exhibition

MARBELLA. Until 16 October. Magpie Art Gallery, C/Virgen del Pilar. The Art and Culture Association Marbella has organised this exhibition by Granada resident Andrés Aguilera Teruel.

Malaga Picasso Museum

MÁLAGA. Museo Picasso Málaga, Calle San Agustín.

Main collection. Dialogues with Picasso. Collection 2020-2023 is formed by 120 works by the artist. These include the cubist sculpture Glass of Absinthe (1914) and the painting Susanna and the Elders (1955). www.museopicasso-malaga.org.

The Russian Museum

MÁLAGA. Edificio Tabacalera, Avda Sor Teresa Prat.

Temporary exhibitions. The two temporary exhibitions currently at the museum are Rompiendo el Silencio. El cine Mudo en Rusia (Breaking the Silence. Silent Film in Russia) and Andréi Tarkovsky. Maestro del Espacio (Master of Space).

Annual exhibition. The current annual exhibition at the Russian museum features true-to-life works from the past three centuries. From still lifes of the 18th century to everyday scenes painted only a few months ago, the museum has created a tour consisting of 163 works in a succession of rooms. Until April 2021.

Centre Pompidou

MÁLAGA. 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 chronological journey through a century of Spanish art.

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.

Revealing the creative direction of a Swedish artist

A new exhibition in Estepona features a collection of abstract works using acrylic, resin and ceramic

TONY BRYANT

ESTEPONA. Swedish artist Kjell Sporrang is to launch an exhibition of his abstract art in La Casa de Las Tejerinas in Plaza de Las Flores, Estepona, this evening (Friday).

Born in Stockholm in 1962, Kjell has spent his life exploring different creative directions. After studying music at the Adolf Fredrik Music School, he turned his attention to fashion design. Arriving on the Costa del Sol in 2000, the multi-talented artist acquired a passion for painting, and several years later he began taking classes with Mijas-based artist Joy Fahey.

This resulted in his first art exhibition in Competa in 2019. His new exhibition, which was previously displayed in Nerja and Frigiliana, features a collection of abstract works using



Abstract artist Kjell Sporrang brings his work to Estepona. SUR

a mixture of medias, including acrylic, resin, ceramic and "lots of plaster to build up structure".

His paintings employ various techniques and include the Mystery Colour and the Paper Print series, and the somewhat som-

bre Dark Thoughts collection.

The exhibition, which runs until 21 October, will be open Tuesday to Saturday from 9am until 8pm. The artist will be on hand to discuss his art each day between 4pm and 6pm.

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EXHIBITIONS

CAC Málaga

MÁLAGA. Contemporary Art Centre. 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.

Fernando Clemente

MÁLAGA. Until 11 October. *Sala Coracha, behind the Museo del Patrimonio Municipal.*

Around sixty works created over the last fifteen years by Fernando Clemente entitled *I Love Pintura*.

Carmen Thyssen Museum

MÁLAGA. C/ Compañía, 10. 9.30 - 2.30pm. 7 - 9pm Tuesday to Friday. 9.30am - 9pm Saturday and Sunday.

Collection. A journey through mainly Spanish art from the Old Masters through Romantic Landscape and



Museum Jorge Rando, Malaga.

Costumbrismo, Précieux Style and Naturalist Painting and Fin-de-Siècle.

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

MÁLAGA. 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 'Itinerarium 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

MÁLAGA. Until 31 October. *Sociedad Económica de Amigos del País, Plaza de la Constitución.*

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

MÁLAGA. Until 12 December. *Centro Cultural Fundación Unicaja. Plaza del Obispo.*

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.

Museo Revello de Toro

MÁLAGA. Closed Mondays. C/Afligidos.

Félix Revello de Toro is a distinguished Malaga artist. Around 117 of his works are on display in the museum which regularly holds workshops and art classes for children and adults. More information call: 952062069 or email: museorev-ellodetoro@gmail.com

Museum Jorge Rando

MÁLAGA. C/ Cruz del Molinillo.

www.museojorgerando.org Expressionist museum of work by painter and sculptor Jorge Rando.

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.

ANEDA

NERJA. Until 17 October, 11am 2pm; 7-10pm. *La Sala Municipal, C/Almirante Ferrándiz.*

ANEDA is a group of 20 international artists. They will be exhibiting a selection of their works.

LIVE CONCERTS AND MUSIC

Evita

FUENGIROLA. 14 to 25 October, 7.30pm weekdays, 7pm on Sundays. *Salon Varietés theatre.*

The West End smash hit musical is back! Music by Andrew Lloyd Webber; lyrics by Tim Rice.

Autumn Jazz Festival

ALMUÑÉCAR. Auditorio Casa de la Cultura, 9pm. www.braventradas.es

9 October. Puro Gershwin. Sheila Blanco, Federico Lechner and Chema Saiz.

10 October. Moisés P. Sánchez Quintet.

12 October. Antonio Lizana Trio.

Cervantes Theatre anniversary concerts

MÁLAGA. 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.

Coyote Saloon concerts

LAS LAGUNAS. Fridays and Saturdays throughout October.

10 October. ZZ Rated, ZZTop tribute.

16 October. Punk rock band the Reinfect 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 Facebook: Coyote Bowling Saloon.

Buzz Lovers

MÁLAGA. *Cochera Cabaret, Saturday 10 October, 10pm. Avenida de los Guindos 19.*

Nirvana tribute band the Buzz Lovers will be at the Cochera Cabaret. www.lacocheracabaret.com

FLAMENCO

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

Bonela Hijo & Gaspar Rodríguez

ESTEPONA. 9 October, 8.30pm.

Padre Manuel cultural centre. 5 euros. Bonela Hijo and Gaspar Rodríguez give a flamenco song and guitar recital accompanied by David Galiano on percussion.

Ana Fargas

ESTEPONA. 17 October, 8.30pm.

Centro Cultural Padre Manuel. Singer Ana Fargas and her flamenco combo perform in aid of Estepona Solidaria.



Jazz singer Sheila Blanco.

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An exhibition that offers an 'escape' from the pandemic

Nigel Gilbert is showing his latest work at the Bio Beach Club restaurant and gallery in El Morche until 28 October

JENNIE RHODES

EL MORCHE. Architect and illustrator Nigel Gilbert is holding an exhibition of his work at the Bio Beach Club restaurant and gallery in El Morche until 28 October.

The exhibition, *Escape*, is a collection of 30 line drawings, filled with pastel colours.

Nigel, 74, explains that his inspiration comes from "observing people" and "capturing unguarded moments".

"My style is influenced by comics, panels and Japanese woodcuts. Ink line and wash are used to set down shapes, tones and textures," he told SUR in English.

This is the second exhibition that Nigel has had since moving to Torrox Costa just over a year ago with his wife, Susie. The previous exhibition took place in November 2019 at La Vaquería in Benamargosa.

THE EXHIBITION

► **What.** *Escape*, an exhibition of line drawings by Nigel Gilbert. All drawings are for sale.

► **Where.** The Bio Beach Club restaurant and gallery, Paseo Marítimo, El Morche.

► **When.** Until 28 October. Restaurant open 9am to 11pm.

"I am now hoping to find my feet in the artistic community here in the Axarquía"

Before moving to Spain, Nigel worked both as an architect and illustrator in England and Wales.

He also taught architecture in Manchester and Liverpool.

Originally from Wolverhampton, Nigel moved to Newcastle to train as an architect, before living in Chester and then North Wales.

Some of his work as a freelance architect includes projects for the London docklands at Ebsfleet. In terms of his illustration work, Nigel highlights an exhibition at the National Waterfront Museum in Swansea, which used his watercolour paintings; as well as drawings which tell the history of the key in front of Conwy Castle in Wales.

He has had exhibitions at the Mall and Anise Galleries in London, as well as the National Waterfront Museum, the Oriel Ynyws Mon and the Royal Cambrian Academy, all of which are in Wales.

While Nigel says he is enjoying life in the area, he admits the timing of their move wasn't ideal due to the coronavirus pandemic; he says, however, that in terms of



Nigel Gilbert with some of his drawings. J. RHODES

his work, the lockdown "was very productive".

Susie and Nigel have been renting an apartment and are in the process of buying a house in Torrox Pueblo. "One of the require-

ments was a studio for me and a space for Susie to work as she makes jewellery."

Nigel said, "I am now hoping to find my feet in the artistic community here."

DANCE

Danza Málaga

MÁLAGA. From 6 October until 1 November. Teatro Cervantes / Echegaray. www.teatrocervantes.com

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 (6 euros).

MORE IDEAS

Book and art sale

MÁLAGA. St George's Anglican Church, 25 October from 12.30pm. A Book and Art Sale will take place at St George's Anglican Church, located in the grounds of the historical Cementerio Inglés, Avenida de Pries 1, close to the bullring.

Lux Mundi

TORRE DEL MAR. Lux Mundi Ecu-menical Centre, Avda Moscatel.

Mondays 10.30am - 1pm. Knitting and crochet group. Learn how to make items for charity.

Mondays 10am - 1pm. Craft group.

Wednesdays 10am - 1pm. Art group.

Fridays 11am - 1pm. Coffee morning.

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 who have lost their lives in the pandemic. Call: 952 543 334 or

email: luxmundi@lux-mundi.org

O. V. FILMS

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

Yelmo Cines, Plaza Mayor

MÁLAGA. Centro de Ocio, Plaza Mayor, Avda Alfonso Ponce León. Tel: 902902103. www.yelmocines.es
Greenland: 21.00 (Tues).
Captive State: 19.50 (Tues).
Rifkin's Festival: 20.30 (Tues).
Tenet: 20.35 (Tues)
The Vigil 20.20 (Tues)

Yelmo Cines, Rincón

RINCÓN DE LA VICTORIA. C/ Arroyo Totalán. Tel: 902220922. www.yelmocines.es
Rifkin's Festival: 20.30 (Tues)

Yelmo Cines, Vialia

MÁLAGA. Centro Comercial Vialia. Tel: 902220922
Summer of 85: 20.05 (Tues).
Falling: 20.20 (Tues).
Rifkin's Festival: 20.00 (Tues)
Tenet: 21.25 (Tues).

Cine Albéniz

MÁLAGA. C/ Alcazaba, 4. Tel: 902360295. www.cinealbeniz.com
Rifkin's Festival: 16.30, 20.45, 23.00
Falling: 19.30, 22.15
Summer of 85: 16.45, 19.15, 21.45

Cine-club Estepona

ESTEPONA. Centro Cultural Padre Manuel
Rocketman: 20.00. Thursday 15 October.

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A pioneering technique uses shock waves to assist orgasm

The treatment, which regenerates veins and arteries in the clitoris, is already being used for several patients by a clinic in Malaga

SUSANA ZAMORA



MALAGA. Stress, medical treatments, poor sex education, menopause or traumatic sexual relations can be reasons why some women do not reach orgasm. Some never have one (primary anorgasmia) and others stop doing so for some reason (secondary anorgasmia).

In addition to the hormonal, psychological and physiotherapeutic treatments with pelvic floor exercises, there is now a pioneering technique available in Malaga, which is based on the application of hydraulic shock waves.



Urologist Pedro Torrecillas (first left), with his team. **SUR**

"It is an innovative and painless treatment which can be carried out as an outpatient, and it has been used for the past 18 months in the USA with a success rate of between 80 and 85 per cent," said urologist Pedro Torrecillas during the presentation of the new method, which several patients at the Salud Íntima de la Mujer medical centre in Malaga began to receive last week.

This technique has been in use for the past ten years to treat erectile dysfunction and the method follows the lines of lithotripsy (destruction of kidney stones), but is less powerful and only uses the waves in the positive phase. The patients are given small hydraulic impulses to regenerate veins and arteries in the clitoris and the tissues of the cavernous bodies of the female genitals.

"With this, we achieve a hyper-vascularisation and greater oxygenation of the tissues. After being regenerated and restored, sensitivity increases and with it the possibilities of the women reaching orgasm," explained Susana Varela, a specialist in regenerative, aesthetic and functional gynaecology.

This technique also has analgesic and anti-inflammatory effects

The origins of a revolutionary method

Shock waves are high-energy sound waves which stimulate the cells to produce factors of regeneration. Their use in medicine began in the 1980s when the Dornier company,

after seeing the cracks which appeared in the fuselage of some planes when they broke the sound barrier, started studying the effects of shock waves on bladder stones. Since then, they have been used in cosmetic, physiotherapeutic and erectile dysfunction treatments.

on problems arising from other medical or secondary conditions.

The only contraindications are patients with cancer, pregnant women and those who have been fitted with a pacemaker.

Anorgasmia is treated at this clinic in Malaga by a multidisciplinary team of urologists, gynaecologists and physiotherapists, this being an integral treatment.

María Elena Molina, academic sub-director of the Masters course in Physiotherapy for Pelvic Floor Dysfunction at Malaga University, said that through different techniques "we help the patient to achieve a good movement of the pelvic floor during sexual intimacy, where there are changes in tension".

In Andalucía over one and a half

million women are affected by anorgasmia and nationally the figure rises to five million.

"These patients are desperate, thinking they were born with something wrong with them. Faking orgasm isn't the solution, it is part of a problem that can be resolved and now, with the use of these shock waves, we are convinced that this is a major step in resolving this type of sexual dysfunction," said Dr Torrecillas.

He explained that two 20-minute sessions a week are needed for three or four weeks in order for the therapy to work, "although after the third application you can already see the initial results," he said.

How much does it cost? Between 150 and 200 euros per session.

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Challenge launched in aid of sufferers of rare disease

Aefat is raising funds to support a research project on ataxia telangiectasia at the University of Navarra

TONY BRYANT

MALAGA. The Aefat association, formed by family members of ataxia telangiectasia patients, has thought of a safer format for its rescheduled sixth Malaga Race, which should have taken place in September, to avoid the

risk of coronavirus contagion.

The seven-kilometre race, which last year attracted more than 1,000 runners, has been replaced by a solidarity challenge that will take place until Sunday 18 October. This year, organisers are encouraging people of all ages to participate in the #7xAefat challenge, an event to raise funds and awareness of this rare neurodegenerative disease that causes progressive disability and affects around 30 children in Spain, one of whom lives in Malaga.

Organised by Malaga city hall and Aefat, participants are asked to post a photograph or video of their chosen challenge on the association's Facebook or Instagram page. Participants must make a five-euro donation to take part (dorsalchip.es), and the challenge can be anything so long as it is related to the number seven.

Jorge, a sixteen-year-old from Malaga who suffers with the disease, will participate in the event and has enlisted the help of his former primary school, Los Morales, which has supported the

initiative since its founding in 2014. The event will again be sponsored by local actor Salva Reina, who, along with Jorge's family, friends and volunteers, is a regular participant.

As in previous years, all funds raised will be donated to the research project that Aefat is financing at the University of Navarra Clinic.

All participants will be entered into a draw with prizes donated by participating companies.

Jorge's mother and Aefat's vice

president, Isabel Olea, said, "Those registered can do whatever they want, so long as it relates to the number seven. We can't meet to do the race together as we did in other years, but at least this format makes it easier for people from anywhere to participate: the main thing is that people take part."

i More information :
www.aefat.es



Actor Salva Reina and Jorge at last year's Aefat charity run in aid of ataxia telangiectasia. **SUR**



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First tangerines tinged with green

Orange names. Mandarins, tangerines, clementines... the names confuse us as customers and even greengrocers. The green colour of most of them being sold now adds to that confusion

ALEKK M. SAANDERS



The first tangerines of the season can now be found in fruit shops on the Costa del Sol, although my local greengrocer said it was better to call them 'mandarinas'. "Tangerino soy yo," Mustafa shouted, proudly referring to his Tangierian origin. In the grocers on the other side of the street, the Chinese seller explained almost the same but the other way round. He said that Mandarin is the language

spoken in China and to a certain extent he is also a 'mandarin'. In his country he worked as a mandarin because originally, this word meant simply "Chinese official" and comes actually from the Hindi 'mantrin', meaning 'counsellor'. The Indian owner of the third fruit shop in the neighbourhood of Torremolinos was writing 'clementinas por 0,99' onto the box with green tangerines. He doesn't know why these fruits



"Clementines" on sale on the Costa del Sol. **A. M. SAANDERS**

in Great Britain is 'tangerine' and here in Spain it is mostly known as 'mandarina'.

Green or orange?

The deep orange-red colour is typical of tangerines. However, at this time of year shelves of local fruit shops are full of quite green tangerines. You might think that the cheaper price 'reflects' the condition of the fruit - nether sweet, nor ripe. You'd be wrong. The green colour has no impact on flavour. Indeed, green tangerines could have even more sugar than deep-orange fruit. The secret lies in temperatures. If it is warm enough, the chlorophyll is preserved and the fruit stays green. The green on the peel of the orange also protects the fruit from sunburn. So, the fruit grown in warmer climates doesn't develop a deep orange colour and sometimes keeps some green on its skin.

When the weather warms up again and the sun starts shining more brightly in late spring and early summer, the tangerines tend to re-green. Re-greening can also be caused by the position of individual fruits on the tree. Therefore, fruit tucked in among the leaves tends to have more green. In this way it is trying to maximise its reach for the sun's rays.

Local produce

The origin of tangerines currently on sale in fruit shops on the Costa del Sol can vary. Most greengrocers say that all of the varieties of tangerine in their shops are from Spain - Valencia, Granada, Malaga.

The local Malaga tangerines are already ripe. The production of these, as well as other citrus fruits in the province of Malaga, is concentrated mainly in the Guadalhorce valley.

The Pizarra-based Ecoagricultores started harvesting tangerines on 2 October, said spokesperson Juan this week. He is satisfied with this year's harvest. Their tangerines, of the traditional Malaga variety Clementines, are sweet as they are supposed to be, though right now they are also tinged with green. Juan says, that eventually they become more orange and get their brightest colour at the end of November as the harvest comes to an end.

have this name but in his country and even in England he sold them as... 'Robson'.

There is not much information as to why some of these orange fruits are called Robson but, in the case of Clement, there is a trusted legend.

Marie-Clément Rodier was a French missionary brother, who in the 19th century helped to run an orphanage in Algeria. He liked to spend time with the orphanage's citrus trees, and made grafts from an uncultivated tree that had grown among thorn bushes in the orchard. One of the grafts resulted in a special fruit that was named in his honour - clementine. Clementines are known as 'Cuties' in the United States, thanks to the legendary American brand.

The orange-coloured fruit went

to America from Tangier. In this Moroccan port, visible from the Andalusian coast, the fruit was first shipped to Florida in the 1800s. However, it is believed that tangerines had been cultivated in China and Japan for over 3,000 years, and that originally they are native to the Philippines. Nevertheless, tangerine officially belongs to hybrids, with pomelo as its ancestor.

In fact most citrus fruit hybrids are classified as a tangor. This term is formed from the "tang" of tangerine and the "or" of "orange". In comparison to ordinary oranges, the hybrids are sweeter and more easily peeled. It seems the term tangerine and mandarin frequently are used interchangeably. A common name for the scientifically identified *Citrus reticulata*

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Local restaurant wins top national prize for Russian salad

Chinchín Puerto owner Lourdes Villalobos said the secret ingredient was golden shrimp which is used to flavour the mayonnaise

M. PELÁEZ / A. PELÁEZ

CALETA DE VÉLEZ. The restaurant Chinchín Puerto in Caleta de Vélez is this year's winner of Spain's national 'ensaladilla rusa' championship.

The event forms part of the Gastronomika competition, which has taken place in San Sebastián for the last three years.

Chinchín Puerto beat off nine other rivals, including fellow Malaga hopeful, Nerva café-bar.

Last year's competition was also won by a local: Javier Hernández of the Candado Golf restaurant.

On hearing the result, via video conference, Chinchín Puerto owner and head chef, Lourdes Villalobos, said she was "excited and bewildered".

She and chef Belén Abad, who had prepared the dish for judges



The winning Russian salad. L. A.



Belén Abad and Lourdes Villalobos, at Chinchín Puerto. E. C.

back in July, said that the secret to their winning dish is golden shrimp. They explained that they not only used this humble seafood in the dish, but they also add the head to flavour the oil used to make the mayonnaise.

Villalobos added that while it was strange to receive an award via the internet, it was a "unique experience" because she and Abad were able to "share it with the rest of the team".

Restaurant hell

ANDREW J. LINN



This is not a good time for most businesses related to the serving of food. The most appalling aspect is that, contrary to what would seem to be logical and fair, some of the world's best eating places are suffering as much as the balti house down the road.

Take for example the experience of top international chef, late of El Bulli (regularly voted World's Best Restaurant) Albert Adrià. His gastronomic empire in Barcelona, consisting of five establishments, four with Michelin stars, has finally hung out the white flag. A small notice on Adrià's website states they are closed until further notice. He blames the absence of tourists, but a very significant factor is that locals have just stopped going to restaurants, as confirmed by Roger Pallarols, local director of the hospitality association.

The initiative of the UK government earlier this year to subsidise by ten pounds every meal eaten at a restaurant on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays, recently withdrawn, was hailed

as one of the best incentives ever. There were thousands of people eating out every night for the cost of a (unsubsidised) bottle of wine. The USA has thrown billions at the industry in an attempt to save jobs, although the results have been unimpressive.

To complete a sad week, Barcelona's Michelin-starred Hisop restaurant has closed because of Covid infections among the workers, as has El Celler de Can Roca and DiverXo in Madrid.

The suicide of French chef Taku Sekine completes a heart-rending week for the industry.

WINE OF THE WEEK

Crego y Monaguillo

Galicia is renowned for its Albariño wines from the Rías Baixas region. The neighbouring region of Monterreil produces wines made from the Godello grape, a favourite for those who find Albariño too dry. This superb example is around nine euros (El Corte Inglés).



RESTAURANTE PLAYABELLA

RESTAURANTE PLAYABELLA LAUNCHES ITS AUTUMN SEASON WITH NEW SPECIALS AND PROPOSALS

The establishment has implemented safety protocols and redistributed the space to guarantee customers' wellbeing and be a COVID Free benchmark

MÁLAGA

SUR. In these uncertain times, nothing can be more comforting than returning to the places where we feel at home, like Restaurante PlayaBella. The establishment, located in Estepona, has been providing its customers (many of whom are like family now) with its excellent service and meals for almost fifty years, which has brought it to become a culinary benchmark in the province. Due to COVID-19 guidelines and regulations, the restaurant's current opening hours are Monday to Saturday from 7pm



Restaurante PlayaBella. SUR

to 11.30pm and Sundays from 1pm to 4pm. They remain closed on Wednesdays.

To enable them to remain committed to their diners and ensure they need worry about nothing except enjoying themselves, the restaurant has implemented a comprehensive safety pro-

tol, which includes everything from reinforced hygiene and cleaning measures to redistribution of spaces to guarantee sufficient social distancing.

Thanks to all of this, the establishment has become a COVID Free place where the food continues to be the true protagonist.

That's why it's hardly surprising that Restaurante PlayaBella has become the best establishment in the area according to customers' comments on many different platforms. PlayaBella has received the Certificate of Excellence from Tripadvisor and the Slurpy platform, and owners Pepe Puerta and his son Javier with to thank all the customers who have recommended them and made these awards possible.

New autumn specials

To welcome the new culinary season, Restaurante PlayaBella has included many of its classic house dishes such as onion soup au gratin or beef stew on the menu. These dishes are joined by proposals specifically thought up for the autumn and winter months such as beef tenderloin with fresh foie and Pedro Ximénez sauce, "PlayaBella" lamb shoulder or beef tenderloin meatballs in ho-

memade tomato sauce with chips, all of which are particularly aimed at fans of good meat.

The fish dishes include grilled monkfish with prawns and garlic and skewer of grouper with prawns and Indian curry, among others.

All of which can be washed down with something from their extensive wine list, while the finishing touch comes in the form of their homemade desserts, great protagonists of the menu.

Special celebrations and festivities

As it does every year, the restaurant is preparing its proposals for the Christmas festivities and celebrations.

Focusing on companies or families, PlayaBella has special menus which, combined with the service provided by the friendly staff members, have become the preferred option for people who wish to enjoy the season safely and confidently.

To host these events, there is a comfortable dining hall and an adapted terrace which can be enjoyed practically all year round.

Job done for Malaga as busy transfer window concludes with the books balanced

There was time for one more signing on deadline day, winger Joaquín Muñoz, as the club successfully rebuilt the squad to comply with league regulations

**PEDRO LUIS ALONSO /
ANTONIO GÓNGORA**

MALAGA. With just one spot left to fill in the squad, it wasn't going to be a very busy transfer deadline day at Malaga, but nonetheless the club brought in one last player: Joaquín Muñoz on loan from Primera side Huesca.

The winger, just 21, came through the Atlético Madrid academy and can play on either flank.

In addition to the various academy players who feature for the first team, Joaquín joins Alberto Escassi and Luis Muñoz as the local contingent in the squad, having been born in the city and supported the club since he was a child.

In the case of the latter, his resigning was the news Malaga fans had been waiting for all summer. The midfielder's contract expired at the end of last season but his renewal had been reliant on the outcome of the club's ERE mass redundancy plan coming to fruition.

It finally did on Saturday when seven players (Juanpi, Luis Hernández, Dani Pacheco, Badr Boulahroud, Diego González, Renato Santos and Esteban Rolón) were all released and allowed to find new clubs. The same will apply to Emanuel Cecchini, but this won't take place until his current loan deal in his native Argentina expires in January.

Releasing these players will remove seven million euros from the club's wage bill and means that they can now comply with the



Luis Muñoz drives forward with the ball during training on Wednesday. MCF

league's wage-cap restrictions. Failure to do so could have resulted in an administrative relegation.

Defender David Lombán, who was originally included in the ERE, will remain at the club after agreeing to take a pay cut and signing a new contract until 2022. Likewise, midfielder Mohamed Benkhemassa will remain part of the squad as his wages were relatively low to begin with.

Together with defender Juande, whose youth contract was turned into a professional one on Monday, they are the only four players (excluding academy players) to remain from last season.

Revolving door

Joaquín's loan signing concluded an incredibly busy transfer window at Malaga with 38 players either joining, rejoining or leaving the club.

In the final week of the window alone, Malaga signed the afore-

mentioned Joaquín, Luis Muñoz and Lombán, as well as bringing in winger Jairo (Hamburg) and forward Pablo Chavarria (Mallorca) on permanent deals, while defender Josua Mejías and goalkeeper Juan Soriano came in on loan from Leganés and Sevilla, respectively.

Earlier in the window, the club signed Orlando Sá (Standard Liège), Dani Barrio, Iván Calero and Alberto Escassi (all Numancia) on permanent deals, while bringing in Cristian (Extremadura), Yani Rahmani (Almería), Caye Quintana and José Matos (both Cadiz) and Jozabed (Celta) on loan.

As for those who have left, outside the ERE, captain Adrián headed to Zaragoza, Cifu to Elche, Munir to Hatayspor, Juankar to Panathinaikos and José Rodríguez to Maccabi Haifa after being allowed to leave on a free despite having contracts in place.

Defender Mikel Villanueva left

for Santa Clara after his contract expired, while top scorer Armando Sadiku joined Erzurumspor and Sergio Buenacasa headed to Hércules after their loans expired.

Malaga were, however, able to make some money from the sales of Keidi Bare to Espanyol, Álex Mula to Fuenlabrada, Iván Jaime to Famalicão, Tete Morente to Elche and Ponferradina exercising the clause to sign Iván Rodríguez permanently after his loan spell.

Criticism from the sheikh

While clearing the inflated wage bill and rebuilding an entire squad is considered by most fans to be an enormous achievement on the part of judicial administrator José María Muñoz and sporting director Manolo Gaspar, ousted club president Sheikh Abdullah Al-Thani released a statement on Monday criticising the club's management.

"This situation is another clear

THE 38 INS AND OUTS

Signings

Free transfers: Orlando Sá (Standard Liège), Dani Barrio, Calero, Escassi (Numancia), Jairo (Hamburg), Josua Mejías (Leganés), Chavarria (Mallorca).

Loans: Cristian (Extremadura), Rahmani (Almería), Caye Quintana and Matos (Cadiz), Jozabed (Celta), Juan Soriano (Sevilla).

Contracts renewed: Luis Muñoz, Lombán.

Departures

Contracts cancelled: Adrián (Zaragoza), Cifu (Elche), Munir (Hatayspor), Juankar (Panathinaikos), José Rodríguez (Maccabi Haifa).

End of contract: Mikel (Santa Clara).

End of loan: Sadiku (contract with Levante torn up and signed for Erzurumspor), Buenacasa (returned to Mallorca then joined Hércules).

Transfers: Keidi (Espanyol), Mula (Fuenlabrada), Iván Jaime (Famalicão), Iván Rodríguez (Ponferradina).

Release clause paid: Tete (Elche).

Loans: Kellyan (Ibiza).

ERE redundancy: Luis Hernández, Diego González, Rolón, Cecchini, Boulahroud, Juanpi, Dani Pacheco, Renato.

example of the lack of experience of the judicial administrator, José María Muñoz, in managing sports clubs and how to manage a team. He was unable to strike a deal with any other club for the players that were let go and that could have meant income for the club," the statement read.

Al-Thani also expressed his doubts about how many of the new players coming in are represented by the same agency, Promoesport. "Having exclusivity with one agency is incomprehensible."

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Malaga suffer thrashing at the hands of Rayo

A night to forget for the Blue and Whites who suffered their biggest defeat in more than three years on Saturday night

DARYL FINCH



MALAGA. Luck was not on Malaga's side as they had a night to forget in the capital, falling to a heavy 4-0 defeat at the hands of Rayo in Vallecas on Saturday.

Coach Sergio Pellicer stuck primarily with the team that snuck a 1-0 win against Alcorcón a week previously, with his only change coming in attack with the introduction of academy youngster David Larrubia on the wing in place of Orlando Sá, a more traditional number nine.

After two victories on the bounce, it took just a quarter of an hour for Malaga to be brought crashing back down to earth when a dubious handball against Ramón Enríquez was given after a lengthy VAR review, allowing Isi Palazón to give his side the early lead from the penalty spot.

The visitors soon had a mountain to climb when defender Juande misjudged Álvaro García's cross from the left, slicing the ball past Dani Barrio at his near post with just 21 minutes on the clock.

With a Yanis Rahmani header well off target Malaga's only real chance of the first half, Pellicer made a double change at the break, bringing on Luis Muñoz



Defender Juande despairs after scoring an own goal which gave Rayo a 2-0 lead on Saturday. AGENCIA LOF



Caye Quintana challenges for the ball in the air. AGENCIA LOF

and Pablo Chavarría, the latter making his debut, for the below-par Larrubia and Mohamed Benkhemassa.

Just 12 minutes later, however, came the third. Fuengirola-born José Ángel Pozo sprung the Malaga offside trap, bringing the

ball down well before finishing from close range and effectively ending the game as a contest.

Pellicer took some advantage of this situation by giving minutes to new signings Jairo and Jozabed who showed signs of linking up well together when the former slid in the latter who poked his effort just wide of the far post.

However, Rayo continued to attack and Malaga had keeper Dani Barrio to thank for keeping the scoreline down.

That lasted until into stoppage time when former Malaga man Antónin powered home a diving header to make it four and seal the side's worst league defeat in more than three years (5-0 at the Mestalla on 19 September 2017).

"The result says it all," Pellicer told reporters following the game. "It's true that this is a team under construction, but this cannot be repeated. The team has to be

4-0

RAYO VALLECANO-MALAGA

Rayo: Dimitrievski; Advíncula, Velázquez, Catena, Fran García; Óscar Valentín (Montiel, 83'), Comesaña, Álvaro García (Sergio Moreno, 87'); Isi Palazón (Andrés Martín, 83'), Pozo (Trejo, 69'), Yacine Qasmi (Antónin, 70'). Unused substitutes: Morro, Ba, Sav-eljich, Benito, Martín, Mario, Moreno.

Malaga: Dani Barrio; Calero, Juande, Escassi, Matos; Cristian, Ramón (Jairo, 60'), Benkhemassa (Chavarría, 46'); Larrubia (Luis Muñoz, 46'), Caye Quintana (Orlando Sá, 70'), Rahmani (Jozabed, 78'). Unused substitutes: Juan Soriano, Mejías, Benítez, Quintana, Julio, Mini, Juan Cruz.

Goals: 1-0 Isi Palazón (18', pen), 2-0 Juande (21', own goal), 3-0 Pozo (58'), 4-0 Antónin (90+3').

Referee: Arcediano Monescillo. Yellow cards for Benkhemassa and Óscar.

Ground: Estadio de Vallecas.

more solid in every regard."

Perhaps the most worrying statistic of all is that during the first four games of the season so far, Malaga have only had seven shots on target.

Pellicer, however, can see some positives: "We've brought in players that you can see are going to offer us a lot. A lot of players have come in, some have only trained with us a couple of times and they need time to adjust and get back into their rhythm.

"Now we have to prepare to play Las Palmas [Sunday, at home, at 4pm] and try and rediscover that spirit we found at the end of last season that helped us to achieve our objectives.

"We are going to work very hard, because there is no other way."

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"In the circumstances, this is the best squad we could have built"

Sporting director Manolo Gaspar is clear that the objective this year is to avoid relegation

PEDRO LUIS ALONSO

MALAGA. As the dust settled on a resounding defeat and the closing of the transfer window, Malaga sporting director Manolo Gaspar gave his take on his department's work over the summer during a press conference at La Rosaleda

on Wednesday.

"Everything has been complicated by the times we're in, with the coronavirus, the late end to the season... But the measures we've taken were critical for the club and required lots of communication and precise coordination. That's why I'm pleased by how everything turned out," said Gaspar.

"In the circumstances, this is the best squad we could have built. We didn't have the money to make a whole new squad and our image had been damaged a lot. However, now we've

got a very versatile squad, with an average age of 26, with a good mix of youth and experience in this league. They all speak the same language and they all understand what it means to play for a club like Malaga," he added.

Despite this, Gaspar made it crystal clear that the club's objective this year is to avoid relegation: "I understand the fans, after seeing us win two games, but this is a new squad with everything that comes with that. We will need time for everything to click."



Manolo Gaspar



A LOOK AT LA LIGA
ROB PALMER
Commentator, Sky Sports

A road less travelled

A decade ago, the national team was made up almost exclusively of Barça and Real Madrid players; now Spain's top talent is scattered all over Europe



At one point when Spain ruled the world, one of the newspapers ran the headline 'Barça-dependiente'. There was a theory that there was far too much reliance on the players who had graduated from the famous FC Barcelona academy – La Masia.

When Spain won the World Cup in 2010, six of the starting eleven were on the books of Barça. Two years later when they added the European Championship to their list of titles, seven of the team had passed through La Masia.

Real Madrid were lagging but did practically make up the rest of the team. From the 2012 side, only David Silva never played for the big two; in 2010 it was just Joan Capdevila and David Villa. Despite global dominance, it was questioned whether this was a

good thing as the other clubs were falling so far behind.

Spin forward to 2020 when I'm commentating on Spain's 0-0 draw with Portugal on Wednesday night, the first thing I notice is that the team is top-heavy with players who pick up a pay packet in England. Six of the starting eleven play in the Premier League; there were none from Real Madrid, and Barcelona contributed only two players.

Sergi Roberto and Sergio Busquets were the Catalan representatives, but neither are automatic choices in the current climate. It could be argued that the only player from the Clásico clubs who is guaranteed a slot is the captain Sergio Ramos, and he's in the autumn days of his career.

It's quite an incredible turn around in the make-up of the

squad. The best eleven could be selected from players who are experiencing or have experienced English football. Both goalkeepers play in Britain. Defenders Sergio Reguilón and Diego Llorente have just moved over. Eric García went to Manchester City's finishing school and Jesús Navas spent his best years at the Etihad Stadium.

Rodri is Busquets' natural successor, Dani Ceballos is appreciated at Arsenal and even Mikel Merino spent time at Newcastle.

Rodrigo Moreno is now an honorary Yorkshireman and Ferrán Torres has been persuaded by Pep Guardiola to head to the UK - two more players who have turned their back on La Liga for the Premier League in the summer. Meanwhile, Adama Traoré finally decided to nail his



Adama Traoré in action for Spain on Wednesday night. EFE

colours to the Spanish flag rather than go for the country of his birth. (Can you imagine a player debating between Mali or Spain a decade ago?)

The best hope for Spain is the emerging talent like Traoré who have taken adventurous paths to reach international status. He couldn't break through at Barcelona so went via Aston Villa, Middlesbrough and now Wolverhampton.

Dani Olmo's pathway is even more off-beat. He also strayed after leaving the Barça academy on a path never taken before. He headed to Zagreb to join Dinamo and developed his game in Croa-

tia. Now he's in the Bundesliga, carrying his Red Bull Leipzig form into his international performances.

Spain's best young talent, however, is undoubtedly Ansu Fati, born in Guinea-Bissau. He could soon be Barcelona's only guaranteed representative in the Spain team.

Isn't it odd how trends change? Once upon a time the Spain national team coach just needed to alternate between weekends in Madrid and Barcelona to scout his players. Now Luis Enrique truly needs to head off internationally to keep an eye on his top talent.



Edu Ramos returns "home" following his spell in Cadiz. ccf

Marbella complete the surprise signing of Edu Ramos

The experienced midfielder joins from Primera side Cadiz, having turned down several offers from teams in higher divisions

JULIO RODRÍGUEZ

MARBELLA. Marbella have got the star player they had been looking for. The club have announced the surprise signing of former Malaga, Villarreal, Albacete and Cordoba midfielder Edu Ramos from Primera side Cadiz.


Edu Ramos, who is from Churriana, turned down multiple offers from sides in higher divisions

to come "home" and sign up for the ambitious project under way at Marbella, propelled by the winter signing of former Real Madrid man Esteban Granero, who will be the new man's partner in the centre.

New coach José Manuel Aira is a big fan of the 28-year-old and despite having already strengthened in the middle of the park with the signings of Cissé, Gudiño and Quezada, he didn't want to pass up on the opportunity of signing a player with such experience, even if it came at a cost.

To make space in the squad, Marbella had to release veteran defender and vice-captain Lolo Pavón.

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Nadal through to French Open semis but Carreño crashes out

The Spaniard is out to claim his 13th victory at Roland Garros but Schwartzman stands between him and a place in the final

ENRIC GARDINER

MADRID. Rafael Nadal is the favourite to win yet another French Open, after progressing to the semi-finals without any great difficulty throughout the tournament so far.

The Spaniard saw off Italian Jannik Sinner (world number 75 and debutant at Roland Garros) in the early hours of Wednesday morning, 7-6 (3), 6-4 and 6-1, earning him a place in the semi-finals today, Friday, against Diego Schwartzman.

Nadal is the only Spaniard remaining in the tournament after Novak Djokovic saw off Pablo Carreño in four sets on Wednesday evening after three and a quarter hours (4-6, 6-2, 6-3 and 6-4). The Serbian will now meet Stefanos Tsitsipas, who returns to the world top five after beating Russia's Andrey Rublev in three sets.

In the women's category, Spain's number one, Garbiñe Muguruza was knocked out in the third round by American Danielle Collins.



Rafael Nadal in action against Jannik Sinner. EFE



Pablo Carreño following his quarter-final defeat to Djokovic. REUTERS

Munar, Carballés and Martínez, all signed up for the Marbella Challenger

Mager and Coria will be the only participants currently in the top 100, with local boy Davidovich a notable absentee

PEDRO LUIS ALONSO

MALAGA. The line-up for the AnyTech365 Marbella Tennis Open 2020, the Challenger event to be held at the Puente Romano Tennis Club from 24 October to 1 November, has been announced with two players currently in the world top 100 standing out: Italian Gianluca Mager (89th in the ranking) and Argentinean Federico Coria (99th and brother of Guillermo). The remainder of those set to play in the tournament proper are all in the top 200.

Several former champions of ATP tournaments and with great experience on the tour are also among those registered. Paolo Lorenzi (130th), for example, has won 21 titles in the Challenger category. Also noteworthy is the presence of Andrej Martin (102nd), the Italian Marco Cecchinato, who just over a year ago was 16th in the world rankings, semi-finalist at Roland Garros and with three ATP titles in his possession; the Argentine Facundo Bagnis, who was 55th, and has twelve titles in this category; the Bolivian Hugo Dellien



Pedro Martínez. EFE

(104th) and the Slovak Jozef Kovalik (124th) who have five final victories each.

As for the Spanish players, Roberto Carballés (101st and in the last eight at Roland Garros), Pedro Martínez (105th and semi-finalist in 2019 in Marbella and one of the best players on the tour), Jaume Munar (109th), Bernabé Zapata and Carlos Taberner stand out, the latter two having won their first Challenger titles after the resumption of play this year.

The most notable absentee is local boy Alejandro Davidovich who has other commitments but was expected to feature when the event was originally scheduled to take place between 30 March and 5 April.

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María Torres back with a bang

Local karateka María Torres returned to competitive action in Guadalajara at the weekend and did so in the best way possible, claiming gold in the +68kg kumite, beating Nerea Beldido 2-0 in the final.

Rubén Ruzafa records first win since return to action in Molveno

JUAN CALDERÓN

MALAGA. Local triathlete Rubén Ruzafa returned to the podium for the first time since competition resumed as he ran out winner of the Xterra Short Track event in Molveno (Italy) last weekend.

Since the halt for the pandemic, Ruzafa has come sixth and fifth in events held in France and Malta, respectively.



Ruzafa crossing the line. XTERRA

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THE STARS


- 

Aquarius
January 21st - February 19th
Using imagination, an inventive mind and research, something dull can become a sparkling success. Time to shine.
- 


Pisces
February 20th - March 20th
A bit of unexpected luck shows you just how quickly things can change. Just when you thought that life was just a dull struggle, the sun shines on you!

- 


Aries
March 21st - April 20th
In a wish to move things on in your life you could be tempted to make some hasty decisions. Take advice if need be, especially if it is a legal matter.

- 


Taurus
April 21st - May 21st
Confiding in others makes you realise that you are not alone in having certain thoughts. Indeed, being brave with your words now makes others realise that you mean business!

- 

Gemini
May 22nd - June 21st
Business-wise you are about to turn a corner but, as Mercury the messenger is turning retrograde, you need to choose your words carefully. Get contracts checked!

- 


Cancer
June 22nd - July 23rd
Wanting to come out of your comfort zone seems very attractive right now. Is it your time to make some real, if unexpected, progress? Your partner may be over-protective.

- 

Leo
July 24th - August 23rd
Do you have some ideas that you want to share? Be careful when taking someone into your confidence. They could try to steal your thunder.

- 

Virgo
August 24th - September 23rd
Success at work has been a long time coming. Let's face it, sometimes you feel downright unappreciated! This week shows you turning a corner in this area.

- 

Libra
September 24th - October 23rd
This is a time to be flexible. Take it on board, though, that most folk are feeling as though they are struggling through a fog. Will we turn the corner and find it clear?

- 

Scorpio
October 24th - November 22nd
Turn your attention to your personal plans. These may not be realised right away but still need a great deal of thought. If your partner is feeling a bit low then maybe you can work together?

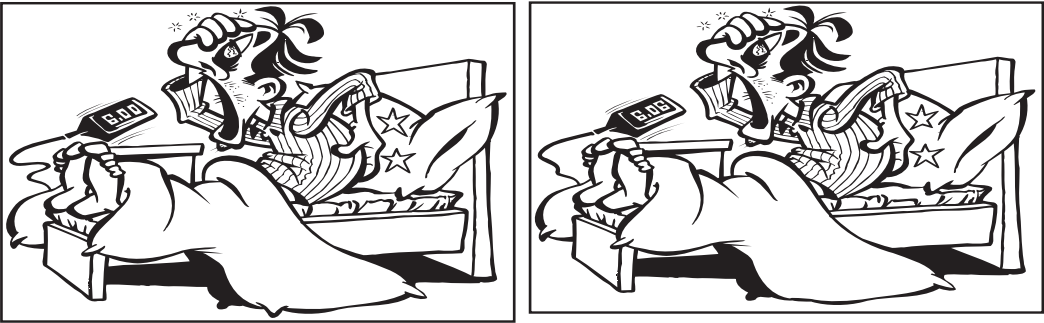
- 

Sagittarius
November 23rd - December 21st
Changes are in your mind? Think as much of what you don't like as what you do like. If creativity is your goal you are in the right place!

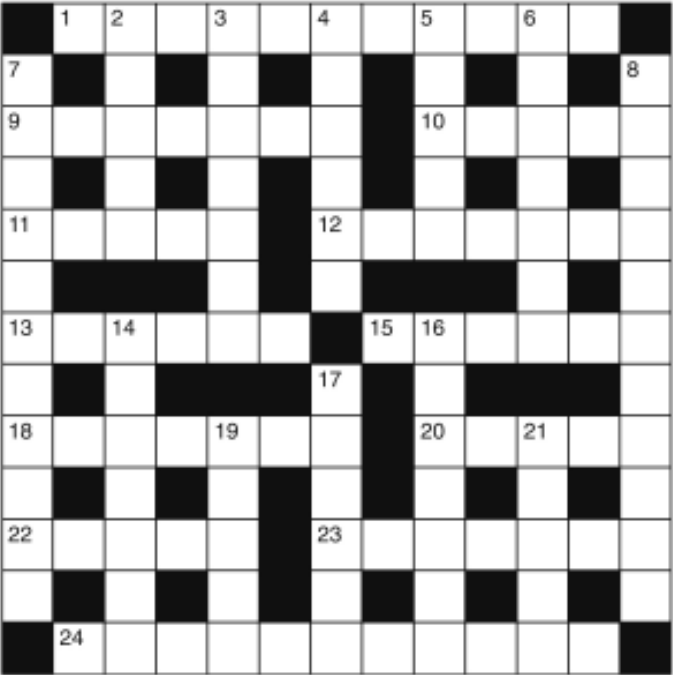
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Capricorn
December 22nd - January 20th
Keep looking for the best solutions to any possible problems. Then you will be truly ready to set the pace. If you are considering a partnership of any kind then look at the small print.

THE SEVEN DIFFERENCES



CRYPTIC CROSSWORD N° 11430







SUDOKU BY HANZO

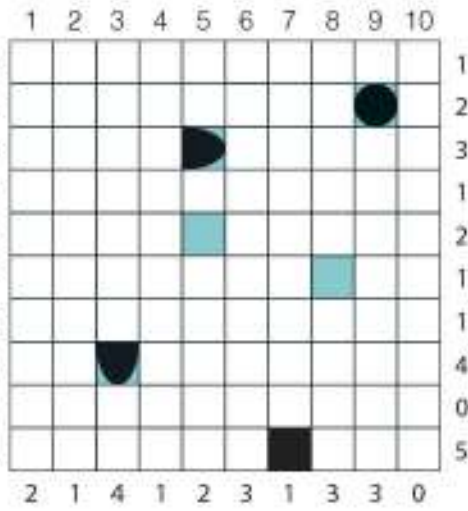
Instructions
Complete the square making sure that every row of nine numbers includes all digits from 1 to 9, every column includes all digits from 1 to 9 and every 3 by 3 subsection includes all digits from 1 to 9

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

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.

-  Battleship
-  Cruiser
-  Destroyers
-  Submarines



THE WORDPUZZLER

I	G	R	A	B	O	I	S	E	A
N	I	B	L	A	M	P	A	C	T
E	M	E	N	D	A	L	L	A	S
L	E	A	E	C	H	U	E	R	E
S	T	U	L	S	A	L	M	O	N
A	R	S	G	A	M	W	E	L	E
G	O	T	I	M	I	A	M	I	X
A	U	I	N	P	N	C	R	G	P
R	E	N	O	R	E	O	P	L	E
Y	O	G	L	I	T	N	O	I	R

CAN you identify the US cities from the anagrams listed below?

1. Sallad

2. Gray

3. Acow

4. Staul

5. Osibe

6. Ianuts

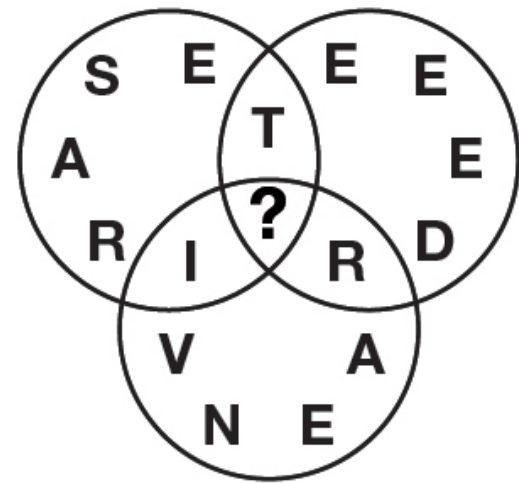
7. Meals

8. Nero

9. Hamoa

10. Imima

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) Conqueror (m) (12)

5) Tradition (9)

9) Muslim (8)

12) This one (f) (4)

13) Defender (8)

16) Nation (6)

17) Depressed (m) (9)

18) According to (5)

20) Demonstration (13)

21) She awards (6)

22) Handle (3)

25) To the (2)

26) Recycling (9)

27) Cathedral (8)

28) I've (2)

31) The (f) (2)

33) Saffron (7)

35) Mediterranean (12)

36) Storeroom (8)

37) Eights (5)

40) January (5)

43) Islands (5)

44) Standard (flag) (10)

45) To symbolise (10)

46) Celebration (11)
- 1) Community (9)

2) Us (3)

3) So (3)

4) To observe (8)

5) You (2)

6) Fir (5)

7) To commemorate (10)

8) Oranges (8)

10) United (f) (5)

11) To lie (6)

14) Monthly (7)

15) Fireworks (adj) (11)

19) Concert (9)

20) Marzipan (7)

23) Territory (10)

24) I'll toast (8)

28) Famine (8)

29) Procession (9)

30) Flags (8)

32) Ring (6)

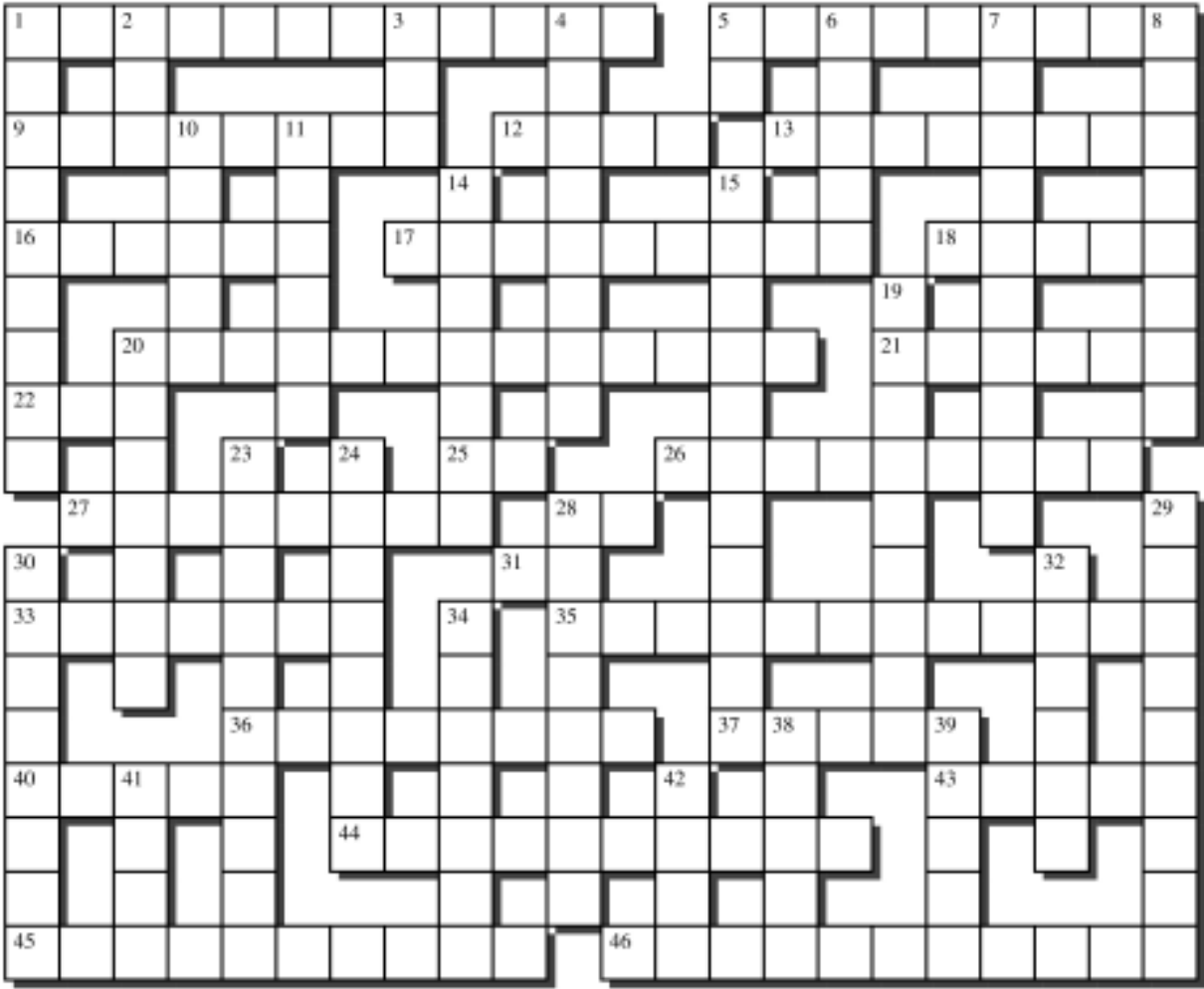
34) Statue (7)

38) Shabby (5)

39) Chair (5)

41) Ahem! (4)

42) Warehouse (4)



ANSWERS

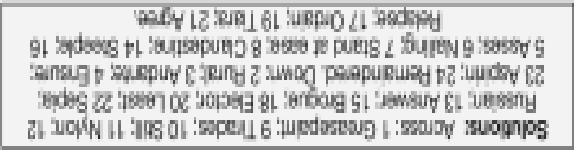
Quiz answers

Answer: Alexander
Of interest: Boris Johnson's full name is Alexander Boris de Pfeffel Johnson. He was born in the Upper East Side of Manhattan, New York City on 19 June, 1964.
Answer: An anchor
Of interest: Winston Churchill had a classic anchor tattooed on his forearm; he was the first famous politician to have, or at least admit to having, a tattoo. His mother, Lady Randolph Churchill, had a tattoo of a snake wrapped around her wrist which she could cover with a bracelet when needed.

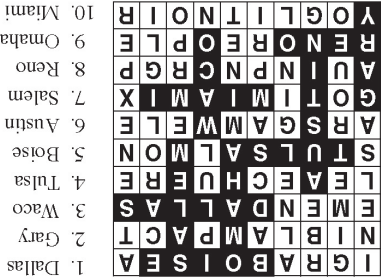
Language Crossword



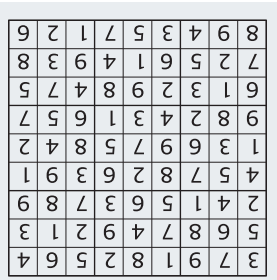
Cryptic Crossword



Wordpuzzler solution



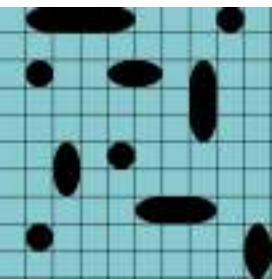
Sudoku solution



Circlegram

The letter represented by the question mark is M. Artemis, Demeter, Minerva, all Goddesses.

Battleships



WHERE IS THIS?



A Moorish tower on a poet's plaza

Last week: Atarfe

This oxidised metal sculpture adorns a roundabout known as the Ronda Lindaraja in Atarfe, Granada.



THE SUR IN ENGLISH CORNER

Fuengirola - get snapping!

Everyone has heard of Fuengirola, the historic Costa del Sol town that is home to thousands of international residents and, pandemic aside, a favourite holiday destination for hundreds of thousands more.

At SUR in English we are preparing a special supplement which aims to reflect just how much our readers appreciate the town. And you can help by sending in a photograph that captures the essence of Fuengirola. It could be funny, artistic, romantic, poignant... so grab your camera

- or switch your phone to camera mode - and get to work.

This Monday's Hispanic Day holiday will give you the perfect opportunity to rediscover some of Fuengirola's attractions, from its castle on the hill to its wide beaches, or stumble across its hidden corners.

Send your results - no more than three images per person - by email to english@diariosur.es, Twitter @SUR_English or Facebook @surenglish by Monday 19 October. We'll publish the best and you may even win a prize!

During an art residency in South Korea Robert Harding met a creator from Taiwan and they spent long hours discussing art and philosophy before gradually moving on to Taoism, an Eastern philosophy which stresses the need to live in harmony.

"I am not religious, but I do like that philosophy of seeking a balance with nature," he says of the sculptures in his exhibition 'Shinto', which was opened recently in the Estudio de Ignacio del Río in Malaga city.

The display consists of half a dozen of Harding's creations from this year, in which he continues to search for the expressive possibilities of combining natural and industrial elements. The stones collected by the artist in the Axarquía, where he settled more than four decades ago after a long journey which took him from his native Britain to Africa and the Middle East, come into their own here. "I have always worked with nature and with our place in it," says Harding, standing in front of 'Shinto 1', a white stone from Maro on a Corten steel base. A mineral presented in the form of an offering, an inanimate object which nobody would have bothered to look at until Harding decided to transform it into a work of art.

"Stone is the most ancient element we can find in nature. I like to think that millions of people have passed it over the centuries and hardly noticed it was there. I believe there is a conflict in these works, but at the same time there is harmony in them as well," he says.

It is a tension emanating, for example, from the rugged textures of the stones from Maro and Torrox encased in smooth stainless



Robert Harding poses by 'Zig zag' at the Estudio de Ignacio del Río. **FRANCISCO HINOJOSA**

Harding: art in the form of a touchstone

Display. The sculptor presents his latest works at the Estudio de Ignacio del Río, inspired by oriental philosophy and faithful to his combination of natural and industrial elements

ANTONIO JAVIER LÓPEZ



▲ Stone and stainless steel coexist in some of the pieces in the exhibition, such as the series 'Shinto wall'.

FRANCISCO HINOJOSA

THE EXHIBITION

► **Artist.** Robert Harding (Birmingham, 1951).

► **Where** Estudio de Ignacio del Río. C/ San Lorenzo, 29. Malaga.

► **When.** Until 25 October. Open Mondays to Fridays, 5.30 to 8.30pm.

steel mesh, presented as two pieces under the title of 'Shinto wall'.

"Here I play with the idea of possession, with the notion of a modest element which, when placed in the art dynamic, increases in economic value," says the artist, whose 'indoor' work coexists alongside his large-scale creations for public spaces. Unsurprisingly, Harding's sculptures form part of the everyday landscape of cities such as Seoul (South Korea), Lichtenstein (Germany), Villa Carlos Paz (Argentina) and Svalöv (Sweden).

He has returned from the landscape to the gallery, from nature to the workshop, as Carmen Cortés, a professor at Malaga university, explains in the text which accompanies the exhibition, which can be seen until the last weekend of this month.

"Perched in his own particular watchtower, high in the hills overlooking valleys of a spectacular natural beauty, with the sea rippling in the distance, Robert Harding creates fascinating objects, astonishing iron sculptures and beautiful polished reticules containing, for example, the black stone from Alnif which Harding brought from that part of Morocco. Stone is the soul and the voice of the ground," she says.

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