



# Tourism in a critical condition on the Costa as figures show losses of millions of visitors

Holiday accommodation lost 3.4m guests and airport passengers were down by 9.4m to August this year

Statistics taken from the first eight months of 2020 confirm the dire straits of the tourism industry on the Costa del Sol, the biggest victim of the Covid-19

crisis. Hotels, holiday apartments, campsites and rural accommodation have lost 3.4 million guests, who would have stayed 14 million nights, com-

pared with the same period of 2019. In September only 366,000 passengers used Malaga Airport, 82% fewer than the same month last year. **P2&3**



A roast chestnut stand in Malaga city. **FRANCISCO HINOJOSA**

## The aroma of autumn wafts onto the streets

**Roast chestnut stalls** have appeared this month on the pavements of towns and cities, this year with plastic screens and distancing rules. The warm October weather, however, is holding back customers, say sellers **P34**

## Private clinics see a surge in patients asking for Covid tests due to health centre delays

The long queues at health centres are forcing more and more patients who think they might have the coronavirus to turn to private clinics and pay for their own diagnostic tests, tripling their workload. **P4**

### INSIDE

**Rubbish collection fees vary from 36 euros to nearly 300** depending on which town on the Costa del Sol you live in **P6**

**The end of an era at the Coca-Cola plant in Malaga** Former workers look back at the old days of the 'real thing' **P14**

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La Carihuela, in Torremolinos, at the end of last week, with no tourists on the beach or the promenade, a row of closed hotels and struggling shops and restaurants.

SALVADOR SALAS



# Tourism falls into a coma on the Costa del Sol

**T**he tourism industry has fallen into a coma on the Costa del Sol. The sector has failed to recover its pulse after 100 days of forced closure during the Covid-19 lockdown. The state of alarm declared by the Spanish government in mid-March came after just two months of normality in 2020; and those would ordinarily be the quietest months of the year.

The long-awaited peak season failed to meet expectations and only worsened the crisis caused by the pandemic. The sector has had to face the costs of reopenings, which can be more stressful than initial inaugurations themselves, with the complication of having to follow strict health and hygiene protocols to guarantee the safety of staff and guests.

Safety was a priority and was the industry's only mission accomplished in the pandemic: zero Covid-19 contagion in tourist establishments on the Costa del Sol.

The industry now faces a final quarter of the year with closures

**Figures. Malaga Airport passenger numbers were down by 9.5 million in the first eight months of this year and tourist accommodation lost 3.4 million guests**

PILAR MARTÍNEZ



across the board, affecting 80 per cent of hotels.

"We can consider this year to be dead," said a concerned president of the Costa del Sol hoteliers association (Aehcos), Luis Callejón Suñé, last week.

A look at the figures for the year confirms the dreary prognosis. Tourist accommodation as a whole - that is, hotels, campsites, holiday lets and rural cottages - lost 3.4 million visitors and 14 million nights compared with the same period of 2019.

Between January and August no more than 1.8 million visitors stayed in tourist accommodation, compared with the 5.2 million in 2019. Those 1.8 million visitors checked in for 6.5 million nights, far from the 20.5 million registered in the same period of 2019, according to figures from Spain's National Institute of Statistics (INE) quoted by the Costa del Sol tourism authority.

And to get a better idea of the size of the disaster, for hotel accommodation, the 1.4 million visi-

tors arriving in the first eight months of 2020 is the equivalent of the total for the month of March alone last year.

The occupancy of the Costa's hotels has fallen to an average of 37% of rooms booked between January and August, compared with 62.7% in the same period of 2019. And that is even taking into account the price war unleashed by panicking hoteliers at the height of the season.

The statistics also show how the pandemic has affected the profitability of hotels. This was an issue that the industry had only recently managed to recover from, following the financial crisis that led to prices being frozen for a decade.

## Revenue

The RevPAR figures (Revenue Per Available Room), a gauge used to measure hotel profitability, confirm that the sector has gone back to where it was in the crisis.

Profitability has fallen 44%, going from an average of 71.4 euros between January and August 2019, to 39.8 euros in the same period of 2020. Prices have plummeted, going from an average price per room of 124.64 euros in August 2019, to 50.9 euros in August 2020.

While the hotel sector is one of the most affected, among other reasons due to the high maintenance costs and volume of workers needed, the holiday rental market has witnessed the bursting of the bubble that was swelling healthily before the start of the pandemic.

The president of the Andalusian Association of Tourist Properties (AVVA), Carlos Pérez-Lanzac, said that, while official figures are not available, the sector has seen its revenue fall by 80%, causing losses of 70 million euros in the province of Malaga so far this year.

"In the summer we managed to reach 56% occupancy, when the forecasts indicated 45%. However, you have to bear in mind that

## Jet2.com suspends all flights to Malaga until February 2021

The fifth biggest airline at Malaga Airport will give a full refund to those affected, as well as a £100 discount on rebooked package holidays

PILAR MARTÍNEZ

MALAGA. The airline Jet2.com has suspended flights to Malaga un-

til February next year, the British-run company has announced.

The low-cost operator, which is the fifth largest at the Costa del Sol airport in terms of passenger volume, with 964,123 passengers last year, said that "due to the continuing uncertainty caused by the Covid-19 pandemic, as well as the latest travel advice from the [UK] Government, we have taken the decision to extend the suspension

of flights and holidays to Malaga, Alicante and Faro".

Flights and holidays to Malaga and Alicante would be suspended until 10 February 2021, the statement read.

The airline, which provides package holidays on the Costa del Sol in collaboration with a hundred hotels, initially suspended its operations to Malaga when the UK decreed a 14-day quarantine

for travellers arriving from Spain.

The company said that those affected by cancellations would automatically receive a full refund and that customers who wish to rebook would be offered a £100 discount on their next package holiday for departures up to and including 31 March 2021.

## Ryanair cuts winter schedule

Ryanair, the biggest airline in terms of passenger numbers at Malaga Airport, announced on Thursday that it would reduce its capacity this winter from 60% to 40%, compared with last year. It blamed the impact of the pandemic and the restriction on movement introduced by differ-

ent countries.

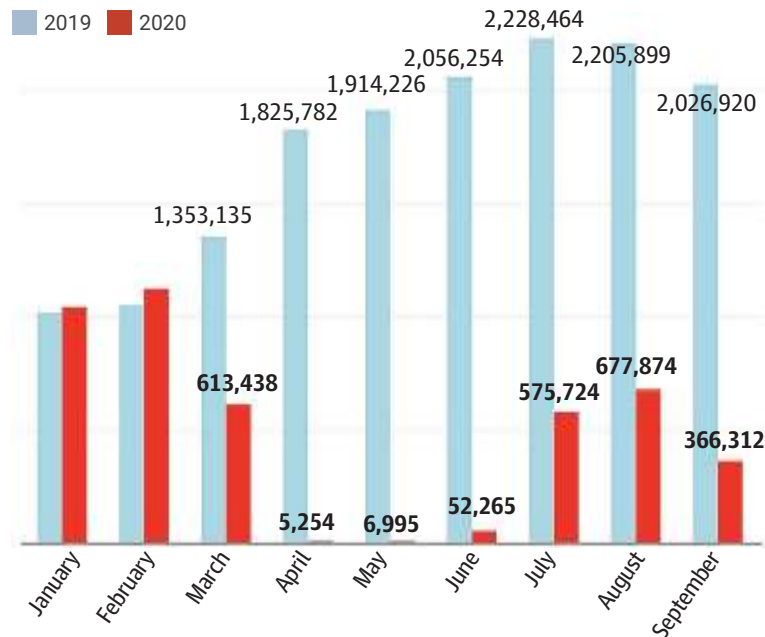
The Irish low-cost company has also announced the closure of its bases at Shannon, Cork and Toulouse for the winter season, that officially kicks off at the end of this month and continues until the clocks change in March.

Ryanair Group CEO Michael O'Leary said: "While we deeply regret these winter schedule cuts they have been forced upon us by Government mismanagement of EU air travel.

"Our focus continues to be on maintaining as large a schedule as we can sensibly operate to keep our aircraft, our pilots and our cabin crew employed while minimising job losses."



## PASSENGERS AT MALAGA AIRPORT



Source: Turismo y Planificación Costa del Sol / AENA

around 10% of properties have switched from holiday lets to long-term rentals and a similar number have not been operative at all. What's more, prices this peak season have fallen by between 30 and 40%," he said.

### Airport passengers

The paralysis in demand has been felt at Malaga Airport where activity has been concentrated in just one terminal during the pandemic, first in T2 and now in T3.

More than 9.5 million fewer passengers used the airport in the first eight months of the year of 2020 than the volume for the same period of 2019. No more than 4.1 million passengers travelled on 41,756 flights from January to August this year, compared with the almost 100,000 flights recorded in 2019, which transported more than 13,650,000 passengers.

In September the passenger figures fell to just over 366,000, 82% down on the same month of 2019.

Meanwhile, the cruise terminal at Malaga Port has received no visitors for more than six months. It is expected that the year will end with no more than

40 ships visiting the port, far from the 278 registered in 2019.

Cruise passenger figures have plummeted 90% to 40,172 in the first quarter of the year, according to figures provided by the port.

The crisis has been felt more by the tourism industry on the Costa del Sol due to its greater dependence on international visitors than other areas, the former president of Exceltur, José Luis Zoreda, told SUR.

Figures from the survey of frontier movements carried out by the

INE show that in the first eight months of this year only 2.3 million foreigners travelled to the region of Andalucía, that is, 72.6% fewer than in January to August 2019, when 8.3 million visitors arrived in the region.

In the same eight months of 2019, the eight Andalusian provinces received a revenue of 8.5 billion euros from international tourism; this year the figure has stopped at 2.4 billion: a drop of 71.5%.

Now, with the poor peak sea-

son behind us, experts agree that the worst is still to come. The lack of demand is likely to continue as business owners dread having to start to pay back the ICO loans which have been keeping their heads above water since March.

There is now uncertainty about whether they will be able to reopen at Easter and even about what will happen in summer 2021, with schedules yet to be signed with tour operators. In just a few weeks' time the industry would be heading for the World Travel Market (WTM) in London, which has been cancelled and replaced by a virtual version, where they would normally close these deals.

### Survival skills

Nevertheless the sector is convinced that the Costa del Sol will survive the crisis. To do this it is already adapting to the circumstances and preparing to have rapid Covid tests for visitors and insurance policies to cover the expenses of catching Covid-19 while on holiday, as well as coming up with products and experiences that generate trust and break the fear that is preventing visitors from enjoying the Costa del Sol.

## Andalucía calls for same treatment as the islands in safe air corridor plans

JOSÉ LUIS PIEDRA

SEVILLE. Regional Tourism Minister Juan Marín has lashed out at the central government after it gave the go-ahead to guidelines for safe tourist air corridors to the Canary and Balearic Islands. The move has angered the Junta de Andalucía, which has said it would provide rapid Covid tests at Malaga Airport if the government set up safe air bridges to boost tourism.

"We're tired of knocking on the government's door and nobody answering," said Marín this week, adding that hotels were also considering testing guests. A safe corridor between Malaga and the UK was "urgent" said Andalusian hoteliers representative, Miguel Sánchez.

According to the protocol agreed for the islands, travellers from areas with a low infection rate would not have to be tested, while those from areas with a higher rate would have to show a negative test result from 48 hours previously.

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# Surge in demand for private PCR tests as health service struggles

Despite data that shows the number of tests carried out regionally is low, the Junta de Andalucía says it is testing as much as it should do

A. GÓMEZ / A. M. ROMERO

MALAGA. The long queues at public health centres that greet people worried they have Covid-19 is forcing more and more to turn to the private sector to get tested and treated, or at least to find out if they need to be.

The surge in the use of private clinics comes as data shows that Andalucía is among the regions carrying out the least PCR tests. The Junta de Andalucía has said it is carrying out as many tests as it needs to.

Not only are there many people waiting to get seen at public health centres, but also the time to get results back can be a problem, particularly as a suspected case has to stay off work until the result comes through.

Private centres have therefore seen a steady increase in their



Queue at a Malaga private clinic. F.S.

testing business. Prices range from 30 euros for the cheap, quick tests, that are least reliable, up to 200 euros for the more reliable PCR serological test, although the average is about 150 euros.

There has been criticism of the high prices though. Beatriz Escobar, owner of the Bioclon laboratory in Malaga, defended the charges. "They always talk about how much a test costs, but nobody asks us how much the equipment has cost us to analyse the tests,

nor do they take into account that we've had to up staffing levels, double up shifts and pay for protective equipment at sky-high prices."

Even local authorities are resorting to the private sector. Malaga's municipal bus company has given all its staff private tests and unions have warned of "creeping privatisation".

## Denial that test rates are low

The Junta has defended its track record on the rate of testing in the Andalucía region. Data up to 8 October shows that the average testing rate in Spain was 230.16 PCRs per 1,000 since the start of the pandemic, while Andalucía is at 135.49. The position is better for the faster, less reliable tests, where Andalucía is at 50.42, closer to the national average of 52.8.

The Junta has said tests are being done in Andalucía at the rate "that they ought to and need to be", following health professionals' recommendations. Patricia Navarro, Junta representative in Malaga explained that for every positive confirmed by PCR, some 500 tests are being carried out.

# Costa del Sol hospital triples number of tests it can process thanks to two robots

The new machinery will mean that 900 PCR tests can be processed every day

HÉCTOR BARBOTA

MARBELLA. The Costa del Sol hospital in Marbella has enlisted the help of two new robots which they say triples the hospital's capacity to process PCR tests.

The new machines, from Sie-

mens Healthineers and Roche Diagnostic, were installed in September and, following technical checks and training for the laboratory staff, are now fully operational.

The machines will allow up to 900 PCR tests to be carried out per day, compared to the between 300 and 350 tests processed daily up until now.

To date, more than 41,000 PCR tests have been carried out at the hospital.



Inside the laboratory at the Costa del Sol hospital. SUR

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# Andalucía restricts more places which have excess Covid case rates

Movement in and out of Écija is limited but for the moment curbs are less harsh in Granada city and Sierra de Yeguas

SUR

MALAGA / SEVILLE. The Junta de Andalucía government announced extended restrictions and lockdown measures on more areas of the region this week.

Faced with high case numbers in certain communities, regional ministers agreed to order on-site classes to be suspended at the University of Granada for the following two weeks to avoid contacts, and student halls of residence had restrictions on movement imposed.

On Tuesday, the university city had a 14-day Covid-19 case notification rate per 100,000 inhabitants of 501, above the level to activate more restrictions. However, Junta spokesperson Elías Bendodo explained that a city lockdown was not needed. He said that only nine per cent of local hospital beds had Covid-

19 patients, below the threshold for harsher measures.

In contrast, the large town of Écija, in the province of Seville, saw an order come into force for entry and exit to only be allowed with good reason, as it reached 925 cases on Tuesday.

Écija joined Casariche (Seville), Linares (Jaén) and Almodóvar del Río (Cordoba), all facing the toughest measures.

Inside Malaga province, the inland village of Sierra de Yeguas faced curbs with its high case rate.

Bars have been told to close at 10pm amid other measures, but fuller lockdown has been avoided, under the guidelines, because of its small size and as case levels were lowering.

The number of people attending weddings and first communions has also been restricted to 30 in Sierra de Yeguas.

With the traditional All Saints' Day visit to cemeteries approaching at the end of the month, the Junta has been considering how to keep people safe, including lengthening opening times and allowing only small family groups.

## Regional case rates reach 229 per 100,000 in the past fortnight

The Andalucía region saw 1,971 new reported contagions on Thursday this week (15 October) and 11 more deaths. There was also a slight increase in the number being treated in hospital.

The latest official data confirmed the upward trend regionally. The 14-day Covid-19 case notification rate per 100,000 people in Andalucía therefore stood at 229.4, slightly below the national average.

Two Andalusian provinces were well above this average, pushing the figure up. Granada had 445.4 cases and Jaén 408. Granada city was still causing concern on Thursday with a case rate of 644.8.

In Malaga province, the case rate was steady compared to last week. Here on Thursday it was 130.9 per 100,000, half the national average.





# What you need to think about to help future-proof your finances

By Steven Langford, Partner, Blevins Franks

Not much is certain as we head into the final stretch of 2020. Unfortunately, with no end in sight for the global coronavirus pandemic and still no final word on Brexit, we can expect things to remain unsettled for some time. While no-one can predict exactly what's around the corner, there are some steps you can take to make your financial position as secure as possible.

## Get Brexit-ready

If you have not recently given your finances a health-check, you will almost certainly benefit from reviewing your situation now.

Deal or no deal, the new year will begin with the UK's full departure from the EU. While this should have no immediate impact for Britons lawfully settled in Spain, there may be longer term effects for the unprepared. For example, some UK savings and investments could attract a higher tax bill from 2021 once they cease to be EU/EEA assets, and UK pension or tax rules could potentially change for non-residents in the future.

Besides the disruption that Brexit may bring, your circumstances and goals evolve over time. If you don't

keep up, you could find you are paying more taxes than you need to or missing out on opportunities that offer significant advantages.

You should schedule a review of your financial situation at least once a year, looking at how your savings, investments, other assets, tax planning, pensions and estate planning are structured and how they can best work together.

## Protecting your wealth

The current economic and political climate presents many challenges to preserving your wealth and seeing it grow over time.

For one thing, the prolonged period of low interest rates has made it harder to achieve good returns on bank deposits and lower-risk investments. There is also more global tax scrutiny than ever, with frequent changes to tax and pensions legislation. And, of course, the Covid-19 pandemic continues to generate global economic uncertainty and market volatility.

At times like this, careful planning plays a particularly important role in securing your financial security over the long term. While all investments

– even bank accounts – carry risk, a suitably diversified portfolio can help manage risk within your comfort level. An essential step is establishing a clear and objective view of your risk tolerance to determine the investment approach that will best suit you.

## DIY vs expert advice

While some take a DIY approach to financial planning, most people who have built up or inherited wealth will benefit from an independent and expert review of their finances. It is extremely difficult to take a step back and look at your broad financial situation from a truly objective point of view, or fully understand all the cross-border tax implications. As the goalposts often change, it is quite easy to get DIY tax planning wrong and potentially invite an unexpected tax bill, or even a tax investigation.

A professional adviser can take time and use relevant tools to thoroughly understand your unique situation, needs and objectives to tailor tax-efficient solutions – for you and your heirs.

## The limits of UK-based services

If you have a relationship with a

UK-based financial adviser or hold a British bank account or investment product, make sure you check they can legally provide services to you from 1 January. As things stand, many UK financial businesses are set to lose their license to operate within the EU/EEA once the transition period ends. We know of at least three major UK banks who have advised EU-based clients that they will be withdrawing services due to Brexit.

While you should be able to retain existing UK accounts/policies and make withdrawals as an EU resident, you may be restricted from adding or moving funds and applying for new services, such as term deposits, bonds, foreign currency management, loans and credit cards. Foreign banks/providers may also refuse instructions from non-EU-based advisers.

If your UK provider hasn't contacted you about limited future services, ask them what arrangements they have in place for Spain next year.

## Financial planning for Spain

Besides the legal implications, consider whether a UK-based provider is best placed to support you

in Spain. A strategy designed for a UK resident will not usually provide the same benefits to a non-UK resident, and it is unlikely that a UK professional will have in-depth understanding of Spanish taxation and how it interacts with UK rules.

An adviser with local knowledge and expertise in cross-border tax planning can help ensure your wealth and assets are held as tax efficiently as possible for your life in Spain. They can also recommend locally-compliant solutions that offer other advantages, such as multi-currency options and estate planning flexibility.

Ultimately, the sooner you set up a suitable, long-term strategy to protect your wealth, the sooner you can have peace of mind about your financial future in Spain.

*All advice received from Blevins Franks is personalised and provided in writing. This article, however, should not be construed as providing any personalised taxation or investment advice.*

# UK-based financial advice after Brexit

UK-based financial businesses can currently 'passport' out of the UK and into Europe. This enables cross-border transactions between EU member states through shared financial regulation. This will all change after 31 December 2020, and unless a new similar agreement is reached, UK-based financial institutions may lose the regulatory permissions to service EU-based clients. We have already seen major UK banks write to clients in Spain withdrawing services.

Ask your UK-based advisers what arrangements they have in place for next year. At Blevins Franks, our local advisers are regulated, authorised and have the experience and knowledge to advise on all aspects of financial planning in post-Brexit Spain.

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# The rubbish charge for an apartment ranges from 36 euros in Nerja to nearly 300 in Torremolinos

Malaga city and Vélez are the only large town-hall areas that don't send out a separate bill to residents for handling their rubbish

FRANCISCO JIMÉNEZ



MALAGA. On average, each of us generates 483 kilos of rubbish a year, and this is deposited in different types of bin according to whether it is organic, plastic, paper or glass. This is the first step in the labour chain, which starts with the rubbish in the bins being collected and continues with it being transferred to recycling plants to try to give the items a new life.

This service is financed by town halls and the cost is considerable. In Malaga city alone, as an example, daily rubbish collection costs 34.2 million euros a year, and the recycling costs 12.6 million. Obviously, this is paid by the council, although people in Malaga have not had to pay a rubbish collection tax as such since 2001, when this was eliminated; it is now included in the IBI tax (which is still one of the lowest in the province). Nor has there been a charge on rubbish collection and treatment in Vélez-Málaga since 2008. These are the only large municipalities in the province with no separate charge for this service.

With regard to the rest, the way the amount to be paid is calculated varies considerably, and it can be more or less expensive depending on the area in which you live. In fact, there can be a difference of up to 260 euros a year for these charges. Why is this? Because each town-hall area chooses to do things a different way and several variables come into play. The amount can depend on the location of your home (town centre, residential area or outlying district), the type of building (from an apartment to a villa or townhouse), the cadastral value as used to calculate the IBI tax, the fiscal classification of the street you live in and even how much water you consume. In addition, there are sometimes discounts for people who are on the 'padrón' population register, large families, pensioners and low-income households.

By way of a rough comparison, this newspaper has taken as a reference an average-value apartment in a town centre, whose ad-



RUBBISH CHARGES IN LARGE MUNICIPALITIES IN MALAGA PROVINCE

Municipality	Minimum and maximum charges. €/year	As an example €/year
ALHAURÍN EL GRANDE	76 - 112 (depends on location and type of home)	76
ALHAURÍN DE LA TORRE	76 - 616 (cadastral value)	90
ANTEQUERA	98.88	98.88
BENALMÁDENA	172 - 290 (type of home)	172
CÁRTAMA	67-79 (location)	79
COÍN	90,76 - 181,48 (cadastral value)	136
ESTEPONA	26 - 204 (cadastral value)	128
FUENGIROLA	80	80
MALAGA**	-	-
MARBELLA	23.17 - 278.05 (location and type of home)	46.34
MIJAS	68.20 - 149.85 (location and type of home)	68
NERJA	24-48 (cadastral value)	36
RINCÓN DE LA VICTORIA	89.65 - 153.70 (type of home)	89.65
RONDA	40.32 - 105.81 (location and type of home)	83.14
TORREMOLINOS	252.8 - 372.9 (water consumption)	298.04
VÉLEZ**	-	-

(\*) Example of a town centre apartment, with four inhabitants, taking as a reference the average cadastral value of each municipality, the intermediate category in the fiscal street map and with a water consumption of 12 m<sup>3</sup> a month (the average is 3.90 a month per person), not taking into account possible discounts or exemptions.  
(\*\*) Malaga and Vélez have no specific rubbish collection charge.

Source: Town hall fiscal regulations.

dress is in a middle category on the fiscal street map (2nd floor in a four-storey building, or 3rd floor if there are five floors), which is home to a family of four who use 12 cubic metres of water a month (this is lower than the average, which is 3.93 m<sup>3</sup> per inhabitant). We have not taken into account any discounts to which people may be entitled depending on their circumstances. The lowest charge applied among large towns in the province is in Nerja, where this imaginary family would pay 36 euros a year.

Just behind Nerja comes Marbella, where the rubbish charge could be 46.34 euros for an apart-

ment in a third-category street in the town centre, such as around the municipal football stadium. On the other hand in the main street, Avenida Ricardo Soriano, it would be 86.88 euros.

Ronda is the other town where a fiscal street map (with four categories) is used to decide this

The charge can vary depending on the type of property, its location, the cadastral value and amount of water used

charge, which would be 83.13 euros for a second-floor apartment and 50.39 for one on the third floor.

At the other end of the scale, we have Torremolinos, where the charge would be 298 euros a year. The amount would only be lower than this for people who are on

Most councils charge people more for rubbish collection if they live in urbanisations or detached villas

483

kilos of rubbish a year on average are generated by each person in Spain, according to the National Institute of Statistics. Of this, 80% is from the grey rubbish containers and the rest from recycling bins

the population register. This entitles them to an average discount of 45 euros per quarter, which would mean 118 euros has to be paid every year. Even so, this is still one of the highest in the province. The bill, which is issued every three months along with the water bill, includes a fixed charge of 57.61 euros, and there is an additional charge for taking rubbish to the dump and this can increase or decrease depending on how much water is used.

### Over 100 euros

In neighbouring Benalmádena, the tariff is much more straightforward: each family home pays 172 euros. Coín is also above the 100-euro barrier; the exact amount paid depends on the cadastral value of the property but the average is 136 euros.

Estepona also bases its calculations on the cadastral value of each property, which depends on where it is, the construction cost and the price of land. The average value of property in Estepona is 79,000 euros, and in this case the family we are using as an example would have to pay 128 euros for rubbish collection a year.

On a lower scale are Antequera, where homes in the town centre pay 98.88 euros a year (every two months, along with the water); Alhaurín de la Torre, with an average of 90 euros which includes a fixed charge (16 euros a year) and another variable depending on the cadastral value used for the water bill; and Rincón de la Victoria, where the amount depends only on the type of property and apartments pay 89.65 euros.

In Fuengirola all properties pay 80 euros, and this is similar to Cártama where the amount is 79 (67 in outlying areas), and 76 in the town centre of Alhaurín el Grande (92 in the urbanisations).

In Mijas, which is a very extensive municipality, the charges for rubbish collection and transfer also vary considerably. People living in the centre of the village or in the rural areas will pay 68.20 euros, while an apartment in an urbanisation pays 81.66 and a detached villa 149.85.





## Cadiz provincial authority interested in extending the Senda Litoral beyond Manilva

The coastal pathway project is 80 per cent complete and the Malaga Diputación believes that its extension into the neighbouring province would be further proof of its "success"

IVÁN GELIBTER

MALAGA. The 180-kilometre Senda Litoral coastal pathway which connects the entirety of Malaga province could be about to get much longer. The Cadiz

provincial authority (Diputación) has expressed its interest in extending the path beyond Manilva, having seen the attractiveness of being able to connect the whole coast with a combination of promenades, asphalt paths and above all wooden walkways.

As far as SUR can ascertain through sources at the Malaga provincial authority, in-depth meetings between the authorities have already taken place. When asked about this subject, the deputy chief of the Environment department (responsible for the management of the Senda), Cristóbal Ortega, said he was "op-



Most recent progress has been made in Estepona and Manilva. JOSELE

timistic" about this interest from the neighboring province.

"As well as continuing our work here to try to connect every part of the province, the extension through to Cadiz would

multiply the success of the Senda Litoral," said Ortega, who pointed out that the number of visits to the Senda's website has doubled in recent weeks thanks to the opening of the wooden

footbridge over the Guadalhorce estuary, the longest in Spain.

### Complications

The extension of the existing project into Cadiz province would come with a number of complications. As for the point at which the corresponding projects would meet, the initial section of the Malaga path is more complex. This is the area between Punta Chulera, on the border with the province of Cadiz, and Playa Paraíso. This project has not yet been drawn up and presents certain difficulties as it is an area of cliffs.

The construction of two bridges to connect the 8.5 kilometres of Manilva coastline is also pending. However, barring these difficulties, in the province as a whole, the Senda Litoral already connects 80 per cent of the Costa del Sol on foot, although much more progress has been made on the western side than to the east, with there being much greater focus on the project by councils to the west, but also because of the more complicated terrain on the Axarquía coast.

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CCTV footage of the events. SUR

## Search on for 'amateur' thief who stole 1,000 euros from a restaurant

F. TORRES

MÁLAGA. The search is on for a man described as an “amateur” thief who stole 1,000 euros and two mobile phones from the popular Poppins Coffee & Restaurant in Alhaurín de la Torre last week.

CCTV footage showed the man in the bar, using his hoodie not only to cover his face but to take the items too, pulling the sleeves down over his hands to not leave any trace.

Having first failed to gain access, the man took the whole safe, as well as two low-value mobile phones, leading the Guardia Civil to believe that it was the first time he had carried out such a crime.

## Irish pensioner arrested for giving gifts to minors in exchange for sexual favours

The suspect in a 69-year-old man who is accused of giving mobile phone credit, online games, cinema tickets and cash to at least five minors in exchange for photos, videos and meetings

FERNANDO TORRES

BENALMÁDENA. A 69-year-old Irish man was released on bail with charges last Friday, accused of child pornography offences, corruption of minors and sexual abuse, according to the Provincial Police Headquarters.

The suspect was first held in December 2019 over the sexual abuse of a minor reported in Torremolinos.

It began when the mother of a boy told police that her son had been receiving messages from a man who was asking him for private photos and had been giving him gifts in return for meeting with him.

It was at that point that the

suspect's mobile phone was confiscated and now, as a result of thorough analysis of communications, evidence of other victims with whom he had conversations has come to light.

Through this information, police were able to obtain evidence of contact with four other victims.

The suspect allegedly took advantage of the modest economic situation of the minors' families, obtaining, after long conversations, sexual favours including intimate photographs and videos and conversations of a sexual nature. In at least one case, touching is believed to have occurred.

The victims were alleged bribed with “all kinds of gifts”, including mobile phone credit, online games, cinema tickets or cash.

As a result of their investigations, the four alleged victims were identified and the suspect arrested in Benalmádena.

His home was searched and further computer equipment was seized for analysis.

### 112 REPORTS

TORREMOLINOS

## Body found floating off El Bajondillo beach had several face injuries

J. CANO. The Guardia Civil are investigating the death of a man aged around 30 whose body was retrieved from the sea off the coast of El Bajondillo beach in Torremolinos on Sunday evening. Initially, it was thought that he had drowned, but the deceased had received numerous blows to the face.

According to SUR sources, the

body, floating face down, was discovered by a group of people on a boat who raised the alarm. The body was then taken to Puerto Marina by a Sea Rescue boat.

As far as SUR has been able to ascertain, the young man, apparently Caucasian, was wearing a pair of grey tracksuit bottoms and a brown T-shirt and was not carrying any ID.

Besides blows to the chin, eyes and nose, all on the front of the head, no other injuries were found on other parts of the body. The results of the full autopsy report are still pending.

MÁLAGA

## Complex cocaine network is disbanded

F. T. National Police have arrested ten people, seized various firearms, 278 grammes of cocaine, thousands of euros in cash and a luxury vehicle as part of an operation to bring down a complex criminal network dedicated to cocaine trafficking.

Investigations began after two properties on the same street in Malaga city were found to be distributing the drug and eventually led to an operations centre in Cártama.

ESTEPONA

## Man found with gunshot wounds in arms and legs

F. T. A man was receiving treatment in a Malaga hospital this week after police found him with gunshot wounds in the arms and legs in a house in Estepona on Monday.

Investigations continue into the perpetrator of the shots and whether the shooting took place in the house or he was transported there afterwards.

It is likely, however, that the shooting was drugs related, probably a settling of scores.



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Firefighters at the scene of the accident on Sunday. **SUR**

# 26-year-old pilot killed in Axarquía glider tragedy

## VÉLEZ-MÁLAGA

The man’s passenger, a German national, said he didn’t know how to fly the plane during an emergency radio call

A. PELÁEZ / J. CANO

VÉLEZ-MÁLAGA. A 26-year-old man from Malaga was killed when the glider he was flying crashed onto the runway at the Axarquía airport in Trapiche last Sunday.

A 26-year-old German man who was also in the plane was taken to hospital with multiple fractures to both legs.

The accident happened after the pilot had radioed other pilots and members of the flying club to say that he felt dizzy. Despite trying to keep control of the plane, he was unable to land it safely and it crashed, nose first, onto the runway.

A police investigation is considering the hypothesis that the pilot began to feel faint shortly after takeoff. During the radio call the German passenger was asked if he knew how to fly the plane, but he said he didn’t. Another plane tried to help the glider to the ground, but was unable to do so.

A witness said that although the plane was “flying smoothly, something wasn’t right.”

# Mayor asks residents to stay at home as Covid-19 cases rise in Moclinejo

## MOCLINEJO

E. C. Faced with an increase in the number of cases of Covid-19, the mayor of the village of Moclinejo in the Axarquía has called for those diagnosed with the virus and their relatives and contacts not to leave their homes.

The village’s 20 active cases on Tuesday made it the third place in Malaga province with the highest 14-day Covid-19 case notification rate per 100,000 inhabitants after Guaro and Sierra de Yeguas. Moclinejo has a population of approximately 1,300.

Children’s playgrounds and all sports installations have been closed until further notice and activities organised by the town hall have been cancelled.

Mayor José Luis González encouraged locals in a statement last Friday to help avoid further infection “especially among the older generation”, saying it was a matter of “social and individual responsibility”.

# Villagers vote against fireworks display to mark feria in social media referendum

## BENAMOCARRA

E. C. Following a public ‘referendum’ held on social media last weekend, Benamocarra town hall has announced that it will not be setting off fireworks to honour the village’s patron saint, Cristo de la Salud this Sunday.

Like most towns and villages across Spain, Benamocarra will not be holding its annual fair this year, but the town hall was still keen to mark the event.

Villagers had 24 hours starting at 5pm last Friday to register their vote via the town hall Facebook page as to whether they thought the town hall should hold a fireworks display or not. 170 people voted against the display, with 101 voting in favour.

Mass will be given in the village church on Sunday evening and the mayor said the money that would have been spent on the fireworks will go to the village’s social services department instead.



A digital image of what the bike lane is expected to look like. **SUR**

# Bike lane to connect Nerja to Maro to encourage sustainable travel

## NERJA

E. C. Nerja town hall has unveiled plans to construct a 2.6-kilometre bike lane between Nerja’s Burriana beach and Maro.

The project, which has been in the pipeline since the last term of office (2011-15), will cost 900,000 euros, 80 per cent of which will come from European Regional Development Funds (ERDF), which the town hall was awarded in 2016.

The money forms part of the

EU’s Integrated Sustainable Urban Development plan to create sustainable travel options and reduce emissions in towns and cities across the European Union.

The remaining 20 per cent will come from town hall coffers.

Following a meeting held earlier this week with Andalucía’s state roads chief, Salvador Fernández Quesada, Nerja mayor, José Alberto Armijo, announced that the project would be carried out in two phases.

The first would be to build a lane from Burriana beach to the Oasis and Fuente de Badén housing developments and then phase two would continue the lane to the junction of the N340 near the Barranco de Maro area.



Photo of the Our Lady of Angustias chapel in 1945. **SUR**

# Exhibition opens to celebrate 300 years of Nerja’s Our Lady of Angustias chapel

## NERJA

E. C. A photograph exhibition to mark the 300th anniversary of the Our Lady of Angustias chapel (Ermita Nuestra Señora de las Angustias) in Nerja opened last Friday at the town’s cultural centre in Calle Granada.

The display includes 18 photographs taken of the chapel from the beginning of the twentieth century until 2019.

The exhibition and other

events had been planned to take place at the beginning of the year, to coincide with the actual anniversary of the chapel’s opening on 20 January 1720. However, they had to be postponed when the coronavirus pandemic took hold.

The collection has been chosen by local historian Francisco Capilla Luque and members of the Nuestra Señora de las Angustias brotherhood and they come from as far afield as libraries in Catalonia. Other photographs are on loan from Malaga city library and others were taken by local photographers.

Nerja town hall, which became the chapel’s owner in 1853, wants it to become recognised as a site of cultural interest. The exhibition will run until 15 December.

## HERE AND THERE

### RINCÓN DE LA VICTORIA

## UMA study confirms beaches are Covid-free

**SUR.** A study carried out by the University of Malaga (UMA) on sea water in Rincón de la Victoria has confirmed that there is no evidence of the SARS-CoV-2 virus which causes Covid-19, in the sea off the town’s beaches.

Samples were taken from Rincón de la Victoria, La Cala and Torre de Benagalbón beaches in May and June and then further checks were carried out throughout the summer season to test for traces of the virus in saltwater.

Mayor of Rincón, Francisco Salado, said that the tests “guarantee the safety and peace of all our bathers”.

All of the town’s beaches were awarded the ‘Safe Tourism Certified’ stamp.

### NERJA

## Sponsored Nerja walk for 2020 poppy appeal

**J. R.** The Nerja branch of the Royal British Legion is organising a sponsored walk to raise funds for this year’s poppy appeal, which will take place on 18 October. For further information email: dorothyallenpl@gmail.com.

### TORRE DEL MAR

## Bishop to pay visit to Lux Mundi Torre del Mar

**J. R.** St Barnabas Anglican Church in Torre del Mar is to receive a visit from Spanish Anglican bishop Carlos López Lozano on Sunday. The service will be broadcast live and will take place at the Torre del Mar Lux Mundi centre at 11am.



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# Thwarted sale of a prized Sorolla reveals a plot to sell seized Malaya paintings

A painting by Joaquín Sorolla, valued at three million euros, has been reclaimed by the provincial court after police were alerted to its imminent sale at an arts fair in New York last year

**HÉCTOR BARBOTA**

A painting by one of Spain's most sought-after artists and the fight between two of Juan Antonio Roca's former partners over the remains of the spoils from the Marbella planning corruption scandal have brought to light another plot: hiding from the courts a large part of the art seized during 'Operation Malaya'. The spoils are considerable and are valued at millions of euros.

The conspiracy began to be exposed in November last year in New York. At The European Fine Art Fair (TEFAF), oil painting 'Antes de la corrida' by Joaquín Sorolla in 1898, was up for sale, valued at three million euros. However, there was one person who demanded that the operation be suspended and that in the event of a sale taking place that the money obtained be handed over to him. This was Luis José Liétor, son of the businessman convicted in the Malaya case, Andrés Liétor. He was making the claim on behalf of the



Andrés Liétor (foreground) and Carlos Sánchez (right) at trial. **SUR**

company CCF21, the supposed owner of the work.

CCF21 was one of the companies whose activity came to light during the investigation into the corruption scandal. Its owners, Andrés Liétor and Carlos Sánchez, developed multiple businesses in Marbella in partnership with Juan Antonio Roca. Liétor and Sánchez were sentenced to four and a half years in prison for prevarication, bribery, money laundering and embezzlement and were made to pay multi-million-euro fine. The relationship between the two partners ended badly and the New York episode exposed the dispute between them.

The painting reached the gal-

lery through an intermediary, Julián de la Cierva, who initially claimed to be the owner but later admitted that he was acting on behalf of Carlos Sánchez. The gallery owner, after checking the documentation provided by the latter, returned the painting to him. However, as Liétor continued to call the art gallery to try to claim the work, the gallery owner went to the police and the plot started to unravel.

The police called both De la Cierva and Sánchez to testify. The latter said he had been the owner of the painting since 1988 after receiving it as part-payment for a property. He said that in 2007, a year after the start of 'Operation Malaya', the Cordoba businessman

Rafael Sánchez (known as Sando-kan) asked him to lend him some paintings to pay off a debt, which he agreed to do. According to Sánchez, the works were on display in a Sandokan property when they were seized by police.

His version differs substantially from the one reflected in the court orders, however. In November 2008, the investigating judge learned from a witness that Carlos Sánchez had been in charge of a series of manoeuvres in order to raise money for Roca's family and avoid it being seized by the courts. The transfer of paintings to Sandokan, therefore, was ultimately intended to help Roca.

Later, when the paintings were returned to the custody of Sánchez, he sold them without receiving any judicial authorisation, as he admitted to the police - all except the Sorolla painting, whose sale was thwarted in New York. Sánchez claims not to remember to whom he sold four paintings of great value which are now unaccounted for but are being pursued by the Malaga provincial court which has also requested the transfer of the Sorolla painting from the Spanish Embassy in Belgium.

Sánchez has always maintained that the paintings were his property but in a document signed on 28 September, the Public Prosecutor Juan Carlos López Caballero refers to them as "property of Juan Antonio Roca".

## HERE AND THERE

### ESTEPONA

#### Policeman caught doing private security with no firearms licence

**F. T. / J. C.** An officer from Estepona Local Police is under investigation after he was caught illegally moonlighting as a private security guard on a private estate in Setenil de las Bodegas (Cadiz province).

According to sources, the policeman broke laws prohibiting State Security Forces carrying out this type of work and he had no firearms licence nor a work contract. The owner of the land said he had hired him, alongside a German man, through an agency and was unaware of their work situation.

During the operation, bullet-proof vests, military-grade knives, binoculars, high-powered torches and pepper sprays, among other items, were found.

### FUENGIROLA

#### Local theatre appeals for budding actors

**T. BRYANT.** The Salón Variedades Theatre in Fuengirola is looking for budding actors of all ages for its inaugural Famous for 15 Minutes festival of short plays, which will take place on Saturday 28 November.

Auditions will be held tomorrow (Saturday) at 2pm at the theatre.

Rehearsals will take place through November and all actors must be available during week leading up to the performance date.

For more information, contact, jburn2005@yahoo.co.uk.

### ALHAURÍN EL GRANDE

#### Cancer association launches 2021 calendar

**A. JIMÉNEZ.** The 'Un sí por la vida' cancer support association has launched its new charity calendar for 2021. This time, 1,500 copies will be put on sale (at three euros each), the proceeds of which will be used to fund the association's activities, which include psychological care, physiotherapy, therapeutic yoga, lymphatic massage, transport to hospital, a wig bank, self-help groups and providing companionship to patients and their families.

Tickets for this year's charity gala, which would have taken place on 17 October, are also on sale. But as the gala itself cannot take place, any ticket (which costs 2.50 euros) can be used to acquire a pink 'palmera' pastry from José Miguel Pasteleros in Alhaurín el Grande.



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# Family reunited with pet dog that went missing more than two years ago

Kike, a small Yorkshire terrier, was found wandering the streets in Campanillas, around two kilometres from home

IGNACIO LILLO

MALAGA. The news came when they least expected it. They had already thrown away his bag, toys and food and drink bowls “because we thought he was dead”, said Ana María González, still visibly moved, just a few hours after being reunited with her dog Kike, a Yorkshire terrier that disappeared more than two and a half years ago.

“Me or my eldest daughter would always take him out on a lead to a football pitch behind the house, where he loved to play with a ball,” she said. But on 27 Febru-



Kike, with his owner, Ana María González, in her living room. M. FERNÁNDEZ

ary 2018, she opened the door of their house in El Tarajal (on the western edge of Malaga city) while cleaning and the dog, four years old, ran out.

It wasn't the first time he ran away, but he always turned up in the park, or came back when he was called. That day he didn't. It was raining a lot and they figured

he got lost and couldn't find his way back.

Now they know he was being looked after this whole time. Though he was very scruffy and covered in parasites, he was well fed when he was found on a road, about to be run over. “He either escaped again or was abandoned; he was dirty, covered in mud, fleas, leeches and had knots in his hair.” He is also suffering from some neurological problems and is undergoing veterinary tests.

## Almost hit by a van

Marta Verdier, a salesperson at Epacatem, based at the Parque Tecnológico (PTA), had just dropped her son off at school and was driving near the Famadesa factory when, in the middle of the road, the animal appeared and was almost hit by a van.

“I stopped, approached him carefully in case he bit and took him to work with me,” she says.

She then got in touch with a friend who is a vet and who happened to be at the PTA on that day. “I took him there and we read the microchip. When we told the owner, she started crying. It was very emotional.”

By this time Kike had many suitors and if his owner hadn't shown up, two of her colleagues were willing to adopt him.

## The reunion

“When he came into the house he couldn't stop jumping with excitement, and he slept where he always did, on a cushion on the landing, between my two daughters' rooms.” The oldest, Ana María, 12, “went crazy” when she saw her dog again; while the youngest, Claudia, three, wouldn't stop throwing him the ball.

Their mother has only words of thanks for the people who made the reunion possible and stressed the importance of getting a microchip: “We've found him thanks to it. It's definitely worth getting.”



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## Hard-up families to receive a card to help with food costs

### MIJAS

I. G. The most needy families in Mijas will now receive further help from the town hall with the launch of the ‘Tarjeta Mijas’, a card from which it is estimated that more than 2,000 local families will be able to benefit in the coming months.

The 321,000-euro subsidy was approved in the last council session in September and will allow the “social shield”, in the words of mayor Josele González, created by the local government in the face of the Covid-19 crisis, to be extended.

This card, which can be used for the purchase of food, will be available in addition to other benefits.

## Nearly 500 fines dished out for local bylaw breaches this summer

### BENALMÁDENA

The majority of fines relate to improper disposal of furniture and rubbish, noise complaints and not cleaning up after pets

I. GELIBTER. This summer alone Benalmádena town hall issued almost 500 fines for non-compliance with municipal bylaws, most of which were related to public cleanliness.

As the councillor for Public Safety, Javier Marín, explained at a press conference on Wednesday: “July was the month when there was a significant increase in actions related to compliance

with municipal regulations. It was the time of greatest tourist activity and influx of visitors to the municipality.”

The councillor explained that “once again” the greatest number of complaints related to failure to comply with waste disposal ordinances. Specifically, he referred to breaches such as leaving furniture out on the street outside collection hours (76 penalties), dumping of garden waste (43) or misuse of organic waste containers (more than thirty).

Marín said that 215 of the 478 complaints were related to non-compliance with the ordinances on citizen coexistence, which includes all those related to waste.

This also includes fines for nuisance caused to neighbours, a total of 32, and was especially significant in July (14) due to the

greater influx of tourists.

On the other hand, more than 140 fines were related to pet ordinances: sanctions for failing to identify or have the relevant documentation of potentially dangerous dogs, or for failing to remove or clean up pet faeces or urine from the street.

Marín insisted that the Local Police's role is to spread awareness and information to residents and not to dish out fines. He points to the fact that they dealt with more than 600 incidents, but only 478 complaints were finally lodged. “The Local Police are not there to sanction, but to help citizens to know and comply with what is set out in the ordinances, but if there is no other option, and if the non-compliance persists or is repeated, there has to be consequences,” he said.

## New vertical garden created across the Miramar bridge

### FUENGIROLA

SUR. Fuengirola council has made further progress on its Fuengirola Verde Plan with the creation of a third vertical garden, located on the Miramar bridge.

This was presented on Wednesday by the councillor for Urban Ecology, Antonio Carrasco, who explained that this new addition, which spans the 90-metre bridge, is made up of more than 4,000 plants across 720 metres of containers, watered “in a totally sustainable way”.

This garden is in addition to the vertical gardens that already exist on the bridge over the Arroyo Real in Los Boliches and the Arroyo Pajares in Los Pacos.



# Adiós to the 'real thing' in Malaga

**Industry.** Ten members from three generations of the Sánchez Fernández family have worked for 'La Coca-Cola'. With the closure of the iconic factory in Malaga, some of them look back at its history, which is also that of their family



**Veteran.** Francisco Sánchez, now retired, worked at the plant for 37 years. **PEDRO J. QUERO**



▲ **Celebrations.** The firm held parties for its staff at Christmas or when new products were launched.

▼ **By hand.** Paco's mother, Inés Fernández, worked at the factory for years, hand-washing overalls.

## 60

years ago in November is when the Coca-Cola bottling plant opened in Malaga. It was built in 1960 and currently has 77 workers, who are about to be laid off.

**NURIA TRIGUERO**



In 1960, brothers Manuel and Cristóbal Sánchez Fernández helped to build a factory in Malaga to produce an American drink which had never been tried here before. At that time the area around the airport was all countryside, and the site was sold to the multinational company for very little money by their uncle's father. It would be four years before Cervezas San Miguel arrived on the scene to keep Coca-Cola company.

Once the brand new bottling plant was finished, the two young men became part of the staff. They went from laying bricks to bottling 'The Real Thing', as the slogan went. Other members of the family also joined them at the firm, including their mother, who despite being over 50 had to go to

work because she had been widowed and found herself struggling to pay debts.

Her name was Inés and she almost literally worked her fingers to the bone, hand-washing the uniforms of the workers who sold Coca-Cola at the football ground and the bullring.

"They were very hardwearing white overalls. Mum's hands were always raw and her back was terrible," remembers another of her sons, Francisco, today. He is also a former worker at the plant, and as a boy he would walk with his mother from the Zapata district of Alhaurín de la Torre to the factory. It took an hour and a half, and then the hard working day would begin.

"While she was working I used to stay at an aunt's house in La Loma

de San Julián," he says, showing me a photo his brother had sent by WhatsApp - their mother at the sink, dressed in widow's black, her hands in the water with those white overalls. The hardworking Inés became an institution at the factory; her children have proudly kept the plaque she was presented with when she retired.

### Ten from the same family

Ten members of the Sánchez Fernández family, from three generations, have worked for the successive companies that have run the Coca-Cola plant for 60 years: Surbega, Rendelsu, Coca-Cola Iberian Partners and Coca-Cola European Partners.

"That was quite normal; entire families used to work there," says Francisco, known by his colleagues

as 'Uncle Paco'. He worked in the warehouse for 37 years and took early retirement in 2013 due to back problems.

"It was very hard work, especially at first, when there were no trolleys and the crates had to be carried and loaded onto the lorries by hand," says Francisco, who is now 67 years old.

Paco hadn't tasted Coca-Cola either, until he started at the factory. He says the earlier versions tasted better. "Our favourite was the 'double one', which is what we used to call a half-litre bottle made with an old machine that was really slow...I think that's what made it taste so good," he says. Can he give us a clue about the famous formula for Coca-Cola? "I have no idea. Containers used to arrive with it ready-prepared and here

we added the water, sugar and the chemicals (preservatives and antioxidants). A ten-litre container was for 10,000 litres of water. The gas was introduced at the time of bottling. When you opened a container, what was inside was like tar. It was horrible!" admits Paco, who also remembers when someone made a mistake mixing the Coca-Cola Zero "and we had to empty an entire 10,000 litre tank".

In the 1960s and 1970s, and well into the 80s, the atmosphere at the factory was "like one big family. They knew all our names. Then later they gave us all a number and that's what we became, a number," says Paco. He recalls with affection the first manager at the plant, Ramón Jover y Tripaldi, "a very good person, he treated my family very well," he says.

At that time, Coca-Cola even had its own float in the Three Kings Parade in Malaga. The employees' children received Christmas gifts from the firm, it had its own football team and every time a new product was launched, it threw a party. The company even built apartments for its workers, at a very low rent. "We worked hard but we were well paid and the atmosphere was very good," Paco says. Even so, in the 1980s and 1990s vacancies often arose because a lot of staff went to work for construction companies, where they could earn more. "Those of us who stayed did better in the long term because we receive a good pension," says Paco.

Obviously, things changed with the turn of the century. Technology was introduced into the factory, with mechanised processes which reduced the need for workers. There were changes in shareholders, the older employees began to retire and the atmosphere was no longer that of a family business. The last member of the Sánchez Fernández family to leave the factory was Borja, one of Paco's sons, who would work in the summers as a supply forklift operator. "The plant had less work and they just stopped contacting him," says his father.

### The closure was expected

Neither Paco nor his colleagues were surprised by the announcement that the Coca-Cola plant in Malaga was to close. "We smelled this happening a while ago. The company was sending more and more work to Seville. We used to bottle all the products here... Fanta orange and lemon, Sprite... but that all gradually went," says Paco, unable to hide his sadness.

"It was more than just a job: they were my family," he says. His nostalgia is mixed with anger towards the politicians who, he says, didn't do enough to defend the industrial sector in Malaga.

"We have ended up with nothing: Amoniac, Intelhorce, Colema, Bacardi, Donuts..." he says listing previous industries that have closed down in the area. "One day they will lose San Miguel as well," he warns.



## COMMUNITY SPIRIT

### Friends get together to clean up cemetery

#### MALAGA

**LIZ PARRY.** A group of friends of the English Cemetery and members of the congregation of St George's joined forces last Saturday morning for a Working Party, aimed at sprucing up the area around the church and removing an accumulation of leaves and other debris.

While some carted away wheelbarrows full of old flower pots from behind the church, others pruned an overgrown oleander, weeded and piled autumn leaves into sacks, or cleaned up some of the gravestones.

Father Louis Durrant, as well as planning the event and taking part, had organised a tapas and paella lunch for the workers afterwards and said he was very pleased with the success of the joint venture, which had brought together a diverse group of people, all having fun together in a good cause.

The results of the volunteers' work were visible as the cemetery looked markedly tidier and cleaner, so he said the event was likely to become a regular one.

Victoria Ordóñez, the Gardening delegate for the English

Cemetery Foundation also thought the event had been a great success and said: "This sort of initiative helps tremendously in the upkeep of the English Cemetery, which is a remarkable part of our international heritage but needs a lot of maintenance to keep it looking beautiful - and it was a very enjoyable morning (and lunch!). Father Louis is a great asset to our community here and more people have already said they'd like to come next time, so we'll definitely be doing it again."

#### Information and services

The English Cemetery in Malaga is open to visitors from 10am to 3pm every day (10.30am - 3pm at weekends). For general information and tours look for @CemIngMalaga on Facebook or visit <https://cementerioingles-malaga.org/en/>

Anglican services are held at St George's church in the cemetery every Sunday at 11am, and also in Vélez-Málaga at 10.30am.

To volunteer for gardening events phone Louis Durrant on 630 909 131 or send an email to [victoria.ordonez.malaga@gmail.com](mailto:victoria.ordonez.malaga@gmail.com)



Some of the work party volunteers outside St George's. **SUR**

### Beach cleanup team calling for volunteers

#### FUENGIROLA

**J. RHODES.** Community cleanup team, Mi Moana, in collaboration with Diving with Nic and Fuengirola town hall, are hold-

ing their next beach and underwater cleanup this Saturday, 17 October, at Fuengirola's Carvajal beach.

They will be there from 11am to 1pm for anyone wanting to join them.

So far the team has collected nearly 3,000 kilos of rubbish with the help of 502 volunteers.

For further information visit [www.mimoana.com](http://www.mimoana.com) or call 647 216 900.



### Skydivers raise over 2,200 euros for local charities

Rachael English, Laura Leanne Downes, Hannah Conlan and Sharon Anderson all took part in a skydive from Cordoba airport last Saturday to raise money for local charities: Axarquía Animal Rescue, APAA animal rescue and Nerja Solidaria. So far they have raised 2,265 euros via their Go Fund Me page and donations made in establishments in Nerja are due to be counted this weekend.

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# Health minister tells MPs that the Covid situation is "fragile and worrying"

The war of words over restrictions in Madrid continues, as other regions ramp up their own restrictions amid 269 per 100,000 national cases

## SUR

**MALAGA.** The national Health minister, Salvador Illa, appeared in Congreso on Thursday to defend the decision to declare a state of alarm in Madrid last Friday (9 October) in order to enforce restrictions on movement in the capital.

After regional judges overturned previous rules to part-lock-down the city of Madrid and nine large towns around it, the national government had stepped in with a state of alarm decree last Friday to force the region to comply. Central government and regional government are at loggerheads over the extent of measures in the capital to curb high Covid-19 rates.

On the day national data showed 14-day Covid-19 case notification rate per 100,000 inhabitants at 269, above the 250 EU level for drastic action, Illa told MPs that the situation was "fragile, worrying and very changeable". He said that his call to Madrid for "unity" had been useless.

For her part, Madrid's president, Isabel Díaz Ayuso, said that



A waiter by a Barcelona restaurant ahead of new Catalan restrictions. EFE

the stricter rules had been imposed on the region "at gunpoint".

Madrid's case rate was dropping this week, although there was further argument between the two authorities over whether fewer tests were being carried out or not, and so possibly artificially lowering cases numbers.

Antonio Zapatero, regional deputy minister of Health, said on Wednesday, "Madrid will go into next week with a rate of 300 [cases per 100,000 people in 14 days]."

He added that "it's fundamental that we go back to a peaceful and harmonious relationship".

The national government's extra restrictions are based on case rates over 500 in large towns, among other factors. This week there was unrest from opposition politicians that the rule wasn't being enforced consistently in other regions outside Madrid.

On Thursday, it was reported that the Health ministry was working with the regions to clarify more

## CURBS IN MANY AREAS

► **Madrid.** Residents in the capital and nine local towns were ordered by a state of alarm decree to stay in their municipalities except for essential travel.

► **Catalonia.** Among other measures, closure of all bars and restaurants except takeaways, and 30% capacity in shops for two weeks from today. A regional court is deciding on the legality.

► **Northern regions.** Castilla y León has limited home meetings to six in its entire region and some regional cities have tougher '500 cases' curbs. The Asturias region is telling residents to follow voluntary Phase 2 measures to restrict contact.

extensive and consistent guidelines on lockdowns.

More regions of Spain are imposing sweeping, although sometimes only recommended, restrictions on towns, limiting access, and social contact, including in the northern cities of Salamanca, Palencia and León in Castilla y León, and in Asturias. In Catalonia, the regional government has ordered all bars and restaurants to close except takeaways, hoping to stave off a later state of alarm.

## IN BRIEF

### MADRID

#### Air-traffic controllers to pay out 13m over strike

**J. M. CAMARERO.** A court has ruled that 131 Madrid-based air-traffic controllers who went on unannounced strike in 2010 should pay 13 million euros to those affected.

The major early-December strike caused chaos for air passengers across Spain and Europe. The government at the time had to decree the first state of alarm since the restoration of democracy in order to get the country moving again with the help of the military. Varying levels of fines have also been set.

### MADRID

#### UK embassy Facebook advice forums continue

**SUR.** The British Embassy is continuing with a series of live question and answer sessions on its Brits in Spain Facebook page. So far, staff have covered: residency, pensions, benefits, working, driving and healthcare. On 27 October at 1pm they will cover travel, and future sessions will cover education, 'swallows' (non-residents who stay over three months) and residency again. Questions can be posted on the Facebook page a couple of days before each event. Past sessions can be viewed online.

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## Scaled-down Hispanic Day celebrations

The annual military parade to celebrate 12 October, Hispanic Day, was moved this year from Madrid's main Paseo de la Castellana to the front courtyard at the capital's Royal Palace. There were fewer troops attending the event, presided by King Felipe (r), than usual, due to the coronavirus pandemic, but many of the traditional elements went ahead.





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# IMF says government overspend will reach record levels in 2020

A string of economic data and forecasts this week has brought into focus the worrying national outlook because of the Covid-19 pandemic

## SUR

**MALAGA.** According to the International Monetary Fund (IMF), Spanish public finances will be some of the worst affected by the shockwaves of the Covid-19 crisis. The forecast, in the World Economic Outlook report released this week, highlights the perilous economic outlook for the country.

In its predictions, the IMF foresees a record deficit reaching 14.1% of the size of the economy (GDP) this year, meaning a 150-billion-euro overspend.

Never before, except in extreme times such as the Civil War, has there been such a mismatch between government spending and income in Spain. In contrast, the overspend last year was the smallest for ten years, at 2.9% of GDP,



Spending has shot up this year. **SUR**

just below Brussels' ceiling of 3%.

Total government debt will reach 123% of annual national economic output at the end of this year, the IMF believes. It is calling on Spain to implement tax rises for higher-earners and companies to begin to plug the gap.

### Forecast 1.5 million fewer jobs

With the tourist sector and many others suffering for the rest of the

year at least, the government said this week that it estimates that 1.5 million fewer people will be working full-time at the end of 2020 than at the start. In its planning report for the new annual budget, it said that the workforce size will contract by 8.4%. A slow recovery is expected from next year.

### Prices have fallen this year

Prices in Spain were up 0.2% in September compared to a month earlier, government data has also shown. This helped reduce the negative annual inflation rate to -0.4%, from -0.5% in August. Prices in Spain have been lower year on year for the past six months.

### Housing market improvement

In other released data, the amount of home sales fell 12% in August, compared to the same month in 2019. This was positive news, as the drop was less than in July, when it was 32.4%, and the May peak of the pandemic, when there were 53.7% fewer transactions taking place.

## IN BRIEF

### ANDALUCÍA

#### Regional fruit and veg exports on the rise

**SUR.** Exports of fruit and vegetables from the Andalucía region in the January to July period this year reached record levels.

Just over four billion euros of regional produce was sent out of Spain, the highest since official records began in 1995.

Andalucía continues to be the leading region for exports of Spanish fruit and vegetables. Forty per cent of the value of national export sales comes from crops grown locally, according to fresh regional government data.

Behind Andalucía, is the Valencia region on 24% of sales



Strawberries are a top seller. **A. P.**

and Murcia on 19.7%.

The five top-selling Andalusian items landing on foreign tables are, in descending order, peppers, strawberries, tomatoes, cucumbers and raspberries.

### SPAIN

#### Tighter tax-fraud rules back on the table

**SUR.** National government has restarted work on legislation to tighten up on tax fraud. Ministers want to legally stop future governments enacting a tax amnesty, similar to the last one in 2011 when residents with undeclared assets inside and outside

Spain were allowed a reprieve on fines on revealing them to the Spanish taxman for the first time. The scheme from the previous, conservative government was criticised by the opposition at the time and failed to bring in as much revenue as hoped for.

The government also wants to ban companies paying for goods with more than 1,000 euros in cash. The 2,500 cash-sale limit for the general public would stay.

## THE EURO ZONE MARK NAYLER

### In the spotlight



**S**pain's Supreme Court this week maintained the High Court's 2018 decision in the so-called Gürtel case, showing no leniency towards the masterminds of one of the biggest corruption scandals in Spanish history. In upholding the fraud convictions against businessman Francisco Correa and former Popular Party (PP) treasurer Luis Bárcenas, as well as those against 27 others and the civil charge

against the party as a whole, the court reminds us of how corrupt Spain's Conservatives had become. And just as the capital is now at the heated centre of the country's Covid crisis, so it has often been Corruption HQ for one of the least scrupulous parties in Europe.

Madrid's branch of the PP is currently under the spotlight, as regional premier Isabel Díaz Ayuso bickers with Pedro Sánchez about the correct regula-

tions to impose on the capital (thus highlighting the fundamental ideological divide over how to deal with Covid: devolved powers and a piecemeal approach vs blanket, centralised decision-making). But when the Gürtel sentences were handed down in April 2018, the Spanish capital's PP leadership was under scrutiny for very different reasons - namely, corruption and theft.

Facing apparently well-founded accusations that she had faked her master's degree from King Juan Carlos University (whose royal namesake is now also being investigated for fraud), then-Madrid premier Cristina Cifuentes was under intense pressure to resign. Cifuentes refused, but finally stepped down a few weeks later,

when the release of CCTV footage from 2011 appeared to show the PP star stealing from a supermarket. At the same time, the legitimacy of the qualifications claimed by the party's current leader, Pablo Casado, were also being questioned, although these inquiries came to nothing.

Cifuentes' predecessor and fellow PP veteran Esperanza Aguirre (Madrid premier from 2003 to 2012) had also resigned as the party's Madrid chief in February 2016, days after its regional HQ was raided by police in connection with the so-called Púnica scandal. Aguirre hung on to her secondary position as the party's spokeswoman in the city council; but she was forced to leave that post just over a year later

too, when her former second-in-command and successor as Madrid president, Ignacio González, was arrested in connection with yet another fraud case. This one was dubbed Lezo, and concerned the alleged misuse of public funds allocated to the Canal Isabel II water company.

All of which shows just how bad things have become within the PP, especially in its Madrid division. Once the Covid storm has passed, one of Ayuso's most pressing tasks will be to make a clean break with the party's previous leaderships in the capital, the last two of which (at least) have presided over systematic, deep-set corruption. That's assuming, of course, that no fresh scandals come along in the meantime.

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The Nightingale Hospital created for the first wave of the pandemic. **SUR**

## Steady rise in Covid-19 cases to the highest number ever in Gibraltar

### GIBRALTAR

**DEBBIE BARTLETT.** The number of active coronavirus cases in Gibraltar has risen to a record level in recent days, reaching a total of 88 on Thursday, an increase of ten cases in 24 hours. The numbers may still be low, even for a population of around 34,000, but a few weeks ago there were no cases at all for several days and people began to hope that the crisis was over.

Many of those who have tested positive in Gibraltar have been as-

ymptomatic, and there have been no deaths since the pandemic started.

The health authorities on the Rock have one of the highest ratios of testing per population, with 55,677 tests having been carried out so far. This accounts to some extent to the rise in active cases, but it also seems to be the case that Gibraltar, like many other countries in Europe, is seeing a 'second wave' of the virus and people are urged to follow the precautionary advice to the letter.

## Gibraltar International Drama Festival 2021 dates announced

### CULTURE

**D. B.** The date of the 2021 Gibraltar International Drama Festival has just been announced: it will take place at the Ince's Hall Theatre between Monday 15 and Saturday 20 March.

The Festival is a competition and is open to any drama group. There will be a main prize with a trophy of £1,000 for the Best Play, and a dditional awards include: Best Actor, Best Actress and Best Director, among others. Non-competitive entries will also be accepted.

A small grant will be paid to each group entering the Festival, to help with expenses on props, costumes, etc.

Should Covid not allow for audiences or for the GODA Adjudicator to travel from the UK, the GCS can confirm that the festival will continue as an online and live streamed event.

Entry forms are available by emailing: [info@culture.gi](mailto:info@culture.gi) or can be downloaded from [www.culture.gi](http://www.culture.gi).

### IN BRIEF



Fabian Picardo. **SUR**

### BREXIT

## Talks continue in Gibraltar and Spain

**D. B.** Further talks have been taking place this week about Gibraltar's future relationship with the European Union.

On Wednesday the meeting between chief minister Fabian Picardo, deputy chief minister Dr Joseph Garcia and officials from Gibraltar, and representatives of the UK and Spain met in Gibraltar, and on Thursday they continued the discussions on the other side of the border in the Campo de Gibraltar in Spain.

### ART

## Being With Trees exhibition announced

**D. B.** Gibraltar Cultural Services is joining forces with Lloyds Art Group to feature the exhibition Being With Trees, a contemporary response to trees by artists who live in urban and rural environments. It will be held at the Gustavo Bacarissas Gallery and celebrates the groups' shared love of trees and the vital role they can play in our lives, in terms of well-being, identity sociability, and understanding of ecology and climatic change.

### FINANCE

## Warning about possible clone company

**D.B.** The Gibraltar Financial Services Commission is warning the public about a website purporting to be that of the genuine registered company, Elonex Management Limited. This may be a clone company which aims to convince people that they work for a company legally registered within Gibraltar. The website no longer seems to be active, but the GFSC believes the fraudsters may still be attempting to solicit business from consumers.

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**"We hope to end this year without closing any service, but we don't know about next year"**

Dr Martín Roselló, outside Cudeca in Arroyo de la Miel. FRANCIS SILVA

## Marisa Martín Roselló Chief Executive and Medical Director of Cudeca

The Covid crisis has halved the number of volunteers and caused a large financial deficit, which is worrying this foundation that cares for terminally ill patients

ANA PÉREZ-BRYAN



MALAGA. The name Cudeca means 'Cuidados del cancer' (Cancer Care), and the charity has been true to its name for nearly thirty years now. Through her work, chief executive and medical director Marisa Martín Roselló, has seen the effects of suffering and death, but she could never have imagined the effect of the pandemic on the foundation set up by Joan Hunt: the army of volunteers who support the project have fallen in number by half, its finances - traditionally based on fundraising events and charity shops - have been seriously affected, and after several healthy years there is now a deficit of around two million euros. Cudeca

looked after 1,500 patients and relatives in 2019 and hundreds more this year. Dr Martín Roselló doesn't hide her concern: "We are very worried," she says.

**-Are things that serious?**

-Yes, not in terms of the services we provide, which for the moment we are maintaining, but the financial situation. Our funding is strongly dependent on our relationship with people, in the community that supports us. In fact, our main source of income is from the 23 Cudeca charity shops, which are manned by 900 volunteers. They had to close completely during the lockdown, but now that we are trying to get back to normal many of our volunteers are in the high-risk groups, because most of them are elderly ladies.

**-To what extent are they affected?**

-Well, before the lockdown we had 900 volunteers and now we are down to 300. Imagine the chaos! We have managed to get some more through social media campaigns, but we still need people who can volunteer for four hours a week, mornings or afternoons, to keep the shops open.

**-How long do you think you can**

**go on?**

-I'll explain it in numbers, because I think that makes it easier to understand. During the lockdown we summed up the damage, with the shops closed, and calculated that we have a deficit of around two million euros. And that is half of our annual budget of four million. We have made some adjustments and I would say an optimistic figure is 800,000 euros. And I say optimistic because I don't want to even think about the pessimistic aspect.

**-And can you still provide your services in this situation?**

-Yes we are, all of them. The only thing we have had to close is the day unit because with the pandemic you can't have volunteers in centres like ours. However, the six home-help teams are working and the ward with nine beds has continued to operate as normal. I hope we can get to the end of the year without having to close any service, but we just don't know about next year.

**-The health system benefits from the palliative care services provided by Cudeca, and they wouldn't exist otherwise. Do you feel supported by the**

**administrations?**

-Yes, we have had meetings, we feel the support is there and we are negotiating for improvements for next year. And I would also like to mention the town halls: their grants have continued even in such a difficult year, and have even increased. There are a lot of people in need and we, involved as we are in the needs of the community, see the situation every day. When someone has nothing to eat, for example, I understand that that takes priority. That's why we are trying to ride out the storm as best we can.

**-It's only three years since Cudeca celebrated its silver anniversary. You must wonder how things can have changed so much and in such a short time?**

-I think about that a lot. When we sit down to look at the accounts and see where we were in 2019, with a surplus... but we have been going for 28 years and we can see the support we provide, what our mission is. And I'm very proud of that (she becomes emotional). Your question refers to how life changes. That is exactly what happens to patients with cancer and their fami-

lies. Suddenly the world stops and everything changes. That's why, when I'm feeling low, I walk around and see the patients and it boosts me to see what we are doing well.

**-You treat patients in the final stage of their lives. Do you think we focus too much on a cure and not enough on support for people when there is no solution?**

-Yes, and that applies to society as a whole. We turn our backs on death and even today, in the 21st century, see it as taboo. That often makes it difficult even for professionals to tackle the situation directly. I think we have technified health a great deal, and more people than necessary die in hospitals, but sometimes the security of having that last resource in a hospital is what we look for.

**-Do you think that with suitable resources all of us could hope to be able to die at home?**

-Not necessarily. When we started with palliative care people used to say that patients had to die at home because that's where they want to be, but sometimes it isn't possible. For example, last weekend we attended to a family whose relative wanted to die at home but because of his circumstances and symptoms it was very complicated. Sometimes we offer them an intermediate option, because with the unit we have at Cudeca they can have the serenity of being alone with their families and the love that they need at the end.

**-It was recently World Palliative Care Day, but 50% of terminally ill patients don't receive such care and 75% die with 'emotional pain'. It seems there is still a long way to go.**

-Yes, but also when you talk to someone about how they want to die we all have an opinion. World Days like this are very necessary because they raise awareness. Also the administrations and health authorities need to realise that investing in palliative care saves money and improves quality, because nearly everyone is going to have an illness one day which would benefit from this care. Not just specialist teams, either; all health care professionals should be properly trained. They should all know how to control people's pain.

**-What is the first help you can give someone who has just found out that their illness is terminal?**

-We always try to find out what their symptoms and needs are. It's important that the pain is controlled so we can build on other things, for example emotional support, what worries you about your family, maybe you want to sort out some conflict with someone... if you don't control the physical it's difficult to focus on the rest.

**-Does palliative care generally work well in the Spanish health system?**



## HER WORDS

CURE VERSUS SUPPORT FOR PATIENTS

**“We turn our backs on death and even today, in the 21st century, see it as taboo”**

WORLD DAY

**“There is a long way to go for palliative care, but we all have an opinion about how we want to die”**

EUTHANASIA LAW

**“We are committed to preserving life to the end and giving patients the dignity they need”**

—There was a very important moment in 2010, with the announcement of a national strategy to increase palliative care with specialised teams, training... but since then no money has been invested in it. And during that time the number of patients who request this assistance at the end of their lives has doubled.

**—What’s your opinion on the debate about the Euthanasia Law?**

—Most of us who work in palliative care have learned to respect people’s own decisions. I can understand that a patient at a given moment decides that is how they want to end their life, but they tend to ask for that when they are feeling very desperate.

**—Do you think that maybe before regulating euthanasia there should be a Law of Palliative Care?**

—All of us who work in this field say that. We are committed to preserving life to the end and giving people the dignity and the quality they need. Taking life away just like that, and nothing more, isn’t what we want to do. Having said that, if you offer a patient all these options and in the end that’s what they want, I have to respect it. What is true, though, is that a patient deserves every effort to be made to avoid things getting to that point, because palliative care also provides dignity in cases of irreversible suffering.

# Using World Palliative Care Day to raise awareness of comfort and care at end of life

To mark the occasion, Cudeca installed a symbolic bed in the hospice and at two Malaga museums

TONY BRYANT



BENALMÁDENA. The Cudeca Foundation participated in World Palliative Care Day last Saturday, and, as in the rest of the world, campaigns were held to spread this year’s message – My Care, My Comfort.

World Hospice and Palliative Care Day (held on the second Saturday of October) is a unified day of action to raise awareness and understanding of the medical, social, practical and spiritual needs of the families and patients living with a life-limiting illness.

To mark the occasion, Cudeca installed symbolic beds in the hospice in Benalmádena, and at the Carmen Thyssen and the Automobile and Fashion Museums in Malaga. Likewise, Malaga city hall illuminated its headquarters in green to commemorate the day.

The beds were accompanied by a chair, a pair of slippers and the doctor’s clogs, symbolising the importance of the patient, family member, carer and health professionals.

Cudeca carer, Rafael Gómez said, “This day serves to give visibility to palliative care. This year’s campaign carries the motto My Care My Comfort, and that is the exact purpose for which all of the team at Cudeca strive to achieve:

## Appeal launched for new volunteers

Cudeca has launched a new appeal to attract volunteers to work in its shops and outlets. The charity has struggled to staff its 23 second-hand shops since reopening after the state of alarm. The new campaign is aimed at the younger generation, although, as a spokesperson for the charity pointed out, “We need volunteers of all ages, but we appreciate that some of our older volunteers are still a little worried about returning.”

Cudeca recently signed an agreement with Mijas town hall to open a new shop in La Cala next month. Volunteers who can offer four hours a week to help in the shop are needed.



One of the beds installed at the Carmen Thyssen Museum. T. BRYANT

to bring greater well-being to our patients and their loved ones.”

Mayor of Benalmádena Víctor Navas, who attended the inauguration of the campaign, added, “Many friends, neighbours and even some family members have passed through this palliative care centre. We have to work to achieve a more humane, empathetic and just health system for all.”

It is estimated that three out of four people will need palliative care at some point, and this type of care has been shown to reduce the suffering of the patient and their loved ones throughout the final process of the illness and also during the period of mourning.

Of the 228,000 people who die annually in need of palliative care in Spain, more than 35 per cent do so without access to it.



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LETTERS  
TO THE EDITOR

## In our own world

The salesperson at the till of the shop indicated at least three times to the woman at the front of the queue of customers that she could come forward as it was her turn to pay for her purchases. However she stayed where she was, absorbed by her mobile phone and unaware of anything else going on around her.

Seeing the distraction, the assistant beckoned to the next person in the queue to come forward.

This caused the sudden return to the real world of the customer who until then had been stuck in her own.

And she reacted as if she had been the victim of discrimination or an unacceptable lack of professionalism, expressing her indignation and reprimanding the assistant for her initiative.

Is it reasonable behaviour to ignore everybody else and demand that others give up their rights to satisfy our interests? **ALEJANDRO PRIETO**

## Pride?

Every year on 12 October [Hispanic Day, the day Columbus set foot in the Americas] we celebrate the first contact of Spain with America with great exaltation. But the way in which we focus the celebration I think is inappropriate.

Every autumn we insult an immense number of people who were tormented in the most perverse manner,

and their descendants. We should not ignore their pain and suffering, and certainly not glorify it! I think it's bad to celebrate what was the start of a barbaric phenomenon - colonisation.

Many would say that that forms part of the past, I agree, it does. But I think instead of applauding it, we must remember it and condemn it.

**FERRÁN GONZÁLEZ**

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## Clothes encounters of the worst kind

**Z**ikes! It's that time again. It happens once every couple of years and brings me out in a cold sweat at the very thought but it can, I'm afraid, be put off no longer. I need to buy some new clothes. Things came to a head this week as I rifled through a pile of T-shirts to get ready for work. The first four I picked up had some serious holes in them and the next two looked like remnants from the dog days of the last millennium; in fact they quite possibly were.

Ok, experience has taught me that a battle plan can minimise the trauma. Decide what you need before you leave the house, don't visit more than two different shops and buy in bulk so it'll be at least another two years before your senses are mercilessly assailed by a neon light/reggaeton combination

that any military unit in the world would be proud to utilise to extract vital information from enemy soldiers.

Four pairs of trousers, ten T-shirts, four shirts, a couple jumpers and a jacket. With my list duly noted in my head, I girded my loins, opened the front door and stepped purposefully into the early autumnal evening.

First stop, Cudeca where I was able to knock the jumpers, jacket and two of the shirts off my list. What a marvel that place is and no reggaeton to boot.

Now for the hard bit. I legged it directly to the nearest clothes shop, headed for the blokes' trouser section on the 113th floor, grabbed a couple of pairs of keks and turned towards the changing rooms. Disaster. They were cordoned off with red tape. I asked the girl working there

if I was allowed to try the trousers on.

"No, sorry."

"But I might look ridiculous in them."

She smiled softly as if to say "that doesn't seem to have worried you when you got dressed this morning", and wandered off to fold some shirts.

I thought about all those people who buy clothes on the internet only to find that they look more like George Roper than George Clooney in their new attire in spite of the publicity photos having convinced them otherwise at the point of purchase. No, sorry, this was a step too far, the trousers would have to wait.

Anyway, you can barely see the holes in the ones I'm wearing, which means they've got at least another six months in them.

## IDÍGORAS



**SUR** in English

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THE BOTTOM LINE  
RACHEL HAYNES

## Back to the photos

**E**very time I look at a photograph, any photograph - in the newspaper, on the internet, in my own albums, the same thoughts cross my mind. Look how close we all were together; look at that big group all squashed into the frame; look how no one's wearing a face mask.

We might not be able to put an exact date on the photos we see - this century, last century, pre-war, post-war, dictatorship, democracy - but we know immediately that the vast majority are pre-Covid.

Now, so used to seeing everyone wear-

ing masks and to avoiding any contact or proximity, images of friends walking arm in arm, colleagues huddled around a computer screen or youngsters posing in the crowd at a concert, make one thing clear: those were the days before coronavirus.

And in the future (hopefully, not too distant), we will look back at photos from this year, with the ever-present masks and distancing, and know immediately they were taken during the "Covid era".

Now the new term has started, seeing children going to school in the morning as

their parents go to work or the gym gives us a sense of normality, although things are far from normal.

Curfews in Paris, bars closed in Barcelona and partial lockdown in Madrid, among many other preventative restrictions brought in around the world, prove that these daily routines are once again in danger.

We'll still need a few more pages in our Covid-19 photo album yet.

Meanwhile though we can be reassured that some things are carrying on as normal pre- and post-Covid.

Even a global pandemic putting the population's health in danger has not been able to interfere with the political squabbling among Spain's political elite.

The last few weeks have brought us the usual arguments that have been around for decades and are unlikely to disappear in the foreseeable future.

The monarchy and Catalonia are themes

that bounce back and any "debate" is unlikely to convince any of the sides of anything other than their own views.

Corruption has also bounced back this week in the form of the confirmation of the Gürtel sentences, and has given rise to further exchanges of insults between parties on the right and left, both accusing the other of being more corrupt.

But it's when the bickering concerns the health, the freedom of movement and the livelihoods of the general public that it becomes difficult to tolerate.

Experts do not always agree, of course, but to see our leaders making decisions apparently based on the advice that best suits their political ideology is frightening.

Perhaps they don't mind posing for photographs in their masks and not having to shake hands, but we'd like to see them all working together so we can take that big family photo as soon as possible.



# International Jazz Festival makes its return to Malaga

The line-up has been announced for the 34th edition of the festival which will take place from 6 to 11 November

## SUR

MALAGA. The Teatro Cervantes in Malaga city will next month once again be the venue for the International Jazz Festival, this year celebrating its 34th edition.

Tickets for the six shows that make up the festival, which will run from 6 to 11 November, have just gone on sale for between 24 and 30 euros each, with discounts of 25 per cent if tickets are purchased for all six concerts, 20 per cent for five and 15 per cent for four.

A journey around the world set to the backdrop of West Indian rhythms gets the festival under way on Friday 6 November. Young drummer Michael Olivera leads the Cuban Jazz Syndicate, a sextet that has won several awards

## MALAGA JAZZ FESTIVAL

► **The Cuban Jazz Syndicate.** 6 November. All 8pm.

► **Chano Domínguez y Diego Amador.** 7 November.

► **Kyle Eastwood.** 8 November.

► **Daniel Amat / Francis Posé Trío.** 9 November.

► **Enrique Oliver.** 10 November.

► **Robin McKelle.** 11 November.

and been nominated for a Latin Grammy.

This is followed the next day by the fusion with flamenco roots of pianist Chano Domínguez, in tandem with multi-instrumentalist and singer Diego Amador, while another highlight will be when the best jazz film soundtracks are brought together by composer and double bassist Kyle Eastwood, son of Clint, on 8 November.



Cuban Jazz Syndicate. SUR



Chano Domínguez. ANA ZARAGOZA



Diego Amador. RUBÉN MARTÍN



Kyle Eastwood. JÉRÔME BONNET



Robin McKelle. FRANK BULLITT

## La Cala de Mijas Lions take to the catwalk in support of local causes

### MIJAS

T. B. La Cala de Mijas Lions' Alzheimer's and Dementia Support Group hosted its Mask Parade and Fashion Show in Mijas last week. Organised by members, volunteers and friends, the event was attended by over 100 people and raised more than 2,600 euros for local causes. Sixteen models strutted along the catwalk showcasing fashion that included designer labels like Pierre Cardin and Louis Vuitton. The event included a competition for the most inventive face mask, which was won by a festive design created by Patricia Reynolds.



Winner Patricia Reynolds (c). SUR



## Obituary

# Michael Antony Bartram

British diplomat who ended his career in his beloved Malaga, a city he dedicated so much both professionally and personally since his arrival in 1990 and where he now peacefully rests.

Michael was born in Southend-on-Sea, England, on 8 April 1937 and after finishing school moved to London and joined the Foreign Office where he was posted to Moscow. On this assignment it was where he was to meet his wife, Raili, on a side trip to Helsinki in 1965.

Subsequent postings took Michael to Tokyo, Guatemala, Chicago, Anguilla, Pakistan, Cuba and lastly to Malaga as British Consul.

Of all of Michael's postings, Malaga was the one city that left a lifelong impression on him. As British Consul from 1990-2000

he dedicated much time and energy to the local British community, leaving a lasting impact on everyone he met with his generosity and sense of humour.

Michael and Raili moved back to the UK permanently in 2005 to be closer to their son, Matthew, who had moved back to the UK from Mexico.

The city of Malaga gave him such joy that he eventually moved back, albeit on a temporary basis, in 2013 splitting his time between the UK and Malaga.

Shortly after arriving in Malaga for an extended stay in October with his family, Michael fell ill with a pre-existing condition and passed away on 22 September 2020.

He is survived by his wife Raili, son Matthew and daughter-in-law Amy.

Michael's funeral service will be held at  
**Saint George's Church in Malaga at 5pm**  
**on Monday 19 October 2020**  
and afterwards he will be buried at  
the adjoining English Cemetery.

For those who wish, memorials may be made to the English Cemetery in Malaga which can be made on their website,  
<https://cementerioinglesmalaga.org/campaigns/donaciones/>



## IN THE FRAME

# Following in the hoofprints of Penelope Chetwode

**Adventure.** The gift of a book for her 15th birthday led Karen Considine to explore Andalucía on horseback and become a successful author

DEBBIE BARTLETT



In 1961, Penelope Chetwode travelled alone and on horseback along disused tracks and paths in the wild, rugged and very primitive Andalusian countryside. Then she wrote a book about her experience, *Two Middle Aged Ladies in Andalusia*. Little did she know that the book would inspire a 15-year-old girl to do exactly the same journey many years later, and neither could Karen Considine's mother have imagined such a thing as she wrapped it for her daughter's birthday gift. She had read it herself and bought Karen her own copy. "I loved it. You will enjoy it," she said.

Horses were already an important part of life for this teenager, growing up in Ireland. "We all rode, and we hunted, so I knew horses," she says. A sense of exploring also contributed to her later adventure: "I love it. Even when I was small, I used to go exploring and then make maps."

Karen's working life always involved horses, and she enjoyed her travels with a polo team in Spain and South America, before moving to

Gaucín in 2007. She ran a horse trekking business in the Serranía de Ronda for 12 years before retiring, and knows the area extremely well. In 2019, she decided to fulfil her dream of following in Penelope Chetwode's footsteps, and wanted to recreate her journey exactly. However, she took two horses instead of one.

"When Penelope did it, things were different. In those days there were inns where she could stay and places for her horse. There were blacksmiths. Rural life has changed now. When I went, I had to take a pack pony with me to carry food and horseshoes. Still, I always managed to find somewhere for the horses overnight," she explains.

Karen says this trip, which took 29 days, was a real thrill for her. "Penelope was very descriptive and extremely observant. She wrote everything down in great detail. I wanted to ride the exact tracks and paths that she did, so I did a lot of research before setting off. There were a few problems, of course. Some of those tiny tracks have almost disappeared and some are wide



Karen, never happier than when on horseback. SUR

roads now, but when that happened I was usually able to find a path that shadowed them."

Another aspect of this trip which Karen loved was meeting people who remembered Penelope. "In one of the first villages she stopped at, where there are cave dwellings, she had taken a photo through a doorway of some boys playing dominoes. I took a copy of that photo with me, and while I was there I walked around and in a bar I could see some elderly men playing dominoes. I went in and showed them the photo and, sure enough, one of them looked at it, pointed at one of the boys and said 'that's me!'"

A lady in her nineties also remembered Penelope, describing her as very elegant, and wonderful. "I envied her, I wished I could do what she

**"Rural Spain was different when Penelope did her trip. I had to take a pack pony with me to carry food and horseshoes"**

was doing," she told Karen.

This all sounds idyllic, but of course the trip wasn't always easy. "April 2019 was the wettest on record. The weather was absolutely awful, there was snow, driving rain... one day visibility was so bad that I decided I couldn't possibly go on. I turned to go back but that was impossible because I couldn't see a thing. I was so cold, and worried about hypothermia, but then I suddenly came across a little chapel. I think because it was Easter

they must have lit 500 candles inside, so it was warm. I stayed in there for a while and dried my clothes," she says.

Karen wrote her book, *Penelope's Route: A Horseback Journey in Andalusia*, in the summer of 2019 and it has received excellent reviews. She is thrilled that thanks to crowdfunding and a generous private donation she has had it translated into Spanish and plans to publish it under the name 'La Ruta de Penelope'. Her plan is to give a copy to the people who helped her along the way.

Karen's book costs 9.99 euros in Spain, plus postage, and can be purchased by emailing her at [karengaucin@gmail.com](mailto:karengaucin@gmail.com). For readers in the UK, she suggests ordering from Troubador or a local bookshop. "They need our support," she says.

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# The end of an era for Kitty Harri's sculpture garden

The property, in Jete, Granada, has welcomed groups of visitors for the last six years and hosted a series of Sunday concerts

JENNIE RHODES

**JETE.** After six and a half years open to the public, the owners of the much-loved Kitty Harri's Sculpture Garden in Jete, Granada, have announced that they have sold the property and are in the process of relocating to La Herradura.

The garden, home to around 150 sculptures by Kitty and other artists, also hosted open Sundays with concerts, which were a fixture in the calendar for many.

Kitty and her musician partner, Nick Tasker, explained that the move came about through a combination of the coronavirus pandemic and an unexpected, but serious offer to buy the place in Jete, although they confess that they had already begun to moot the idea. "Before coronavirus we had al-

ready started to think about the future. Partly because of the sheer magnitude of the garden and partly because of the advancing years; we wanted to be a bit closer to a town and be able to really focus on the things that we love, which are art and music," Nick explained.

Maintenance of the garden depended on a succession of volunteers, who came through programmes such as Workaway and HelpX. However, when the pandemic hit, visitors stopped coming. "With few visitors to the garden, of course thanks to Covid, we can't justify having the volunteers that we usually have here, almost full time."

## A serious offer

With this already in mind, when a German family visiting the garden in August made an offer, the couple said that they were "galvanised into moving". Kitty admitted that she took the offer "with a pinch of salt" at first, but when the family put down a hefty deposit they knew they had found serious buyers.



Kitty Harri and Nick Tasker at the sculpture garden in Jete

Kitty and Nick were lucky enough to find the ideal house for their downsized art and music plans almost immediately and one which would still accommodate Nick's pianos and hand-built harpsichord.

With the new owners of the Jete house unable to move until next March, Nick and Kitty have plenty of time to move themselves, the sculptures they have chosen to take with them and the instruments. In the mean time they say that the Jete garden can still be visited by appointment only.

Kitty and Nick will be taking just 30 of the sculptures currently on display. "The new garden is about a quarter of the size and some of the installations in Jete are fixed, so they will have to stay there," Kitty told SUR in English.

From spring 2021 the new house and garden in Punta de la Mona, in La Herradura, should be ready and Nick and Kitty say that while they have no plans to run it like the original sculpture garden, they will still invite people to see the sculptures by appointment only.

Nick is also keen to meet more classical musicians in the area and the couple hope to continue to have smaller, private chamber concerts in their new home.

For further information and to make enquiries about visiting the sculpture garden in Jete visit [www.kittyharri.com](http://www.kittyharri.com).

PET CARE  
PETER HARRISON

## Garbage control

Animals can easily be injured when trying to reach leftover food in a blown-over bin



Inspecting the contents of dustbins is not a habit of mine but recent high winds leave me no option. When the wind topples unstable bins, the scattered contents make easy pickings for hungry homeless animals. Many local authorities have replaced old bins with more stable ones, or have surrounded the existing bins with attractive retaining walls; this has certainly helped but not really answered the problem.

I was once talking in Tehran with four Americans who specialised in survival techniques and I jokingly commented that they had chosen the right hotel to practise their art as the food was dreadful.

Together we sought an alternative hotel and we fell into conversation over a decent shared meal.

They told me how people who are truly starving will eat anything and the best survival plan is to eat food normally

unacceptable before eating normal food and went on to explain why.

But what about pets? I asked. Wild animals have a greater resistance to eating poor food than pets and abandoned pets because these are accustomed to prepared pet food; but some items deposited in bins are harmful to all.

I'm sure nobody would intentionally cause pain and suffering to an innocent animal, but the spread of rubbish around our toppled bin made this likely.

Broken glass, pieces of iron and wire, open tins and other harmful items... I recall we once rescued an abandoned dog with a severe gash across her muzzle which had been probably caused when she struggled in desperation with an opened can which had a morsel of food in it.

Think of animals desperate for food when you next take your rubbish out to the bins.



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DENISE BUSH

GARDENING

# Stauntonia hexaphylla

The genus Stauntonia, commonly called the sausage vine because of the shape of its fruits, is closely related to Akebia (the chocolate vine) and both are members of the strangely named Lardizabalaceae family. Stauntonia hexaphylla is native to Japan, Korea, Myanmar and Taiwan where it is found growing in thickets and in woodland. The egg-shaped,

purple fruit is grown commercially in Asia where it is prized for its sweet honey flavour and used raw or cooked in many dishes. The evergreen, twining climber has woody stems and is a vigorous grower, pulling itself up on any nearby

support. It can reach a height of around eight to 12 metres. It will need gentle pruning twice a year, in summer and spring, to keep it in check. The leaves are palmate and consist of three to seven leathery leaflets, while the scented pale pink, bell-shaped flowers form on axillary racemes. They are monoecious which means that both male and female flowers grow on the same plant. The flowers are pollinated by insects but fruit production can be boosted by hand pollinating the flowers.

Stauntonia hexaphylla is not fussy about soil as long as it is free draining but is not drought or frost resistant. In cold winters it may die back to the ground but if the base is covered with an adequate layer of mulch, new shoots should appear in spring. If growing in a container, it is probably best to move the pot into a sheltered spot or inside during the winter in inland areas.

Propagation is by seed (which can take up to 18 months to germinate) or by semi-hardwood cuttings.

The roots, stems and fruit are believed to be antirheumatic and diuretic.

Stauntonia is named after Sir George Staunton who collected a specimen when he was in China as Secretary to the British diplomatic and trade mission to the Chinese Imperial Court in 1793.



Stauntonia hexaphylla and fruit (insert). WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

READERS' PHOTOS



FATI HARIRI FERNANDEZ MEDINA

## Ginger lillies

Fati Hariri Fernandez Medina sent in this photo of some fragrant ginger lillies that are flowering on her terrace.



MICHAEL CLAYTON

## Angel's trumpet


This photo of a beautiful Brugmansia suaveolens, common name angel's trumpet, was sent in by Michael Clayton in Marbella.

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) or Twitter (@SUR\_English).



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WHAT HAPPENED TODAY?

16 OCTOBER 912

Abd al-Rahman III became emir of Cordoba

The reign of Umayyad prince Abd al-Rahman III as emir and caliph is remembered as a golden age of Muslim Spain

The Umayyad prince Abd al-Rahman III became the eighth Emir of Cordoba on 16 October 912. In 929 he founded the Caliphate of Cordoba and proclaimed himself caliph. His reign is remembered as a golden age of Muslim Spain.

Abd al-Rahman was born at the Umayyad royal court in Cordoba in 890. He was fair-skinned, blond and had blue eyes because of his Arab and Hispano-Basque ancestry. His mother was Muzna, a Christian concubine, possibly from the Pyrenean region. Moreover, the grandmother of his father was the Basque princess Onneca Fortúnez from the

Kingdom of Pamplona, later known as the Kingdom of Navarre. According to legend Abd al-Rahman tried to look more like a typical Arab Umayyad and even dyed his beard black.

At the same time, Abd al-Rahman kept the peace with the northern Christian kingdoms, and during the first 20 years of his rule, he avoided military action against Asturias and the Kingdom of Navarre.

Abd al-Rahman spent his youth in his mother's harem where his sister was put in charge of his education. He was considered a great humanist and patronised the arts, encouraging craftsmen and architects. In Cordoba he built new mosques and even expanded the city's library, which became the most important intellectual centre of Western Europe.

His reign over Al-Andalus was marked by religious tolerance.



A scene from a painting by Dionis Baixeras showing Jewish doctor Hasdai ibn Shaprut at the court of Abd al-Rahman III. SUR

Muslims, Christians and Jews lived in harmony. Non-Muslims were treated fairly and employed in some of the highest positions in the Umayyad administration. Hasdai ibn Shaprut, a Jew from Jaén, was personal secretary and doctor to Abd al-Rahman. In his struggle for fairness, the caliph even executed one of his sons for conspiring against him in 949.

When Abd al-Rahman III ascended to the throne, he recognised the problems of decentralised Umayyad rule. He made Cordoba a powerful centre and even-

tually declared the caliphate. As caliph, Abd al-Rahman ordered a fortified palace-city to be built as a symbol of his power a few kilometres from Cordoba. The huge palace, Madinat az-Zahra (today Medina Azahara), was modelled after the old Umayyad palace in Damascus, and named after his favourite wife.

In his later years Abd al-Rahman was said to have openly kept a male harem as well as a female one. It is said that Eastern European slaves, known as Saqaliba, were members of his harem, or

LANGUAGE FOOTNOTE

Califato	Caliphate
Edad de Oro	Golden Age
Reinar	To reign
Princesa	Princess
Leyenda	Legend
Artesano	Craftsman
Arquitecto	Architect
Mezquita	Mosque
Palacio	Palace
Biblioteca	Library
Tolerancia	Tolerance
Musulmán	Muslim
Judío	Jew
Cristiano	Christian
Harén	Harem
Dinastía	Dynasty
Conspiración	Conspiracy
Pacífico	Peaceful
Octavo	Eighth

even eunuchs. In total over 3,000 European eunuchs served Abd al-Rahman as both an elite guard and protectors of his harem.

During the reign of Abd al-Rahman III, the caliphate of Cordoba became more profitable by increasing public revenue. After his death, in 961, the state existed until 1031.

**Bilingual crossword inside back page**

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## THE WORLD ON YOUR DOORSTEP

# Down Under... in Spain

**Australia.** Kangaroos and emus, a surfers' paradise, crocodiles and shark meat... all things Australian, but without the long haul

You couldn't get much further away, but Spain and Australia have numerous things in common. In this instalment of The World on your Doorstep we discover how you can feel Down Under without leaving this country.

## Somewhere to stay Among the kangaroos

They say no image of outback Australia is complete without a mob of kangaroos hopping across the horizon. That typical scene can be found in Andalucía - in Cortijo Rural Las Aves, located not far from Jimena de la Frontera. This wonderful rural complex in Cadiz province covers more than 17 hectares where a number of kangaroos run, hop and swim in the lakes. The farmer, Francisco, has more than 50 species of animals living in semi-liberty. There are two country houses on the estate. The farmhouse has three bedrooms, two bathrooms and lounge with fireplace. Another smaller bungalow even has a bathroom with hydromassage. In an atmosphere of complete privacy visitors enjoy gardens, a swimming pool, a play park and a barbecue spot.

Besides the kangaroo, the Australian coat of arms features the emu - endemic to the smallest continent. Heading from Jimena de la Frontera in a westward direction you can reach another 'Frontera'. In the municipality of Arcos de la Frontera there is Casa Rural La Zalea. In the past it got its fame due to an emu farm. Today the owner José keeps only a couple of emus as a reminder. The doors of his huge house are open to guests who want to spend a few days in an idyllic atmosphere with a touch of Australia.

## The atmosphere Sydney in Spain

The Sydney Opera House is one of Australia's most iconic buildings. The impressive sails of the building depict the atmosphere of the biggest city of Australia. In the third-largest city of Spain - Valencia - you might get a feeling of déjà vu when you visit the City of Arts and Sciences. One

of the futuristic buildings with 'wings' - Palau de les Arts Reina Sofia - looks impressive and, with its incline above the water surface resembles the architectural masterpiece of Sydney. Both buildings have one thing more in common. The magnificent building in Valencia also serves as an opera house.

The Sydney Opera House was designed by the Danish architect Jørn Utzon. He did not design a public building in Spain, but he does have his own corner this country.

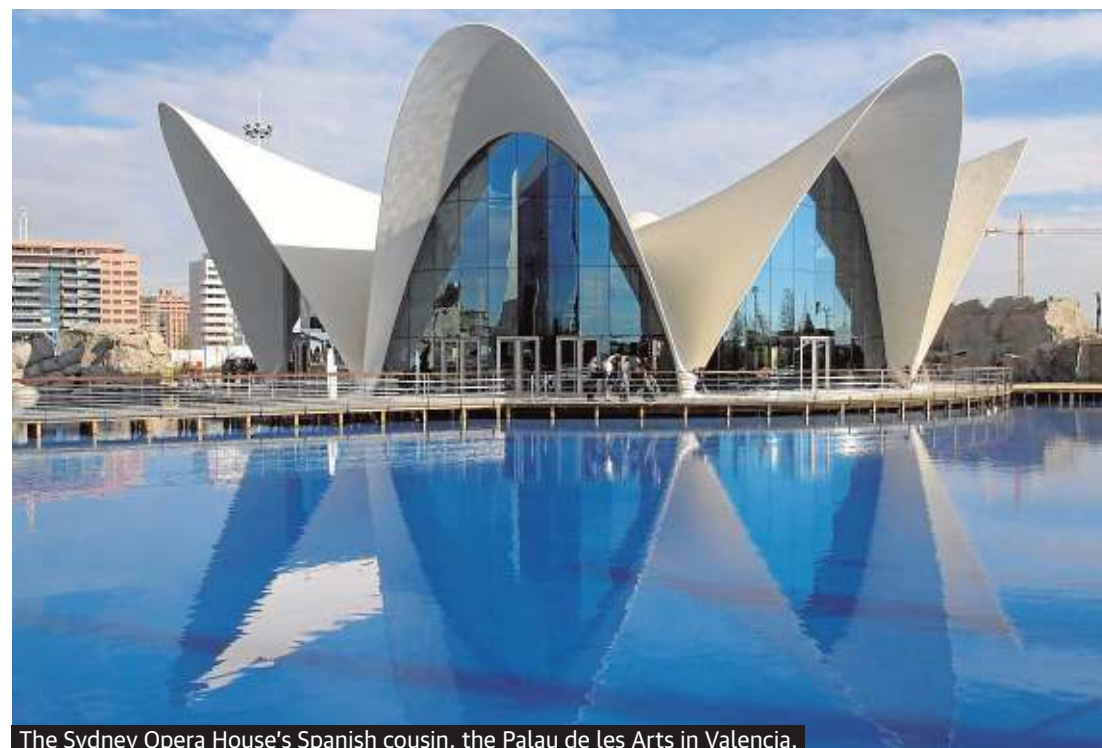
On his return from Australia in 1966, Utzon stopped in Mallorca. He fell in love with the island and decided to build a holiday home. The house, named after his wife, Can Lis, appeared on the top of a cliff near the fishing village of Portopetro. The building, inspired by contemporary Mediterranean architecture, consists of five loosely linked blocks with a colonnaded outdoor area, a living room and two bedrooms, each with its own courtyard.

Tourists, who used to come to see the house and by doing so bothered Utzon and his wife, forced them to move to a more remote area in the mountains. There they built a second house, Can Feliz, considered as a grand theatrical living space.

## The experience Surfing and crocodiles

Bondi Beach is one of Australia's best known beaches, which has appeared in many movies and television shows. Bondi Beach is the best place for surfing, a sport that has become an important element of the Australian culture. The coast of Andalucía is also washed by the ocean, and Tarifa beach, in Cadiz province, is one of the world's premier kitesurfing and surfing destinations. Many kite-surfers regularly flock to the Costa de la Luz to take advantage of the constant winds.

The 1986 action comedy film Crocodile Dundee was set in the Australian Outback and in New York City. However, the shooting could have taken place even in Torremolinos, where there are plenty of these large reptiles. The iconic resort boasts



The Sydney Opera House's Spanish cousin, the Palau de les Arts in Valencia.



Cortijo Las Aves near Jimena.



Surfing off the Cadiz coastline.

its own Crocodile Park. Initially it was founded in Cártama in 1997 and it moved in 2003 to Torremolinos where it is home to more than a hundred crocodiles. Posing for a camera with the 600-kilo monster Paco, also known as Big Daddy, and watching him being fed by an Andalusian 'Dundee' is unforgettable.

## Eating Australian Shark and Pavlova

Flake is a term used in Australia to indicate the flesh of any of several species of small shark. The school shark, along with the gummy shark, is the most important species in the southern Australian commercial fishery. In Andalucía, shark meat is sold under the common name of 'cazón'. Though Andalusians don't relate it to any shark, indeed cazón is a school shark which is marinated to prepare 'adobo'.

Moreover, Australians are known for having a barbecue lit-

erally anywhere. On the Costa del Sol and in inland Andalucía, barbecues are permitted in specific areas, known as 'áreas recreativas', although they are forbidden from 1 June to 15 October.

Though pavlova sounds Russian, it is the most typical Australian dessert. This meringue-based cake topped with whipped cream and fruit was named after the Russian ballerina Anna Pavlova, who toured Australia and New Zealand in the 1920s. A 1922 book, Australian Home Cookery by Emily Futter, contained a recipe for Meringue with Fruit Filling.

Pavlova as a dessert is little known in Spain. However, there is one cake shop where they bake Pavlova three or four days a week: La Flor Negra, located in Malaga city centre.

## A souvenir Warm feet

Australians say that high quality sheepskin boots make the

perfect Australian gift or souvenir. The Australian ugg boot has at least a hundred years of history. World War I pilots wore fleece-lined "Fug Boots". Since 1958, the Australian-owned Mortels Sheepskin Factory has been manufacturing and retailing high-quality sheepskin products, including boots and slippers. In the late 1960s a pair of cosy boots became a must-have of any Australian surfer. One of them founded the brand UGG on the coast of California. On the Costa del Sol there is an UGG store in Puerto Banús.

However, excellent sheepskin boots for both men and women are also designed and made in Spain, which has long sheep traditions. For example, in 1273 King Alfonso X formally recognised Mesta - a society composed of all the sheep raisers of Castile. Mesta's flocks and herds migrated to and from winter pastures of Andalucía according to the season.



## EXHIBITIONS

### Yul Hanchas

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



David Tomé, Mijas.

### David Tomé

**LAS LAGUNAS DE MIJAS.** Until 16 November. Casa de la Cultura.  
DUALidades is an exhibition by photographer David Tomé. The photos show two different realities in the same location, in the same shot. There is no cheating or double expo-

sure, just shots that seek the complicity of the observer. A proportion of sales will go to the Alzheimer's and other Dementias Association AFA in Mijas Costa and Fuengirola. For a guided tour email: contactme@davidtome.com

### 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.

### 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 exhibition of painted fans by Dutch artist Michelle Span.

### José Miguel Chico López

**MALAGA.** Until 23 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 2 November. Magpie Art Gallery, C/Virgen del Pilar  
The Art and Culture Association Marbella has organised this exhibition by Granada resident Andrés Aguilera

Teruel.

### Centro de Arte Contemporáneo - CAC Málaga

**MALAGA.** C/Alemania.

**Nan Goldin.** Until 25 October.

American artist Nan Goldin is the author of a sequence of video clips entitled Siren in Espacio 5 of the gallery.

### Charo Carrera

**MALAGA.** Until 22 October. Sala Alfajar, C/Císter.

El Legado de Egeria (The Legacy of Egeria) is an exhibition by artist Charo Carrera. Egeria (Etheria or Aetheria) was a Hispanic aristocrat whose letters to friends telling of her trips around the world are some of the earliest of their kind, written in the fourth century. A fragment of her '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

**MALAGA.** Until 31 October. Sociedad Económica de Amigos del Paí, 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.

### Flex Your Camera

**MALAGA.** Until 31 October. Espacio



Passengers, César Dezfuli, Malaga.

**Cero, UMA, Bulevar Louis Pasteur, 23.**  
The exhibition traces 40 years of the history of the US record label Dischord Records which was an icon of Punk Rock. It consists of around 50 photographs and videos of the Punk Rock era at its peak.

### Americans on parade

**MALAGA.** Until 30 November. Fnac Malaga.

British photographer George Georgiou has won The British Journal of Photography Project prize in 2019 and two World Press titles for his photos. His exhibition shows that despite the segregations in US society due to race or wealth, the American people come together for the annual parades in these photos.

### César Dezfuli

**MALAGA.** Until 20 December, Alianza

Francesa, C/ Jacinto Verdaguer.

The exhibition Passengers consists of a collection of 118 photographs of refugees taken as they were rescued from their rubber boats on the Mediterranean. The photographer has met with 65 of the people photographed in the project which began in 2016.

### 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

### Cervantes Theatre anniversary concerts

**MALAGA.** Teatro Cervantes.

To celebrate the 150th anniversary of the theatre the concerts are free but seats must be reserved in advance.

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

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

### Coyote Saloon concerts

**LAS LAGUNAS.** Fridays and Saturdays throughout October.

**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



The exhibited works are inspired by bright light and sunsets. **SUR**

## Exploring the colours of southern Spain

### TONY BRYANT

**FUENGIROLA.** The Gallery Art Club in Fuengirola will host the latest exhibition by the Costa del Arte Collective from Friday 30 October until Tuesday 17 November.

The group is made up of five female artists from Germany, the Netherlands and the UK, and their exhibited works are as different in style and technique as the artists themselves.

The collection, which highlight the colours and ambience of southern Spain, includes acrylic, watercolour and oil paint, as well as bronze sculptures and laser-cut screens.

This will be the group's fourth exhibition since its

foundation in 2018 and the artists will be on hand to discuss their work during the inauguration of the exhibition on Thursday 29 October between 5pm and 8pm.

"The theme of this exhibition is well suited to the area. With so many hours of sunlight, our art works are inspired by the bright light and the beautiful sunrises and sunsets," participating artist Lieuwke Loth explained.

The exhibition, which was originally planned to take place in April, can be viewed on Monday, Wednesday and Friday between 11am and 2pm; and on Tuesday and Thursday between 6pm and 8pm. For more information visit [www.galleryartclub.com](http://www.galleryartclub.com).

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Coyote Bowling Saloon Facebook.

## LIVE CONCERTS AND MUSIC

## O'Funk'illo

**MALAGA.** 16 October, 10pm *La Cochera Cabaret, Avda de los Guindos.* O'Funk'illo is a funk rock band from Seville. Their name comes from an Andaluz expression 'ofú killo' and the word funk. They also play reggae, metal and flamenco.

## Evita

**FUENGIROLA.** Until 25 October, 7.30pm (7pm Sundays). *Salon Varie-*



O'Funk'illo, Malaga.

tes, C/ Emancipación.

Music by Andrew Lloyd Webber and lyrics by Tim Rice. Box Office : 952 47 45 42 or email: [boxoffice@salon-varietestheatre.com](mailto:boxoffice@salon-varietestheatre.com)

## Two Legends

**FUENGIROLA.** 30, 31 October, 7.30pm. *Salon Varietes, C/ Emancipación.*

Freddie Mercury and Cher, two of the biggest icons in musical history take to the stage with their dancers in this mini rock concert. Box Office: 952 47 45 42 or email: [boxoffice@salon-varietestheatre.com](mailto:boxoffice@salon-varietestheatre.com)

## Opera Simon Boccanegra

**MALAGA.** 16 October, 8pm; 18 October 7pm. *Teatro Cervantes.* Verdi's opera in three acts with the malaga Philharmonic orchestra and the Malaga Opera Choir. Tickets: <https://www.unientradas.es/>

## Opera Nights

**MARBELLA.** Wednesdays, 9pm. *Da BrunoSul Mare.* La Traviata, The Barber of Seville and The Marriage of Figaro are just a few of the operas being performed. Reservations: 952903318 or [www.dabruno.com](http://www.dabruno.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.

## Peña Flamenca

**ESTEPONA.** 16 October, 9.30pm. *Plaza de Fuerzas Armadas.* A flamenco show with Cristina Alba (vocals), José Fernandez (guitar) and Sheila López and Antonio Trujillo (dance). Reservations. 952803183 or 683141136. Email: [flamencaeitepona@hotmail.com](mailto:flamencaeitepona@hotmail.com)

## Ana Fargas

**ESTEPONA.** 17 October, 8.30pm. *Centro Cultural Padre Manuel.* Singer Ana Fargas and her flamenco combo perform in aid of Estepona Solidaria.

## Enrique Heredia 'Negri'

**MALAGA.** 17 October, 10pm. *La Cochera Cabaret, Avda de los Guindos.* Flamenco and bolero soloist Enrique Heredia 'Negri' will be performing.

## THEATRE AND DANCE

## Danza Málaga

**MALAGA.** Until 1 November. *Teatro Cervantes / Echegaray.* [www.teatro-cervantes.com](http://www.teatro-cervantes.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.

## Broken Tango 2.0

**MALAGA.** 20 October, 8pm. *Teatro Cervantes.* Free. REA Danza will be performing Broken Tango 2.0, a tango reflecting the most pure and also the darker aspects of Buenos Aires at the beginning of the twentieth century. Entry free but by ticket only: <https://www.unientradas.es/> or from the ticket office.

## La Desnudez

**MALAGA.** 22 October, 8pm. *Teatro*



Opera, Marbella.

*Cervantes.* 20€.

The Daniel Abreu dance company present La Desnudez, "an idea of polarity and of a journey from death to love accompanied by low music. The nudity responds to that place of intimacy where the questions no longer exist. It is built and destroyed like the act of breathing."

## TALKS AND LECTURES

## The Arts Society Benahavís

**BENAHAVÍS.** Lectures online.

The lectures are broadcast online using Zoom for members and supporters.

**27 October, 7pm.** Ian Cockburn will talk about political intrigue, sex and murder at the court of the Cordoba Caliphate.

Visitors can register for 10€ at [gracievilla@gmail.com](mailto:gracievilla@gmail.com)

## MORE IDEAS

## Book and art sale

**MALAGA.** 25 October from 12.30pm. *St George's Anglican Church,* 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 Taize Prayer Meeting

**TORRE DEL MAR.** 30 October, 8.15pm. *San Andrés parish church.* Place a candle with the names of loved ones who have departed and pray for all those who have lost their lives through the pandemic. Send an email or Whatsapp to be included in the prayers. Call: 952 543 334 or email: [luxmundi@lux-mundi.org](mailto:luxmundi@lux-mundi.org)

## Guided walks

**CÁRTAMA.** *Cártama town hall.* Limited places. Reservations up to Friday before the walk at Cártama



Broken Tango 2.0, Malaga.

town hall or call: 951 010 872

**25 October.** Cordoba mountains and Sierras Subbéticas.

## O. V. FILMS

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

## Yelmo Cines, Plaza Mayor

**MALAGA.** *Centro de Ocio, Plaza Mayor, Avda Alfonso Ponce León.* Tel: 902902103. [www.yelmocines.es](http://www.yelmocines.es)  
**Captive State:** 21.50 (Tues).  
**Rifkin's Festival:** 17.45 (Tues).  
**Tenet:** 21.30 (Tues)

## Yelmo Cines, Rincón

**RINCÓN DE LA VICTORIA.** C/ Arroyo Totalán. Tel: 902220922. [www.yelmocines.es](http://www.yelmocines.es)  
**Rifkin's Festival:** 21.20 (Tues).

## Yelmo Cines, Vialia

**MALAGA.** *Centro Comercial Vialia.* Tel: 902220922  
**Cunningham:** 19.45 (Friday 16 October).  
**Falling:** 20.00 (Tues).  
**Giselle (ballet with Mariela Núñez):** 18.45 (Tues).  
**The Human Voice:** 19.45, 20.45, 21.45

## Popular Mijas music venue reopens with weekend of live concerts

## TONY BRYANT

**MIJAS.** The Cazbah Live Lounge in La Cala de Mijas has lined up a series of music events to take place through October. The popular music venue reopens its doors this weekend with concerts by two of the coast's most popular bands.

The music will get going tonight (Friday) with Revival, a four-piece cover band that performs hits of some of rock and roll's greatest musicians, including Eddie Cochran, T Rex, Van Morrison, The Rolling Stones and Oasis.

The Costa's top Queen tribute, Queen of Magic, will take to the stage on Saturday (17 October). The group recreates the unique sound of Queen with hits like We Will Rock You, We Are the Champions and



Queen of Magic reproduce the unique sound of Queen. SUR

Crazy Little Thing Called Love. The band's spectacular stage presence and musicianship offers a show that will appeal to fans of the legendary supergroup fronted by the late Freddie Mercury.

Tickets for both gigs, which

start at 10pm, cost three euros. Capacity restrictions will be enforced and organisers strongly recommend table reservations. Masks must be worn when not seated.

For more information, see the venue's Facebook page.

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(Wed, Thurs).  
**Six Minutes to Midnight:** 20.10 (Tues).  
**Rifkin's Festival:** 19.55 (Tues)  
**Tenet:** 21.25 (Tues)

#### Cine Albéniz

**MÁLAGA.** C/ Alcazaba, 4. Tel: 902360295. [www.cinealbeniz.com](http://www.cinealbeniz.com)  
**Falling:** 16.30, 19.15 (Fri, Mon, Tues); 19.30, 22.30 (Sat); 19.30, 21.45 (Sun).  
**Rifkin's Festival:** 19.40, 22.30 (Fri,

Mon, Tues); 18.00 (Sat); 16.30, 19.10 (Sun).

#### Cinesur Ingenio

**VÉLEZ-MÁLAGA.** Avda Juan Carlos, 1. Tel: 667773187.  
**The Human Voice:** 18.00, 19.00, 20.00, 21.00 (Wed).



La Desnudez, Malaga.

# Ana Barriga brings light and colour to the end of the tunnel

The young artist is exhibiting the works she produced during the coronavirus lockdown at the Yusto/Giner gallery in Marbella

ANTONIO JAVIER LÓPEZ



**MÁLAGA.** She worked in the place she was living. She did the first painting upstairs and the second downstairs. But she felt very uncomfortable. She couldn't understand what she was doing painting, when "people outside were dying". She thought hard about this for several days, the early ones of that lockdown last spring which for her seemed a type of "living death". And in the end she found painting to be a reason to carry on. A motive, if not for optimism, then for resistance.

The result of that work can now be seen at the Yusto/Giner gallery in Marbella, in an exhibition of a dozen works created by Ana Barriga during the coronavirus lockdown. "They do look rather entertaining at first, because of the colour and iconography, but there is always something dramatic going on in the background," says the artist.

Vitalistic and playful on the surface but with a depth of sarcasm running through them, the dozen works in 'La vida del difunto' (The life of the deceased), Barriga's second exhibition at the Yusto/Giner, have been created by an artist who comes onto the market as "a huntress with no preconceived ideas" and it can be viewed until 21 November.

Objects that attract her are taken to her studio and there,



Ana Barriga at the Yusto/Giner gallery. JOSELE

## THE EXHIBITION

► **Artist.** Ana Barriga.

► **Where.** Galería Yusto/Giner. C/ Madera, 9. Marbella.

► **When.** Until 21 November. Open Monday to Friday, 10am to 2pm and 5pm to 9pm. Saturdays, 11am to 2pm. Entry is free.

little by little, she incorporates them into her creations in the form of festive collages which are at the same time disturbing. It is a combination of "fake scenographies" where Barriga takes everyday items and transforms them. There are children's toys, beads and domestic gadgets disguised on her powerful canvases, which take the form of still lifes of pop reminiscences.

### A gift

"For me, painting is magic. It is a gift that I have in life

which I enjoy so much and I try to portray all that," says the artist, whose works feature in collections at institutions such as the Centro Andaluz de Arte Contemporáneo (CAAC), the Colección DKV, the CAC Málaga and the Fundación Canaria para el Desarrollo de la Pintura.

Barriga has returned to the Yusto/Giner after her exhibition 'Ni trono ni reina' there in 2017, and sources at the gallery describe how she tries to find a balance between reason and emotion through a very personal aesthetic: "Two apparently contradictory territories which, with the friction they create, generate a type of energy which draws you in. She tries to move within the ambit of playfulness and the game, elements which are very important in her work and also in the way in which she works," they say.

Ana Barriga's works are a promise to us that there is light (and colour) at the end of this tunnel.

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# Museum Jorge Rando reopens after six months with six new exhibition rooms

The extra 400 square metres of display space are currently showing an extensive range of works from the 50-year career of this artist from Malaga

ANTONIO  
JAVIER LÓPEZ



MALAGA. At the top of the staircase, there is a handful of letters, the colour of steel, fixed to the white wall. They say: "After a long journey in my life as a painter, after producing hundreds of paintings, I am only interested in seeking the essence... nothing else matters or is of interest to me." It is signed by the artist Jorge Rando, who has given his name and the content - and the essence - to the museum in Malaga which reopened this week after being closed for more than half the year.

Like the other museums and galleries in Spain, the Museum Jorge Rando in El Molinillo district of Malaga city closed in mid-March because of the coronavirus but it has opened a little later than the others because the management decided to take advantage of the break to expand the facilities: it is now 400 square metres bigger than before and has six new exhibition rooms. The museum, which is celebrating its sixth anniversary, has reopened with a double premiere and a new exhibition to mark the half-century of Rando's career.

The exhibition is titled 'Presente y vuelta al pasado. Las pinturas sucias de Jorge Rando' and it includes some of Rando's emblematic series of works, from Motherhoods to Nature, Africa, prostitution and Jesus Christ. There are also his most recent works, with titles such as 'Mariposas', 'Finisterris', 'Pinturas sucias' and 'El negro también es un color'. The latter is in the old Sala Magenta, which now contains a series of portraits where the colour black is predominant.

The first room to welcome visitors remains the same as before, a type of aesthetic prelude to what they will find the other side of the patio. Here in the main space are the butterflies upon which Rando has been working since last year, making incursions into the new room on this lower floor. In this display visitors will find the dark scenes of 'Finisterris' and 'Pinturas sucias', the artist's most recent ventures into territories which are closer



Artist Jorge Rando, in one of the new rooms at the museum which bears his name. SALVADOR SALAS

**Next year an ambitious exhibition is planned in China, bringing together the works of Rando, Goya, Miró and Dalí**

to abstraction but without abandoning his figurative vocation completely.

The new spaces at the Museum Jorge Rando are particularly noticeable on the upper floor, where the series dedicated to prostitution (1995-2009), maternities (1997-2014), 'Áfrika' (from the 1970s to the present day), Jesus Christ (1980-2010) and natural landscapes await us in the final two rooms.

The whole museum is an intensive tour through Rando's extensive career, but in general he tends to shun public appearances: "My job is to paint, to be in the cave," he said at the official reopening. "But anyway, this house is your house and it will continue to be so."

## Refuge and challenge

The director of the museum, Vanesa Díez, described the museum at the opening as "a refuge" and "a challenge". She ex-

## FACTS AND FIGURES

# 724

cultural activities have been organised by the museum since it opened six years ago, including film screenings, concerts, plays and lectures

## Free admission

All of the activities at the Museum Jorge Rando are free.

# 18

exhibitions of the work of Jorge Rando and another nine by artists such as Henry Moore, Ernest Barlach and Qi Baishi.

plained that the central focuses of Rando's work are identity, dignity and the human condition.

"For the past six years we have been inflexible about our function as a museum," she said, referring to the fact that its success is not calculated on the number of visitors - who are not counted - but by its "realities". For a start,



## A cultural link with East Asia

The so-called Randonian School promoted by the museum has made it possible for its students to become the first Western artists to exhibit at the Chinese young art biennial.

it is committed to not charging an entrance fee. But for those who like statistics, we can confirm that there have been 18 exhibitions of Rando's work and another nine by artists such as Ernest Barlach, Henry Moore and Qi Baishi; 724 cultural events, including film screenings, music, theatre and conferences; five social inclusion

programmes and 22 agreements with different national and international institutions.

One of these, the Obra Social La Caixa, was represented at the reopening by Caixabank's territorial director for Western Andalucía and Murcia, Juan Ignacio Zafra, who highlighted the role of Rando not only as an artist, but also as a patron and promoter of culture through this museum which bears his name.

The mayor of Malaga, Francisco de la Torre, also remarked on the "key role" the museum plays in the city in general and El Molinillo district in particular, but he also reminded those present of that Rando is an international artist, and next year will be participating like a touchstone in the ambitious exhibition '200 years of history of Spanish art. Goya, Dalí, Miró and Rando', in the Chinese city of Shenzhen, followed by a tour of Beijing, Shanghai and other cities.

Rando seems unaffected by this echo on the other side of the world, as he adds another brushstroke to his manner of understanding creation and life in different phrase, taken from Picasso's famous statement and now turned around and printed in a corner of the museum: "I neither seek nor find, I paint."



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# The scent of autumn infuses the streets of Malaga



► Chestnuts from the stand on Avenida Plutarco in the city. **F. HINOJOSA**

**Roasted chestnuts.** The season has started for one of the most traditional family businesses at this time of year but sales are low due to Covid and warmer temperatures

**CRISTINA PINTO**

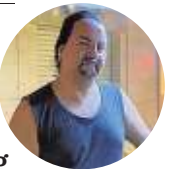


◀ A chestnut stall just off the Alameda in the city of Malaga.  
**FRANCISCO HINOJOSA**

## THE CITY'S SELLERS

**Carlos Santiago Soto**  
**Alameda Principal**

"With things like this, I'm really hoping for the colder weather to come soon"



**Francisco Robledo**  
**Avenida Plutarco**

"Last year I used to get home at two in the morning. Not anymore"



**Antonio Bermúdez**  
**Puente de Tetuán**

"People walk by and look at us as if we're mad; they don't stop to buy"



**María Teresa Segura**  
**La Unión**

"This stand belonged to my grandmother, going back to the 1940s or 50s"



**T**he chestnut stands have returned to give the streets of southern Spain the evocative scent of autumn.

The aroma pervades every corner of the city of Malaga and people can now be seen walking the streets carrying a paper cone of hot, roasted chestnuts.

Taking a Sunday walk along one of the busiest streets in Malaga, a white cloud lingering on the corner of the Alameda Principal and Calle Córdoba announces that there is a stall

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### The season for roasted chestnuts has just started in Malaga but sales are low due to the higher than normal temperatures and the Covid crisis

### The chestnut stalls and locations have been passed down from father to son for generations in some cases

nearby.

It belongs to Carlos Santiago Soto, born in the Cruz Verde neighbourhood and a chestnut seller for fourteen years although since he was small he has lived alongside the heat from the charcoal brazier in the winter.

"This stall has probably been in the same place for about sixty years. It was my grandmother's, my father's, my mother's... and now they are gone, I am here," he explains.

No doubt each stall could tell a similar story but besides being a business that brings economic benefit, above all it brings many affectionate family memories.

Sonia Núñez and her husband, Antonio Bermúdez, continued the tradition after her mother's retirement. They have a stall between the Alameda Principal and the start of the

Tetuán bridge.

The couple have been making improvements to their stall since August so that everything would be ready for the start of the new season.

"We started repainting it, fixing a plastic Covid screen... it's because we love it and we're looking forward to it," says Bermúdez.

María Teresa Segura has been in the business since she was born: "My grandmother started up in the 40s or 50s and I have always looked forward to the chestnut season ever since."

However, as has become increasingly evident, no sector is immune from the crisis caused by the pandemic. The chestnut stands, despite being running for only two weeks, are already feeling its effects.

### "Going to ruin"

"We're all going to ruin," says Francisco Robledo, whose stand is on Avenida Plutarco on the western side of the city.

This is something that most chestnut stall owners agree on, like Manolo Marín, who accompanies his wife María Teresa Segura in the autumn evenings on their stall in the La Unión neighbourhood. The Malaga native complains that sales are low: "We might take 60 euros but the chestnuts cost five euros a kilo and the charcoal 19 euros... When you start doing the maths you realise that our profit might only be ten or fifteen euros a day."

The fear of Covid-19 and the protocols also play a role, al-

though most of the stalls have a plastic screen so that they can attend to the customers in complete safety. That said, "People walk past and look at you as if you're mad, they don't stop to buy."

### Saved by regular customers

Despite the difficulties, "We're saved by our regular customers," says Antonio Bermúdez. "Some have been coming to us for 30 years."

The fluctuation in the temperatures this autumn haven't helped sales much either. In recent weeks thermometers have flickered anywhere between 20 and 30 degrees, which hasn't helped at all.

"We're just waiting for the cold to arrive," confesses Carlos Santiago Soto.

From behind the smoke from his stall in Teatinos, Francisco Robledo compares previous years with this one and it's not good. "Last year I got to leave here at two o'clock in the morning. This year I leave here about half past midnight, it's not the same," he says.

He has been at this location for only five years; he and his wife had a stall for 37 years in the Plaza de la Victoria but had to move after his wife was attacked. "It was a big problem, it took us a while to be able to change our location," he recalls.

The scent of autumn pervades the streets of the city but the chestnut vendors are waiting for colder temperatures to make their businesses, full of family tradition, successful again.

## Different laws, different customs

ANDREW J. LINN



In Spain we are fortunate with the relaxed licensing laws. Most first-time foreign visitors are surprised that alcoholic drinks are available so freely and that any grocery store is permitted to sell everything from beer to brandy. This lenient attitude is due to the fact that Spaniards, unlike many northern Europeans, do not normally drink to get inebriated, and all alcohol consumption is treated even-handedly by lawmakers. When you tell someone that in Sweden, for example, booze has to be bought from the State monopoly at inflated prices, they are dumbfounded.

Another thing that surprises non-Spaniards is the vast amount of media time given over to gastronomic issues. Listen to Onda Cero's nationally-broadcast morning chat show, or Cope's, and hardly a day passes without a conversation about food and wine. Many programmes feature listeners calling in with anecdotes and recipes. Conversely the Today programme on Britain's BBC, or its equivalent in any country, including local radio, sticks to a rigid diet limited almost exclusively to politics and culture.

Oddly, for decades British cuisine was rated as the world's worst. Spanish was a mere roll-up paper below it. Now both are world champions with media famous chefs and restaurants.

Even the pandemic has not cooled gastronomic ardour. Hardly any of the Coast's restaurants have closed, and Madrid has seen ten significant new restaurant openings in the last few weeks. All establishments have to close their doors earlier, with the result that Spaniards no longer making 10pm bookings for dinner.

### WINE OF THE WEEK

#### Finca del Marquesado crianza

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# When false fears affect lives

**Needle phobia.** A fear of injections means that many people won't have blood tests or vaccinations even though this puts their health at risk

ELENA MARTÍN



**A**licia, who is 31 now, doesn't know why she developed a phobia about needles (trypanophobia) but she remembers that it began she was very young. Since then, she has had to try to cope as best as she could with blood tests, vaccinations and other types of injections such as an epidural, anaesthetic

applied by an injection in the spine before giving birth. "Every time they take blood I have to lie down because I go dizzy, but the worst experience I have had with needles was when I was pregnant. When my waters broke I spent 24 hours with a tube in my arm and I nearly had a fit over the epidural. But at that time I realised it was

worth it because it meant I would soon have my baby," she says.

Obviously, Alicia is not a blood donor, although she would do so if absolutely necessary, but she will never consider any type of piercing or a tattoo. She hasn't thought about seeking help to overcome this fear. "I can put up with it and I don't come into contact with needles in my everyday life (she works in human resources), so it isn't that inconvenient," she says.

Others in the same situation feel differently and some go into an absolute panic at the thought of a needle and avoid any situation which would involve an injection, even if it means putting their health at risk. Two laboratory technicians at a hospital in Madrid told us that nearly every day some people who were due to have a blood test leave in tears because they haven't been able to go through with it.

"One time, a pregnant woman came for her first blood test and it was impossible because she wouldn't stretch her arm out. She was so distraught when she left here that she never came back at all during her pregnancy," says one. This can put the health of the mother and the baby at risk, because these checks detect anomalies such as gestational diabetes. "There was also a boy of about 12 or 13 who came with his parents, and when I was about to insert the needle he bit me on the hand," says the other.

Nevertheless, there are people who won't let their fears stop them doing what they want to do. In fact, some tattooists have clients with trypanophobia. "A lot of people say that

once we start working they forget about the needle. And anyway, the ones we use nowadays (called cartridges) are so small they are more like the tip of a ballpoint pen," says an artist at the Sánchez Tatto studio in Toledo.

## Fainting and nausea

Approximately one in ten people in Spain is afraid of injections and having blood extracted, to different degrees. Between two and three per cent of the population suffer the most acute aversion, generally manifesting in the form of a drop in heart rate (bradycardia) and blood pressure, which can lead to dizziness or fainting. Other symptoms are nausea, sweating, difficulty in breathing, hyperventilation, paleness or tantrums and crying, in the case of children. It is a phobia which normally develops in the



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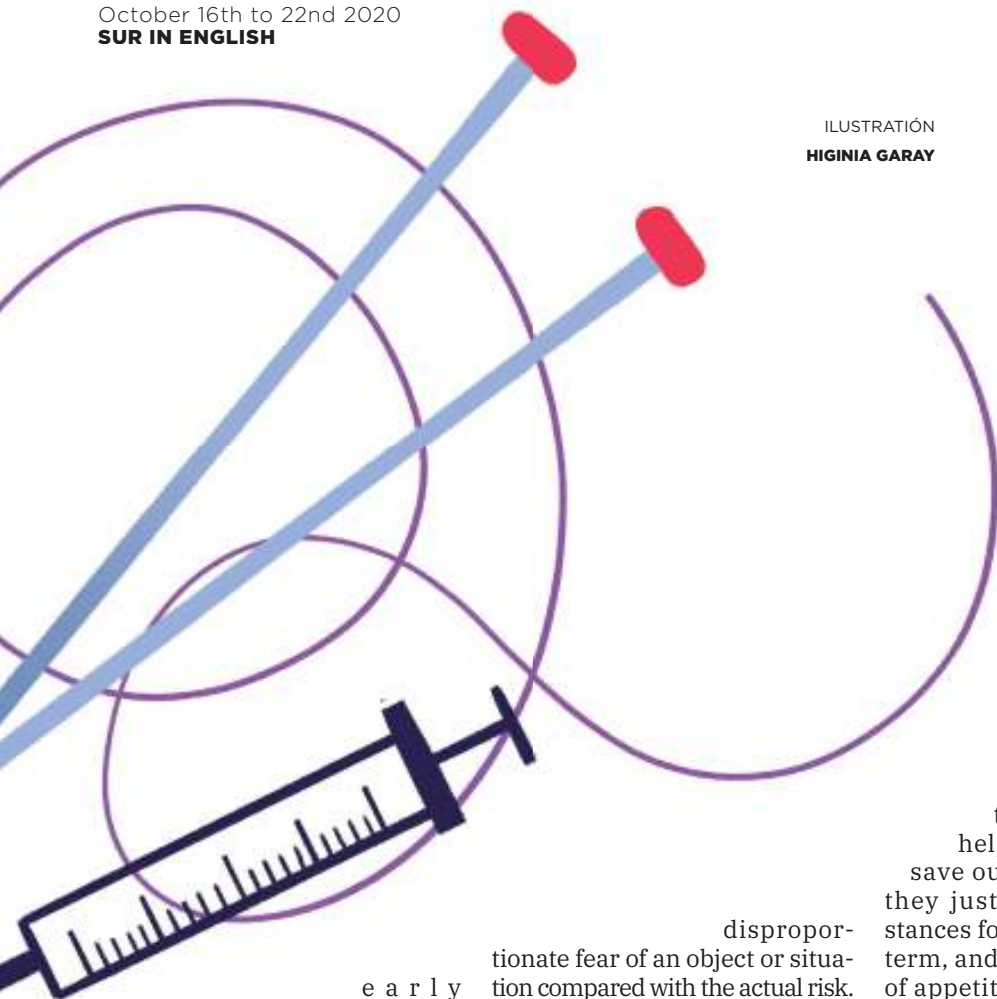


ILUSTRACIÓN  
HIGINIA GARAY

early years of life and gradually disappears, although it sometimes remains into adulthood and can be very debilitating. It is often associated with a fear of blood (haemophobia), injuries (traumatophobia) or doctors (lathophobia).

All these are specific phobias, defined as intense and persistent

disproportionate fear of an object or situation compared with the actual risk. In other words, it is exaggerated.

"Unlike fear, which responds to a real and present danger, such as if we are faced with a lion that could eat us, anxiety has to do with the anticipation of a danger, with thoughts such as 'what if I get trapped in the lift'?", or "what if I faint when they inject me?", says Cristina

Wood, a doctor in Psychology who specialises in anxiety and stress. In both cases the brain feels that there is a threat and starts to secrete cortisol and adrenaline, stress hormones which activate us physiologically.

"This is something very positive as a response to an objective fear, because it can help us to run away and save our life, but otherwise they just become toxic substances for our body in the long term, and cause insomnia, loss of appetite, lower physical and psychological performance, more irritability and a deterioration in our social relationships," she says.

The problem is, says Dr Wood, that "in general people believe that worrying is an effective strategy to avoid risk, because it makes you more prepared if something dangerous happens and you react

faster, but in fact it is quite the opposite. A lot of scientific research has shown that if you are an intelligent optimist things are always going to turn out better for you, because you focus your attention on what you want to happen and that leads to emotions such as excitement, a feeling of security in yourself and tranquility".

#### A process of un-learning

This type of phobia can be caused by traumatic experiences we have suffered or when we see, read or hear about something which has a serious impact on us. In fact, people can develop very incapacitating phobias simply because one of our parents is afraid of something, because we have seen certain images on the TV or because of something we have read in an article or report. It all depends on the sensitivity of each person and how they respond to things.

The good news is that, because

these are learned fears, we can get rid of them. There are many ways of doing this, beginning with the simplest: look for distractions. For example, when someone with trypanophobia has to have a blood test, the thoughts that cross their mind are usually "what if they injure me"?, "what if they have to try three times because they can't find a vein"?, "what if I faint"?

"In these cases, I suggest to my patients that they swap those thoughts for more positive ones, like thinking about all the times in the past when it hasn't hurt, or that they distract themselves, because paying attention to these thoughts is like adding fuel to the anxiety," says Dr Wood. It might help to listen to music or even sing while the injection is given, or to take someone with you to support you, or start a conversation or joke with the laboratory technician. "A sense of humour also has a calming effect and is essential".

Sport is also effective before having an injection. Physical activity releases endorphins, neurotransmitters that make us feel well and happy and have a calming effect on pain and stress.

There has been an increase in phobias since the coronavirus pandemic began, and this specialist recommends that if any worry lasts more than two minutes and affects our lives, then professional help should be sought.

#### IN FIGURES

10%

of the population of Spain suffers a phobia about needles or blood. Of these, between two and three per cent find it a debilitating problem

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The five women face five weeks at sea before arriving in Barcelona. PANKRA NIETO

## "The sea and cancer both test your strength"

**Not just a sporting challenge. Five women who have survived breast cancer are sailing round Spain from Bilbao to raise awareness of the illness**

JUDITH ROMERO

Sport has always been part of María Aldama's life, but it became even more indispensable to her in 2017, when she was diagnosed with breast cancer and had chemotherapy, radiotherapy and a double mastectomy. Nevertheless,

the illness wasn't able to stop her and she is now taking part in an ambitious challenge as one of five cancer survivors who are sailing around Spain.

They set off this week from Bilbao, as part of the sixth Pelayo Vida Challenge 2020. The 38-year-old teacher from Vizcaya is competing with Marian Cáliz, 48, who is an architect; 39-year-old environmentalist Lorena Madrid from Murcia; Fátima Domínguez, 56, who has a degree in Fine Arts and is from Chiclana de la Frontera; and 44-year-old Nuria Gómez, a marine scientist from Teruel.

"It's going to be an incredible experience, a real challenge. I had never practised sailing before being chosen to take part in this adventure, but I have discovered that at sea you face different situations every day. Having cancer is similar in a way; you don't know what you're going to find the next day. You think you can't cope with it, but then you find inner strength," says María.

It will take the five women two weeks to get to Barcelona, captained by one of the country's finest athletes, Ángela Pumariaga, who won a gold medal in the Elliott 6-metre class at the 2012 Olympic Games in London.

The coronavirus has changed all their plans and although the Pelayo Challenge was initially going to take place in Jordan, it is being held in Spain instead.

### Double blow

Cancer dealt María Aldama a double blow. Just a day or so after she found out that she had the illness, her mother was diagnosed with ovarian cancer. Three years later, they have both recovered.

The team will live together on board the 'Green Dragon', which was built in 2008 to participate in the Volvo Ocean Race. They will navigate the Cantabrian Sea, the Atlantic, the Mediterranean and the Strait of Gibraltar, stopping in the ports of Cadiz, Malaga and Valencia before berthing in Barcelona on 24 October.

It will be a test for their bodies and their minds, but at the same time it will raise awareness of breast cancer (19 October is World Breast Cancer Day) and the importance of research in order to win the battle against the illness. In María's case, a small lump in one served as a warning that something was happening in her body.

The crew got on well – "we got to know each other by videocall during the lockdown and then in training, and now it's as if we have known each other all our lives," – and María is confident that they will achieve their objective. However, above all, she wants other women who are in the same situation to know that they will be able to get through it. "If we can do it, so can they," she says.

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GRUPO DENTAL CLINICS



# Rafael Nadal equals Grand Slam record with 13th Roland Garros title

The Balearics legend played one of the best finals of his career, showing the crowd that there was nobody like him in Paris

DARYL FINCH

Rafael Nadal equalled Roger Federer's record of 20 Grand Slam titles on Sunday after beating world number one Novak Djokovic in resounding fashion in the French Open final.

The Spaniard sealed his place in the final after his 6-3, 6-3, 7-6 (0) semi-final win over Diego Schwartzman, banishing all memory of the two-set defeat to the Argentinian in Rome a few weeks ago.

Despite Djokovic enjoying the better form this year (only one defeat in 2020, the infamous US Open fourth-round match against Pablo Carreño when he was disqualified for striking a ball at line judge), Nadal made a ferocious start from which the Serb was unable to recover, winning 6-0, 6-



As has become tradition, Nadal bites the trophy which he has now won 13 times. REUTERS

2, 7-5, securing his record-improving 13th victory in Paris.

Victory was Nadal's fourth in a row at Roland Garros - by far his favourite tournament. The 34-

year-old previously won four in a row between 2005 and 2008; then a further five on the bounce between 2010 and 2014.

Nadal now draws level with

Federer on 20 major men's titles. Had Djokovic won, he would have risen to 18 and the standings among tennis' heavyweights would have read 20-19-18.

Nadal to receive Spain's top sporting distinction

R. C.

The list of achievements keeps getting longer for Rafael Nadal. As announced on Tuesday, the government has awarded him the Grand Cross of the Royal Order of Sports Merit.

"He has 20 Grand Slams, he won a gold medal at the Olympics both individually and in the doubles, he is a five-time Davis Cup champion, thirteen-time Roland Garros winner and we are honoured to give him this distinction, not only for his sporting achievements, but also for embodying the values we want to pass on to our young people," said government spokesperson María Jesús Montero.

Considered Spain's top sporting award, Nadal joins an illustrious list. The last to receive it, posthumously, was skier Blanca Fernández Ochoa, who died in 2019. Before that, it was awarded to footballers such as Andrés Iniesta, Xavi, Iker Casillas, Vicente del Bosque, Alfredo di Stéfano, Ladislao Kubala and Paco Gento; gymnast Gervasio Deferr and canoeist David Cal.



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# Stalemate as Malaga fail to break down ten-man Las Palmas

The Canary Islanders had Álex Suárez sent off in the first half but still conjured up the better chances to win the game

DARYL FINCH



A below-par Malaga were ultimately lucky to escape with a point on Sunday as they failed to break down ten-man Las Palmas who themselves had the better chances to win the game.

The Canary Islanders had Álex Suárez sent off late in the first half but Malaga, with a numerical advantage for over 50 minutes, never looked likely to win the game.

In fact, Sergio Pellicer's side were vastly inferior to their visitors from the outset. Despite having their first-choice centre mid-field pairing of Alberto Escassi and Luis Muñoz on the field together for the first time, Las Palmas' quality shone through and Malaga were unable to create any danger at all in the first half. Efforts from Cristian and Luis Muñoz flew harmlessly into the crowd.

Las Palmas, in contrast, looked likely to score every time they got close to Dani Barrio's goal. Captain Aythami had the first clear chance of the game but his header from a freekick was straight at Barrio.



Dani Barrio was kept busy in the Malaga goal. SALVADOR SALAS

Striker Sergio Araujo was a constant thorn in Malaga's side and had a header just off target moments before Suárez received his marching orders. The defender controversially was shown a straight red card for bundling Caye Quintana to the ground on the edge of the box in what appeared to be an accidental coming together.

## Double change

To try and take advantage of having the extra man, Pellicer made a double change at half time,

bringing on Jozabed and Iván Calero for the ineffective Ismael Casas and Yanis Rahmani. However, his side were still unable to get control of the ball and further tweaks were required with forward Pablo Chavarría coming on to replace centre-back Josua Mejías, who didn't have the most

secure debut, taking too many risks at the back.

And yet Las Palmas continued on the front foot. A stinging shot by Araujo from outside the box was well stopped by Barrio, who was fortunate to keep a clean sheet.

Araujo again threatened, firing wide after his first shot was

# 0-0

MALAGA-LAS PALMAS

**Malaga:** Dani Barrio; Ismael (Calero, min. 46), Mejías (Chavarría, min. 55), Juande, Matos; Rahmani (Jozabed, min. 46), Luis Muñoz, Escassi, Jairo (Larrubia, min. 69); Cristian y Caye Quintana (Julio, min. 88). Unused substitutes: Soriano, Benítez, Quintana, Mini, Ramón, Issa.

**Las Palmas:** Valles; Lemos, Álex Suárez, Aythami, Dani Castellano; Sergio Ruiz; Rober (Edu Espiau, min. 78), Loiodice (Fabio, min. 88), Kirian, Pejiño (Curbelo, min. 45), Araujo (Claudio Mendes, min. 78). Unused substitutes: Álex, Cardona, Athuman, Jonathan, Óscar Clemente, Javi Castellano, Aridai, Cedrés.

**Goals:** None.

**Referee:** Ais Reig. Red card for Álex Suárez (40'). Yellows for Rahmani, Sergio Ruiz, Escassi, Juande and Valles.

**Ground:** La Rosaleda.

blocked, then Aythami could have stolen it at the end had he been able to stretch a foot further to connect with a fizzed ball across the face of goal.

While a point and a clean sheet must be taken as a positive, Pellicer highlighted his side's impotence in attack during his post-match press conference. "We have to be more dynamic," he said. "We need to be more patient, calmer."

He was, however, positive with regard to the progress his new-look squad has been making. "I'm happy, not so much with the game, but because the players are getting more minutes. By playing together more, they'll learn to combine better with each other."

The Blue and Whites currently sit tenth in the table ahead of their trip to Zaragoza on Sunday (6.15pm kick-off).

## Still no progress on the Malaga Academy after two years at a standstill

The site at Arraijanal is abandoned and the club must reorganise its finances before putting the project out to tender again

ANTONIO GÓNGORA

MALAGA. Two years after what was supposed to be a temporary stoppage to construction of the new Malaga Academy in Arraijanal, next to Plaza Mayor, the football training centre project remains completely abandoned.

According to SUR sources, there is no projected end date for the project despite expectation with the arrival of judicial administrator José María Muñoz that construction would resume imminently.



The abandoned Academy. S. SALAS

However, financial problems are still a major hurdle that needs to be overcome. The works were supposed to be funded by the club's Foundation using the 4.4 million euros it was set to receive from the sale of land at El Viso. However, with a significant amount of time now having

passed, a large portion of this money is now required to pay off loans, leaving just three million for the completion of the Academy.

As a result, the club has been working hard to reduce the cost of what remains of the project, firstly by reexamining the plans to locate unnecessary expenditure and, secondly, by organising a private tender process to attract bids to complete works for a fraction of the price quoted by original constructors Bilba.

The completion of the Academy is much-needed for Malaga's youth teams who are currently playing at various locations around the city, using facilities loaned to them by other clubs. The issue became especially pressing after the club gave up its use of the athletics stadium - another cost-cutting exercise.

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A LOOK AT LA LIGA  
ROB PALMER  
Commentator, Sky Sports

# Prepare for a revolution

'Project Big Picture' in England comes as a timely reminder to bosses in Spain that decisions made now will shape the future of professional football



It's like having the wealthy relatives living in the big house on the hill; you may live in the same postcode, but you'll never quite enjoy the same riches or power.

Football is ripe for a major evolution. In fact, prepare for a revolution.

Already in England, the power brokers have met to discuss 'Project Big Picture' where the affluent clubs pass on some of the finances to those struggling following the pandemic - but of course with strings attached. The lesser clubs will get a bail out, but the prosperous organisations will take the opportunity to increase their voting powers.

Basically, the top six clubs in England are promising to pass on some of the interest from



Broadcasting rights have always been an issue for La Liga. REUTERS

their bank balances if those who could soon be penniless allow them to call all the shots.

They came up with a list of

draft proposals - like reducing the top league to eighteen teams and the whole pyramid to ninety teams. It's a work in

progress and initially unpopular, but it has shades of the revolution led by Rick Parry when the Premier League was formed 28 years ago, and we know what came next.

So far, their Spanish counterparts have been quiet and there hasn't been any public signs that they are considering a similar project. This is a vital time for the Spanish authorities to get their act together and start the evolution. Maybe Barcelona are distracted by internal unrest and it isn't natural for Real Madrid to form a pact, however the giants must put their heads together if professional football is to prosper in the country.

The accusation in England is that there has been an unscrupulous 'power grab'. In Spain they've only just come to terms with the idea of collective bargaining.

It's the so-called Big Six in the Premier League who want to call the shots. In short, the clubs who capture the attention of foreign fans. In La Liga it could be argued that it's the 'Big Two' with Barça and Real in a great position to flex their muscles.

La Liga has tried to work collectively to sell the game at home and abroad and this should be applauded. There

has been some joined up thinking from previously disjointed organisations but alas, they are still lightyears behind the brand that is the English Premier League.

Over the past two decades La Liga has built up a worldwide audience. The 'Fifa generation' grew up watching Saturday and Sunday night games. The Nou Camp and Bernabéu museums became must-go tourist destinations. The hipster fans adopted a smaller club with an interesting backstory.

It could be argued that they lost a large percentage of the floating fans with an ill-advised decision to sell the UK and other area rights to streaming services. If you don't know what that means, you are in the majority and that's why interest in Spanish football waned. Basically, you could only watch games on a mobile phone or laptop.

Now La Liga TV has taken on the rights and with improved production values. It's a very basic version of the EPL equivalent.

It's a start, just as lockdown must signal ground-zero for Spain's football marketing folk. The decisions made now will shape the future, indeed if there is a future, for professional football in Spain for decades to come.

## "We overhauled the squad because we wanted to change the way we play"

Marbella director of football Víctor Moreno has freshened up the squad in a bid to seal promotion this year

JULIO RODRÍGUEZ

MARBELLA. Marbella's summer (now autumn) transfer window has been a busy one, focused primarily on rebuilding the squad with one objective in mind: promotion to Segunda. The squad has been completely overhauled with thirteen new additions: ten permanently, three loans, in three distinct groups.

On the one hand, there are the footballers with a proven track record at a higher level: former Cadiz midfielder Edu Ramos; winger Nacho, formerly of Numancia; and ex-Oviedo goalkeeper Alfonso Herrero. Then there's another group: players who know Segunda but aren't yet established at that level. Those include Blanco (Villarreal B), Cordero (Sporting de Gijón), Quezada (Recreativo de Huelva) and Alfred Planas

(Mestalla). The third group is made up of young, hungry talent, desperate for competitive minutes. These include Uruguayan full-back Busquets (Peñarol), Panama international Gudiño, Bolivian forward Ferdy Roca, French midfielder Cissé (from the French third division), striker Rafa Tresaco (95 minutes in Segunda with Racing) and Fran Ortuño (Jaén).

Overall, the average age of the squad has fallen from 27.2 to 25.5, having cancelled the contracts of experienced players such as Wilfred (Gimnàstic), Saúl (Extremadura), Lolo Pavón (Orihuela) and without offering new deals to stand-out performers like Elías and Dani Pérez (Extremadura).

With the pandemic resulting in a much shorter season, sporting director Víctor Moreno insisted that the squad required an overhaul "because we wanted to change the energy we have in the way we play in order to get immediate results in the short term".

The new season will begin for Marbella this Sunday 18 with a difficult trip to face Algeciras.



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THE STARS




**Aquarius**  
January 21st - February 19th  
As the weekend is planned, try to arrange something to do that will clear those memories and cobwebs from your mind.




**Pisces**  
February 20th - March 20th  
Certain things are expected of you but are they what you really want? Pleasing yourself now and in the near future is what will bring you happiness.




**Aries**  
March 21st - April 20th  
This week is all about seeking the truth. Information gleaned from random conversations can be very surprising! In what is basically a dull week this will light your inner fire.




**Taurus**  
April 21st - May 21st  
Deal with any financial matters before the weekend or some awkward questions could be asked. There is strength in knowing that you are right.




**Gemini**  
May 22nd - June 21st  
Avoid revealing everything that you know about someone else's situation for fear of getting dragged into a dispute. Thank goodness that the weekend is more relaxed!




**Cancer**  
June 22nd - July 23rd  
Craving adventure is one of those urgent needs. I suppose a big bar of chocolate wouldn't do? No, you are right. There is nothing like the real thing.



**Leo**  
July 24th - August 23rd  
Gossip and rumours may annoy you. Check them out before getting upset, however. Misinformation is rampant at the moment so be aware.




**Virgo**  
August 24th - September 23rd  
Someone who wants to do a deal with you may be a bit too upfront. This makes you feel uncomfortable. You know that gut feeling when know something isn't right?



**Libra**  
September 24th - October 23rd  
Well, finally you did something that you should have done a while ago. It is not without its awkward moments. Still, tact is one of your big talents.



**Scorpio**  
October 24th - November 22nd  
The need for a project to take you to a different place is strong. Some may say that you are clutching at straws. They are wrong. An inquisitive mind is a blessing.

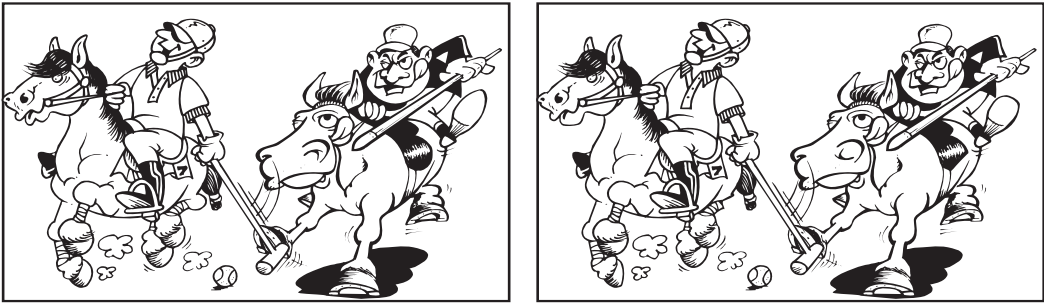


**Sagittarius**  
November 23rd - December 21st  
Because of efforts made earlier in the year there is now a sense of freedom. This can feel quite unsettling as it is something that has not been felt for some time.

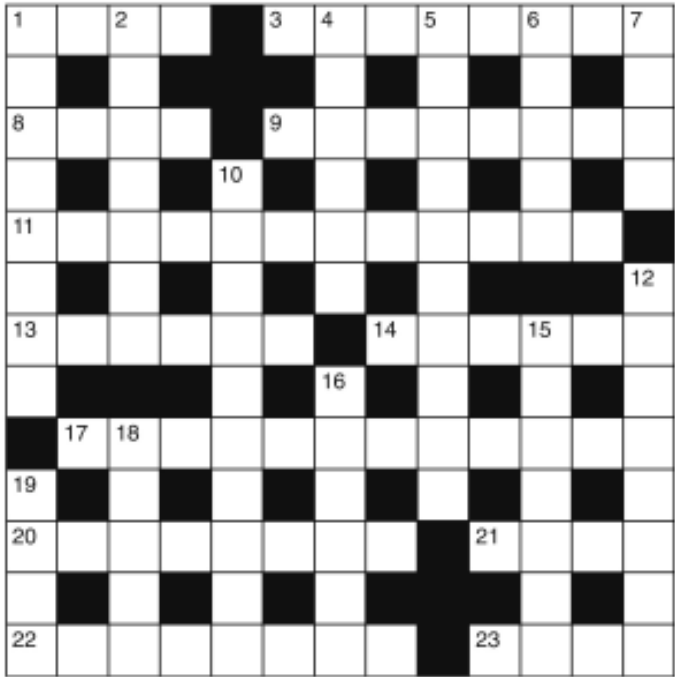


**Capricorn**  
December 22nd - January 20th  
In the latter part of the week you realise that someone is trying to manipulate you by making you feel guilty. This is a red herring. Doing your best is all that can be asked of anyone.

THE SEVEN DIFFERENCES



CRYPTIC CROSSWORD N° 11431



Across

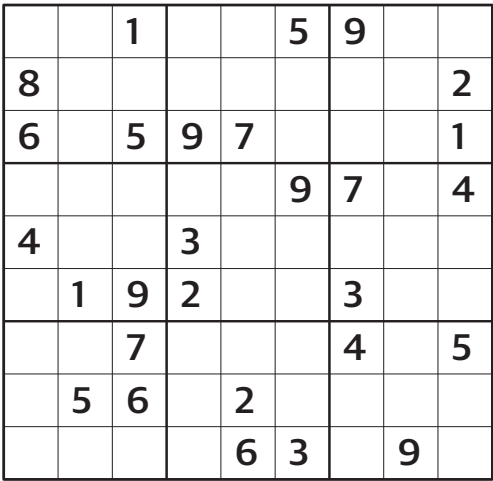
- 1 Choose a tool for excavating (4)
- 3 Puts back without thought and altogether foolishly (8)
- 8 Sally gets the right help (4)
- 9 Share-out in tree is good for the lungs (5,3)
- 11 Sorting out mariner's bags could be disconcerting! (12)
- 13 Tried hard to get voters out (6)
- 14 Producer whose business is expanding? (6)
- 17 At which one may let off steam? (7,5)
- 20 Meant to be betrothed (8)
- 21 Liz has some wardrobe - that's for sure! (4)
- 22 Duty ends without warning (8)
- 23 Notice caps are coming back (4)

Down

- 1 Wrongheaded in every stanza (8)
- 2 He is not one to stay on the level (7)
- 4 A warning of danger from the Mad Hatter (6)
- 5 Mail the screenplay as an afterthought (10)
- 6 Ditch artist in row (5)
- 7 The thread of the story (4)
- 10 Never place out in widespread distribution (10)
- 12 Note obstinate idea (8)
- 15 Pure wit went into this review (5,2)
- 16 Fictitious union leader has to learn afresh (6)
- 18 Work Edward chose (5)
- 19 Hints where the rubbish should go? (4)

SUDOKU BY HANZO

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



THE WORDPUZZLER

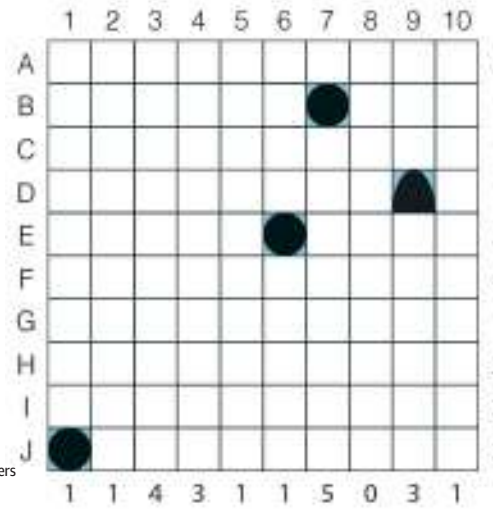
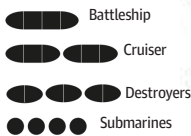


Can you identify the words that may be made up from the letters of **POLTERGEIST** from the clues listed below?

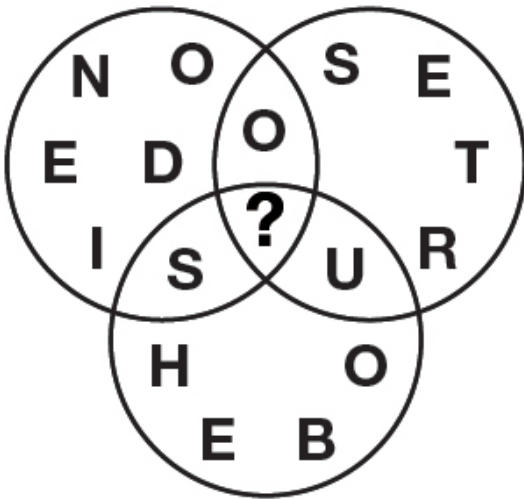
- 1. Location
- 2. Gravel
- 3. Material
- 4. Dog
- 5. Shawl
- 6. Public disturbance
- 7. Precipitous
- 8. Feel
- 9. Routine
- 10. Salute

BATTLESHIPS

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



CIRCLEGRAM



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



LANGUAGE CROSSWORD FILL IN THE SPANISH WORD

- Across
- Down
- 1) Authority (9)

5) Conspiracy (12)

12) They anticipate (9)

14) Golden age (4,2,3) (9)

15) I ordered (4)

18) It cheers up (6)

19) Stamps (6)

22) Peaceful (m) (8)

25) Wave (3)

26) Christians (10)

31) Cook (m) (8)

32) Test (6)

33) I emerged (6)

36) Blond (5)

37) Tolerance (10)

39) I evaded (5)

40) Our (f) (7)

42) Mosque (8)

43) If (2)

46) Scene (6)

47) Legend (7)

48) Accused (f) (7)

50) Architects (m) (11)

51) Recognised (m) (10)
- 1) Craftsmen (9)

2) Lid (8)

3) To wander around (6)

4) Loves (6)

6) Eighth (m) (6)

7) Partner (m) (5)

8) Even (3)

9) I prevented (6)

10) Bom (m) (6)

11) She gives (2)

13) Palace (7)

16) He (2)

17) Library (10)

20) To crash (9)

21) I called (5)

23) Dynasty (8)

24) Ace (2)

27) Organiser (11)

28) To reign (6)

29) Fortified (m) (11)

30) Jews (6)

34) Princess (8)

35) Caliphate (8)

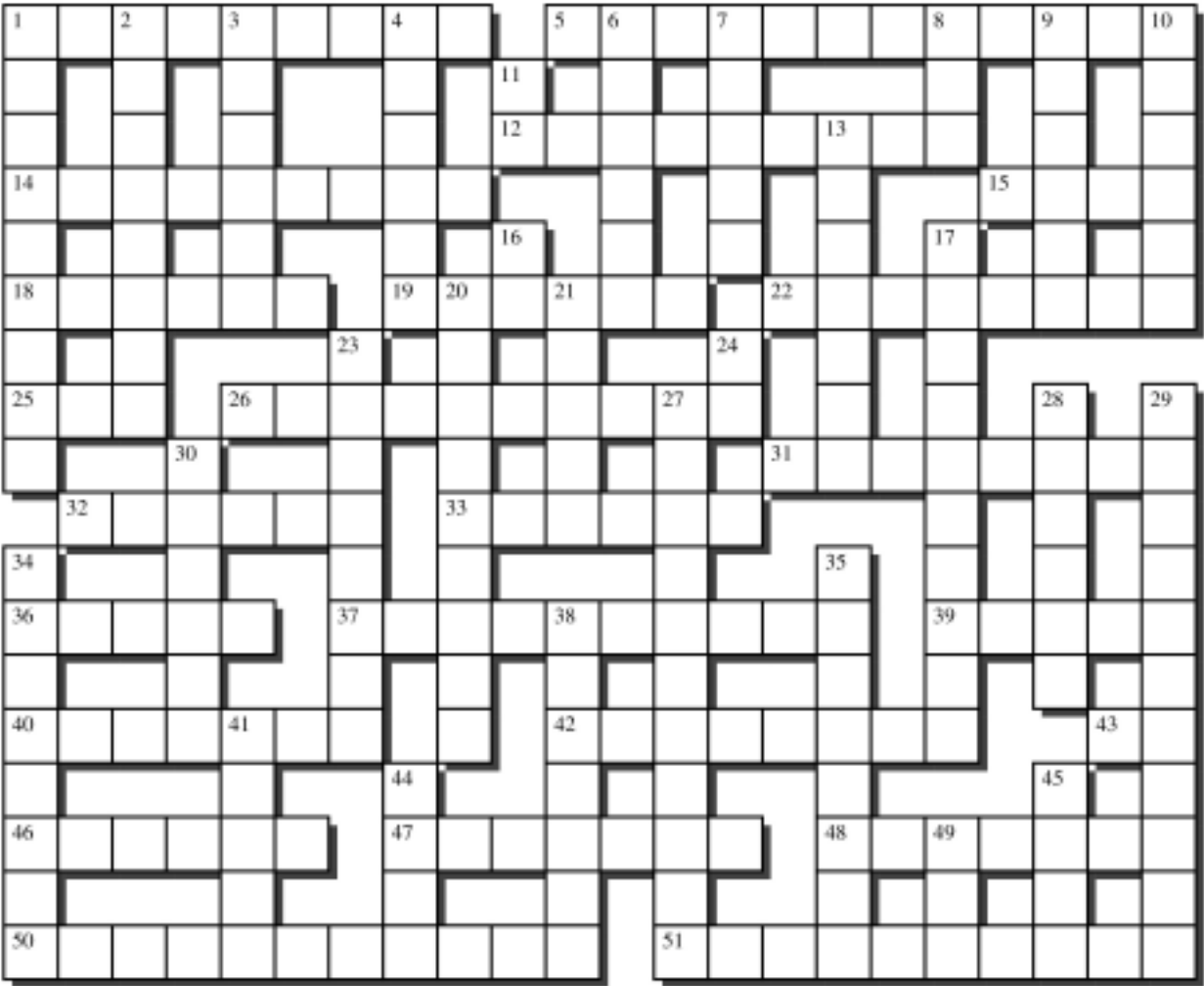
38) You break (pl) (7)

41) I hung out (5)

44) Notebook (4)

45) I went out (4)

49) Use (3)



ANSWERS

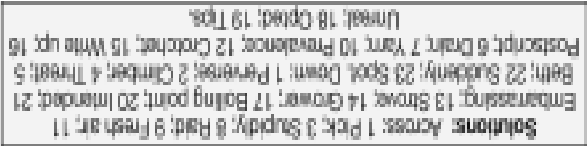
Quiz answers

**Answer:** Rosemary's Baby.  
1968 American horror film directed by Roman Polanski, based on the 1967 novel by Ira Levin. The film tells the story of a pregnant woman who suspects that an evil cult wants her baby for use in their rituals.  
**Answer:** Mother Shipton  
**Of interest:** Ursula Southwell was popularly known as Mother Shipton. She was born in a cave in Knaresborough, Yorkshire in 1488 and is said to have predicted many events including the defeat of the Armada and the Great Fire of London.

Language Crossword



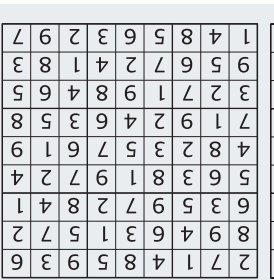
Cryptic Crossword



Wordpuzzler solution



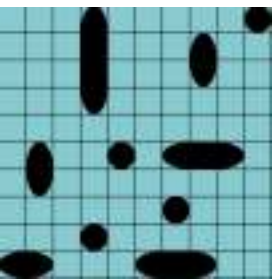
Sudoku solution



Circlegram

The letter represented by the question mark is P. Poseidon, Proteus, Phoebeus, all Gods.

Battleships



WHERE IS THIS?



A tribute to Cervantes

Last week: Salar

This large red house is next to a well-preserved Moorish tower (La Torre de Salar) on the Plaza de García Lorca in Salar, Granada. Salar is also famous for its Roman Villa.



THE SUR IN ENGLISH CORNER

Get snapping, Fuengirola!

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.  
Get out this week and 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!



The film industry is yet another on the long list of those suffering as a result of the pandemic. International film shoots are especially difficult to coordinate in these times of increased restrictions; of the international projects that were in the pipeline for Malaga in 2020, the first that has overcome the uncertainty created by Covid-19 is the production of True Things About Me, a film co-produced with the BBC by Hollywood star Jude Law (The New Pope and Fantastic Animals: The Crimes of Grindelwald, among many others).

Shooting for this drama began last weekend in Malaga city, although other locations on the Costa del Sol are also pencilled in over the coming days.

Adapted from a novel of the same name by Deborah Kay Davies, the main character is played by Ruth Wilson (star of the series Jane Eyre and Luther), who is also sharing in the production with Jude Law, although Law is not part of the cast.

The actress portrays a young woman who lives on the fringes of society, but whose existence is disrupted when a stranger interferes with her quiet life.

Little is known of the final detail of this British production, which has also been shot in the UK and is due to be released in 2021.

#### Shooting on the beach

Ruth Wilson was seen in action on Sunday on the promenade at La Malagueta beach in the city where a scene was filmed in the middle of the street.

Later, Wilson, who is joined in the cast by Robert Goodman and Charlie Heptinstall, moved



Actress Ruth Wilson in a scene filmed in Malaga city centre. **MIGUE FERNÁNDEZ**

## UK filmmakers brave pandemic for Costa shoot

**True Things About Me. Filming for this BBC co-production has been taking place around Malaga city and in Benalmádena this week**



▲ Hollywood star Jude Law is not part of the cast but is producing the film with the BBC. **TOLGA AKMEN. AFP**

**JOSÉ DOBLAS**

**Production of the film is in collaboration with the Málaga Film Office and local company Loslocations**

to a flat in the same area, where indoor scenes were shot.

During the past week, the team led by the British director Harry Wootliff (Only You) also filmed in other locations in the city, such as the port and the historic centre, as well as in Benalmádena.

#### Local support

Produced by Law's Riff Raff UK, The Bureau and BBC Films, the shooting for True Things About Me which has taken place in Spain has enjoyed the logistics support of Malaga company Loslocations, whose presence is clearly visible at locations with around 20 vehicles for filming and a technical team of about 60 people in attendance.

The film, which is being developed in the city with the support of the council's Malaga Film Office, is the first international production that has stood up to the challenges posed by the pandemic, after Spanish film 'La casa del caracol', by Macarena Astorga, was shot in the summer.

In addition to cameras and clappers, masks are frequently seen on set and safety distances have to be maintained. But when "action!" is heard, suddenly we're transported from the sometimes bleak reality of the current situation and we can get lost in the world of fiction again.

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