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English finance
supplement **INSIDE**



FRANCIS SILVA

Go through the green channel at Malaga Airport

Vertical gardens. Four giant screens containing 10,000 plants have been installed in the Costa del Sol airport's passenger terminals, not just to look pretty but to improve the quality of the air and the wellbeing of the travellers. **P6**

Spain and Gibraltar mark the passing of Prince Philip **P16**



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Two million jobs given so far in Andalucía

Covid infection rates
rise across Spain but
Malaga is the province
with the lowest
increase in Andalucía

Hindered by delayed deliveries
and safety concerns, the regional
Covid-19 vaccination programme
has gone past the two-million-jab
milestone this week. More than
half a million people in Andalucía
have received both doses. **P2&3**



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Milestone of two million Covid-19 jabs reached in the Andalucía region

The president of the Junta has highlighted the need to receive more vaccines: "With more doses, we will save more lives and accelerate our economic recovery"

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MALAGA. Andalucía has become the first region in Spain to break the barrier for administering two million vaccines against Covid-19.

The milestone was announced this Thursday by the president of the Junta de Andalucía, Juanma Moreno, in a message on his personal Twitter account, in which he assessed the rate of vaccination in the region.

"The rate of vaccination in Andalucía isn't stopping: we are the first region to exceed two million vaccinations."

The Andalusian president also said that the Junta's objective was to "vaccinate and vaccinate" although he has highlighted the need to take delivery of more vac-

cines. "With more doses, we will save more lives and accelerate our economic recovery," he said.

Moreno accompanied his message with a video that showed the latest data from the vaccination campaign in the region. Up until 14 April some 2,047,287 doses had been administered and a total of 561,429 people had received the full, two-dose treatment.

A record weekend nationally

Spain has broken another record in the coronavirus vaccination campaign. Over the weekend of 10 and 11 April, more than 553,172 doses of Covid-19 vaccines were administered nationally.

This is the second time since the jabs began on 27 December that the national health system has exceeded half a million injections over a weekend. The previous occasion was on 27 and 28 March when the regions administered 504,068 doses.

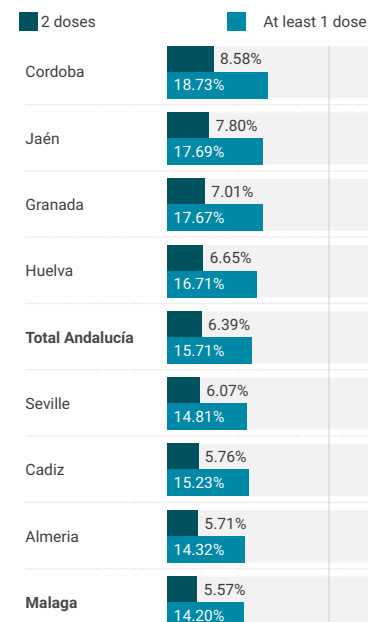
The Ministry of Health, which has already delivered almost 12 million doses of vaccines to the regions, reported that there were already 3,108,437 people - some

6.6 per cent of the population - who have received both doses of the Pfizer, Moderna or AstraZeneca vaccines. To date 16.2 per cent of the population (7.67m people) had already received at least a first jab in Thursday's data.

Those over 80 who have not yet received their Covid-19 first vaccine are still being urged by the Andalusian regional health service to contact their nearest health centre.

A total of 561,429 people had received the full, two-dose treatment in Andalucía by Thursday this week

Vaccination Percentage of population



Source: Junta de Andalucía.

Health ministry rules out Pfizer or Moderna second dose timing change

Janssen delays delivery of its single-jab vaccine to Spain after 'rare' blood clot cases in the US

M. SÁIZ-PARDO / Á. SOTO

MADRID. Spain's Ministry of Health is unwilling, at least for the moment, to change its guidelines to try to speed up vaccinations and recover from the supply and safety issues at Janssen and AstraZeneca.

The department, headed by Carolina Darias, has ignored the request of Madrid, Catalonia and Andalucía to extend - from 21 to 42 days - the administration of the second dose of the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines, in order to "optimise resources" and increase the number of partially immunised people, albeit at the cost of not yet protecting 100 per cent of older people who are considered more vulnerable.

Some other countries have al-

ready resorted to this practice.

Carolina Darias rejected the proposal because, she said, the increase in vaccines arriving during the second quarter will make it unnecessary to have to postpone the second dose.

"The most vulnerable groups should have the maximum protection," said the minister

Darias also ruled out, for the moment, the proposal of Madrid and Andalucía that those under 60 years of age can be vaccinated voluntarily with AstraZeneca and Janssen vaccines.

The decision to halt deliveries to Europe of the Janssen jab could jeopardise Spain's vaccination plan since it is relying on 17.6m single-dose vials from the multinational between the second and third quarters. This is to fulfil part of its promise by the end of August to have 70 per cent of the population fully immunised.

The alert in the US was raised after the six cases of thrombi, all in women between 18 and 48 years old.



A man receives an AstraZeneca vaccine in Vélez Málaga last week. EP

Antequera hospital to join trial on kids and pregnant women

Antequera Hospital is one of only five selected in Spain to participate in a clinical trial evaluating the Pfizer vaccine in children from six months to 12 years and pregnant women.

The trial will begin in May and will be done with volun-

teers who will receive two injections approximately three weeks apart.

The 26-month studies will be carried out by specialists from the pharmacy, gynaecology and paediatric services of the Malaga north health area. People interested in participating may contact officials by telephone on 951 061 147, or by emailing mar.perez.sspa@junta-deandalucia.es

Several of Spain's top-selling drugs have a higher risk of side effects than the AstraZeneca vaccine

ALBERTO GÓMEZ

MALAGA. With much attention being paid recently to patients developing blood clots after receiving the AstraZeneca coronavirus vaccine, experts have spoken of just how rare such side effects are. In fact, most top-selling drugs, such as ibuprofen, have more side effects associated with them than the jab, they say.

Much has been made of a series of cases of those who had received this particular jab, also known as the Oxford vaccine, developing blood clots or having an abnormally low number of platelets in their bloodstream. However, the chances of developing such problems are thought to be around 1 in 100,000.

Ibuprofen side effects

Indeed, it should be remembered that most medicines come with some degree of risk. For example, ibuprofen is linked to a "moderately increased risk of suffering from a heart attack or stroke", according to its own packaging.

Víctor Jiménez, professor of Microbiology at the Complutense University of Madrid explained that: "Any drug on the market can cause serious side effects at least as frequently as this vaccine does".

Another case in point is the contraceptive pill, which causes blood clots in an estimated 1 in 1,000 cases.

Instead, experts say that coronavirus itself is the far greater threat to public health. The statistics support this - in Malaga, eight per cent of those who test positive for the virus have ended up hospitalised since the start of the pandemic. The fatality rate for those who fall ill is thought to be around two per cent. Therefore, medical professionals underline that it is necessary to balance any risks associated with the vaccines with the benefits they will bring.

A colleague of Jiménez, the biochemist and biologist José Manuel Bautista, condemned the panic associated with the AstraZeneca vaccine as "unnecessary scaremongering".

The Spanish Vaccinology Association stated that "the risks of drugs being taken to alleviate side effects from the vaccine are as great, if not greater, than the risks stemming from the vaccine itself".

National Covid case rate hits 200 for first time since February

Malaga province has seen a light increase in its case rate in the last week and remains the Andalusian province with the lowest rate

SUR

MALAGA. The coronavirus 14-day rolling case rate in Spain continues on the same slight upward trend as in recent days.

On Thursday this week, (15 April), the Ministry of Health reported 9,663 new cases of Covid-19 in the day, a level slightly down on previous days.

However, the cumulative incidence rate continues to rise with a two-point daily growth. On Thursday it stood at 202.72 infections per 100,000 inhabitants in 14 days, the second consecutive day over the 200-case barrier that had not been breached since 25 February, when 206 were registered.

Regional variances

Five regions continued to exceed the 250 cases rate in



Mask-wearers pass under lighting in Seville put up to remind locals of the popular 'Feria de Abril' which has been cancelled once again this year. EP

Wednesday's coordinated regional data report - 250 marks the transition from high risk to extreme risk: Ceuta and Melilla, both with 522; Navarra, with 433; Madrid, with 347; and the Basque Country, with 345. The region of Valencia, with 34, had

The national occupancy rate of general hospital beds with Covid-19 cases rose slightly to eight per cent

the lowest incidence rate in the country.

The occupancy of general hospital beds with Covid-19 cases rose slightly to 8 per cent, while the percentage of intensive care units occupied remained stable at 22 per cent.

Malaga province fairing better

Of the eight provinces in the Andalucía region, Malaga province, including the Costa del Sol, continued to have the lowest case rates on Thursday this week.

While Andalucía overall hit an average case rate per 100,000 in the last 14 days of 225.3, Malaga province was on 117.4, up slightly from 105.9 a week earlier.

The municipalities in Malaga with more than 500 cases per 100,000 and which will have to close their borders for a week from today are Alfarnate, Sierra de Yeguas and Almargen. Almargen will also have to close non-essential activity as its rate exceeds 1,000.

The worst province in Andalucía on Thursday for case rates was once again Granada on 391 per 100,000, up from 265 a week earlier, followed by Jaén.

i Visit www.surinenglish.com for daily updates on Covid-19 figures and restrictions, including a handy interactive map.

PM rules out extending state of alarm in May to the concern of some of the regions

RAQUEL MERINO

MALAGA. Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez confirmed on Wednesday this week that he has no plans to extend the national state of alarm which is due to expire on 9 May. In a parliamentary address, Sánchez said that the current situation isn't comparable to how it was when the law was reintroduced on 25 October last year.

However some regions are worried that the removal of this legal shield makes it impossible for them to impose stricter restrictions. Andalusian President Juanma Moreno said on Thursday: "If from 8 May onwards some towns in Andalucía want to organise their feria, I can't stop them, or if they want to go on a 'romería' pilgrimage or a 'botellón' booze-up." He pleaded with Madrid to give him a baseline law to allow tougher restrictions. The national government argues that there are already enough smaller laws for the regions to use to stop this.

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City's planned new low-emissions zone to take 20,000 cars off the street a day within the first five years

Malaga city hall's plan to ban polluting vehicles from the city centre estimates a reduction of 50% in harmful particles

JESÚS HINOJOSA

MALAGA. Malaga city council's plan to create a low-emission zone to reduce pollution in the historic centre and its adjacent neighbourhoods will have an immediate effect, according to the study promoted by the Urban Environment Observatory (OMAU) published this week. Its analysis estimates that in the first five years

of the so-called Málaga Central plan, some 20,000 vehicles per day will be removed from the area because they do not meet the required environmental standards.

As SUR reported, this plan, required as part of the EU's policy to reduce emissions, consists of delimiting a large area of between 350 and 400 hectares from which the most polluting vehicles will be banned (only those with Zero, ECO, C and B stickers allowed). Entry points into the zone will be fitted with cameras which cross-reference number plates with the vehicle database.

The city council estimates that this would result in a 10 per cent

reduction in traffic through the area, and that some 20,000 vehicles would no longer drive through the area every day. Currently around 200,000 vehicles pass through on a working day. However, the study notes that there would be exceptions for residents and authorised vehicles.

In this first short-term stage, the analysis, carried out by the Estudio 7 consultancy, estimates that carbon dioxide levels could be reduced by 30%, carbon monoxide by 42%, nitrogen gases by 51% and PM10 particles by 50%.

A second, medium-term stage, which the study sets for 2030, envisages tightening restrictions so that only vehicles with a Zero, Eco or C label would be allowed to enter, meaning that vehicles with a B label or without a sticker would not be allowed to do so. This would imply a 15% reduction in traffic, which would mean taking 10,000 more vehicles out of the area each day.

And a third stage to be reached by 2035 would mean that only vehicles with Zero or Eco vehicles would be allowed to circulate, which, depending on the estimated evolution of the city's vehicle fleet, would mean a 20% reduction in traffic, with a further 10,000 vehicles per day also no longer being allowed to circulate in Málaga Central.

PLANNED LIMIT OF THE MÁLAGA CENTRAL ZONE



The future dealership on the Valdició industrial estate. SALVADOR SALAS

Tesla prepares to open its first dealership on the Costa

Malaga will be the fourth city in Spain where the high-end electric vehicle manufacturer has a showroom

IGNACIO LILLO

MALAGA. Tesla, the north American manufacturer of top-range electric vehicles created by visionary Elon Musk, will open a car dealership in Malaga city in a couple of months, according to SUR sources.

The showroom and service centre will be in an eye-catching building in Calle Horacio Quiroga, on the Valdició industrial estate overlooking the MA-20.

It will be the first such facility in Andalucía, underlining the region's economic importance despite the crisis induced by the pandemic. Currently, Tesla has two dealerships in Madrid, another two in Barcelona and one in Valencia.

The Costa del Sol is one of the main markets for Tesla in Spain. Since its establishment in the country in 2016, Tesla has sold a total of 124 vehicles in Malaga province, at prices between 47,000 and 100,000 euros. According to data collected by the Malaga Motoring Association (AMA), its most fruitful year was 2019, when it sold 62 – the most in all of Andalucía.

Malaga benefits from a wide network of recharging points, including "super chargers" in El Higuero, Fuengirola, which provide energy at a rapid rate.

Pelle Lundborg, a Swedish entrepreneur based on the Costa, owns two Tesla vehicles, both of which he bought from a dealership in Madrid in 2019.

"The car map shows that the dealership is going to open soon," he remarked.

So far, he is pleased with his Tesla experience. "I am satisfied. Every day the cars work better thanks to the updates."

112 REPORTS

TORREMOLINOS

Prison for glass attack on an off-duty policeman

Á. F. / J. C. Malaga magistrates have handed down a three-and-a-half-year prison sentence and ordered the guilty party to pay 16,212 euros in compensation to the local police officer who was trying to break up a fight in a Torremolinos nightclub and had a glass smashed in his face that left him with a seven-centimetre scar that needed cosmetic surgery.

The events took place at 4am on 9 November 2018 on the terrace of the Parthenon nightclub. After witnessing the fight, the off-duty policeman identified himself and threatened them with arrest. A 37-year-old Spaniard, according to court papers, then took a glass from a table and smashed it into his face.

Although the sentence includes a man's name, the defendant is a transsexual woman but the change hasn't been reflected in her legal documentation yet.



Some of the recovered urchins. SUR

MIJAS

105 kg of illegally caught urchins returned to sea

SUR. Two people have been reported after 105 kilos of illegally caught urchins were discovered. Police also recovered fishing gear and breathing apparatus when the pair were spotted on the Sheriff beach in Mijas.

One of the two people reported turned out to be a repeat offender for carrying out the activity without permits and not respecting quotas that limit the amount caught per day.

Most of the sea urchins seized in Mijas were still alive and were returned to the sea.

FUENGIROLA

Man held for inflicting fatal injuries on dog

Á. F. / J. C. A man was arrested in Fuengirola last Friday, accused of animal abuse after he allegedly kicked a dog that later had to be put to sleep as a result.

The incident allegedly took place on 30 March when a Yorkshire Terrier that was running loose approached water dog being walked by a woman on a lead. A small fight started but the owner of the water dog, with the help of another person, managed to separate the dogs.

Moments later, however, the shouting owner of the Yorkshire Terrier approached, and allegedly gave the water dog a "strong kick to the stomach". The animal collapsed to the ground while the suspect, a 60-year-old Spanish man, left the area.

The dog was diagnosed with serious injuries to the stomach and spleen and it was decided to humanely euthanise the pet.

After investigations the police identified the suspect and he is now awaiting a court appearance.

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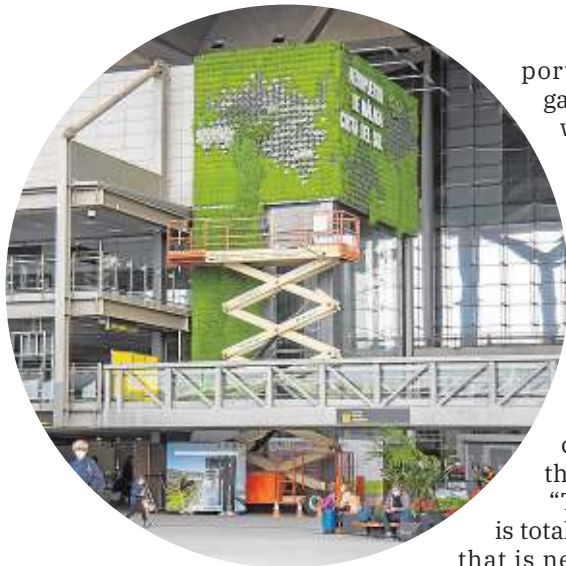


Passengers walk in front of the vertical garden in the main hall of Terminal 3 at Malaga Airport. FRANCIS SILVA

Malaga Airport goes greener

Environment. Aena has installed four vertical gardens with more than 10,000 plants in the terminal building to enhance environmental quality and the wellbeing of travellers

IGNACIO LILLO



▲ One of the green screens at the entrance to Terminal 3. FRANCIS SILVA

In these times of pandemic, Malaga Airport is taking advantage of the reduction in traffic due to the travel restrictions and making improvements to its facilities. And one very striking change is the installation of vertical gardens in different parts of the building. The project consists of four large green screens which will create one of the biggest ‘indoor parks’ of this type in Andalucía, covering 400 square metres in total. One of the vertical gardens is in the main hall of Terminal 3 and is 200 square metres in size, explained Ignacio Benthem,

the head of ACER Espacios Naturales, a company specialising in gardening which won the contract when it was put to tender by the airport operator Aena early last year. Setting up the structures for the gardens was complicated because of the places designated for their locations. It has required specific architectural planning and specialist welders, working on lifting platforms. This part of the work has always been carried out at night to minimise inconvenience for passengers. More than 10,000 plants have been cultivated on these sup-

THE FIGURE

10,000 plants have been used in the four vertical gardens that are now in Malaga Airport, covering about 400 square metres (one of the biggest in Andalucía). The plants are watered and fertilised by a completely automated system, and special illumination is being installed to encourage them to grow.

MAIN SPECIES

Twenty two species have been used for these indoor gardens at the airport, including:

- Alternanthera.
- Caladium.
- Cerastium.
- Chamaedorea.
- Chlorophytum.
- Drosanthemum.
- Evonimus.
- Helxine.
- Heuchera.
- Hosta.
- Lobularia.
- ophiopogon.
- Pittosporum.
- Tradescantia.

is not enough natural light. This will be the final step before the works on creating this indoor garden are complete

What are they for?

The initiative, which has cost more than 200,000 euros, is not just meant to look attractive. In fact there are several objectives, including improving the wellbeing of travellers. According to studies on which Aena has based this project, plants have a tranquillising effect on people who are stressed and a stimulating effect on those who are tired. They also have numerous environmental benefits.

Vegetation contributes to the removal of CO₂ from the atmosphere, and the plants produce oxygen. They also ‘clean’ the air by capturing suspended particles and dust, and they regulate the level of humidity. At the same time, they are able to absorb noxious substances such as aerosols, formaldehydes and carbon monoxide, which stick to their tissues. All this has a favourable effect on respiration and health in general and that, in these times marked by Covid, is something for which we can all be grateful.

Benthem says there are also other effects which may be less well-known to the general public, such as the fact that these panels act as barricades to the heat and cold from outside, and they are able to naturally reduce the indoor temperature by up to five degrees in the summer.

They also help to reduce noise pollution, because the plants absorb sound waves and lower the level of decibels in the environment.

The company responsible for this unusual project is also carrying out others on the Cosa del Sol, including the gardens of the Higuera West development in Fuengirola, for which it has been commissioned by the developers, Urbania, and is using native vegetation such as pine and olive trees.

It is also remodelling the gardens at the Almenara hotel in Sotogrande, and looking after the maintenance of several luxury villas in La Zagaleta residential development.

ports. Each vertical garden is equipped with a smart system which measures the degree of humidity and automatically injects water and fertiliser into the soil when needed. This optimises consumption to the maximum. “The maintenance is totally automatised. All that is needed is a check once a month to see how the plants are doing,” said Benthem. During the first year, this task will be carried out by the installation company. With regard to the plants themselves, Benthem explained that more than 22 different species have been used to make up the compositions and the combination of shapes and colours. These include alternanthera, caladium, cerastium, chamaedorea, chlorophytum, drosanthemum, euonimus, helxine, heuchera, hosta, lobularia, ophiopogon, pittosporum and tradescantia. He pointed out that these are international, not native, species, and they have been selected because they are very resistant: “They survive well in hostile environments, with little light and little maintenance.” In fact, this week the vertical gardens will benefit from special illumination which has been designed to encourage growth in indoor plants, because there

Tourism authorities seek agreements as passenger numbers continue to nosedive

The industry is keen not to "lose" another summer so is working on securing key markets, including the UK and China

PILAR MARTÍNEZ

MALAGA. The number of passengers passing through the Malaga-Costa del Sol Airport continued to plummet during March 2021 - the first month in which direct comparison in traffic numbers can be made since the start of the worldwide pandemic in 2020.

Despite any boost that the Easter holiday may have brought, the airport saw only 166,876 travellers pass through its facilities - a drop of 72.8 per cent on the 613,438 during March 2020 - when the state of alarm was first declared.

Official figures also show that during the first quarter of 2020, 440,159 passengers passed through the airport, which is 84 per cent fewer than in the same period last year when 2.7 million passengers were counted.

Malaga, which traditionally occupies fourth place in the national ranking of Spanish airports by passenger numbers, has now crashed to sixth place behind Madrid, Barcelona, Gran Canaria, Palma de Mallorca and Tenerife North.

Travel corridor with the UK

In an interview on Telecinco's AR programme, the Andalusian regional president Juanma Moreno stressed that the possible "loss" of a second summer, "after having already lost Easter, the spring fes-

tivities and the fairs, would be a catastrophe in economic and social terms."

For this reason, the Junta has two clear objectives; "to reach this summer with as much immunity as possible" and "to reach agreements with the United Kingdom, which already has an significant proportion of the population vaccinated, so that there are safe corridors that guarantee the arrival of visitors to Spain".

Promotional campaigns

To this end Malaga city council has indicated it will carry out several promotional campaigns in the United Kingdom, Germany, the

Scandinavian countries and France, which are priority markets for Malaga.

Likewise, the Junta's tourism department has signed a collaboration agreement with the EU SME Center, an initiative that offers practical support to small and medium-sized companies to do business in the Chinese market. Among the activities planned are seminars, consultation services and support in future trade missions.

The regional government explains that "the EU SME Center, funded by the European Union, has a team of experts who offer SMEs advice and support in four

areas, such as business development, legislation, standards and compliance and human resources".

Before the start of the pandemic, more than a thousand tourists from China stayed each month in hotels in Malaga city according to the data from the National Institute of Statistics (INE). In 2019, in the city alone, there were 14,855 Chinese travellers who booked more than 18,600 hotel nights, from where they usually made trips to Ronda and Mijas.

These are travellers with a high purchasing power who usually travel in groups and stop on the Costa as part of a holiday itinerary of the main Spanish cities.

IN BRIEF

MALAGA

Cruise ships to return by end of summer

I. L. / P. M. Cruise ships will return by the end of summer and they will have a base port on the Costa del Sol, according to the President of the Malaga Port Authority, Carlos Rubio.

As international cruises are banned, the first routes will be only national, for the most part along the Andalusian coast from Huelva to Almeria. It is also planned to extend them to other nearby areas including Ceuta, Melilla, Murcia and Valencia.

A key element in making all of this possible is that cruise passengers will travel in 'bubble' groups, and will have been vaccinated or have produced negative PCR tests - as will the crews.

MALAGA

Jet2.com cancels UK flights until 23 June

P. M. Jet2.com has cancelled flights operating between the Costa del Sol and the UK until 23 June after the Global Travel Taskforce, a UK government advisory body, said in a report that it would not be able to guarantee when international travel could resume. When the UK promised to permit non-essential international travel from 17 May, Jet2.com's bookings went up by 600 per cent in a single night, with Spain topping the list of destinations.

Air France, on the bright side, said that Malaga would be one of the ten Spanish airports which it would continue to fly to during the high season.

Barceló takes over the management of two four-star Costa hotels

The group has strengthened its presence on the coast, adding more than 500 rooms in Torremolinos and almost 200 in Marbella

PILAR MARTÍNEZ

MALAGA. The Barceló hotel group has strengthened its presence on the Costa del Sol, where it now has five establishments, offering some 1,500 rooms and employing around 500 people when at full capacity.

The chain has recently taken

over the management of two four-star hotels in Torremolinos and Marbella adding almost 700 rooms, indicating that the Costa del Sol is "a strategic destination for its expansion in Andalucía".

The Barceló Hotel Group announced the addition of the new Occidental Torremolinos Playa hotel to its portfolio, the result of the strategic alliance with Hotel Investment Partners (HIP), which is the third largest hotel investor in Europe and owner of the establishment. The four-star hotel has 508 completely renovated rooms, an à la carte restaurant, a buffet restaurant and



View of the pool areas of the Occidental Torremolinos Playa. SUR

a pool bar. In addition, it has a children's club and a water park for youngsters with two swimming pools. The group says it "makes it the perfect destination for a family vacation".

Sustainable tourism

In Marbella, the group has also

taken over the management of the Guadalmina hotel, another four-star establishment with 178 rooms and said, "We are working on a complete repositioning of the hotel and want to focus on the experience of a customer who is increasingly aware and demanding with the challenges

of sustainable tourism."

With these new additions, Barceló Hotel Group now manages five establishments located in Malaga, Fuengirola, Torremolinos and Marbella - where it has two hotels. In total there are 1,500 rooms and more than 500 workers are employed when at full capacity.

Regarding the group's expectations for summer, Gaspar Sáez, regional director of Barceló Hotels for Andalucía and Valencia, said, "It is still too early to make forecasts. Everything will depend on the evolution of the pandemic and restrictions on mobility, both in the national market and in the United Kingdom, a strategic market for the Costa del Sol."

He said, "We trust that it will be a better summer than the previous one. We are more optimistic from September, where we see an upward trend in demand that we trust will mark the beginning of the recovery of the sector."

Torremolinos 'Sabor a Málaga' food brand area to open in May

The market site will consist of 22 stalls offering locally grown agricultural and food produce carrying this promotional brand's coveted seal of approval

TONY BRYANT

TORREMOLINOS. The council in Torremolinos has announced that the new market for the 'Sabor a Málaga' local food promotional brand will open its doors to the public at the end of May. The concession for the gourmet market, located in Plaza de la Independencia, has been awarded to the Malaga-based La Reserva, an enterprise owned by local hotelier José Gómez.

The market will be the first permanent Sabor a Malaga market in the province and will consist of 22 stalls offering products carrying the brand's coveted seal of approval, a quality mark highlighting and promoting locally grown agricultural and food produce.



José Gómez (r) and the Mayor of Torremolinos (l) at the market site. **SUR**

The building, which has been subject to several reforms over the last 20 years, has been refurbished with an investment of 300,000 euros from the provincial government and 111,667 euros from Torremolinos town hall.

The opening of the gourmet enterprise has been postponed several times, the first of which was due to structural damage to

the building. In 2018, workers discovered that four supporting pillars had been removed and the building was said to have run a serious risk of collapse.

The project was further disrupted by the Covid-19 restrictions, although the town hall now expects it will be fully operational before tourists begin arriving later this year.

VOGGET

LUXURY SOFAS AND FURNITURE NOW AVAILABLE IN FUENGIROLA

A VOGGET is more than just a sofa, a VOGGET is a symbol of distinction and luxury and an emblem of truly unique quality and comfort. With a new store in Fuengirola, it's easier than ever to enjoy one



VOGGET, a brand dedicated to providing high-end furniture, decoration and interior design with more than 30 years of experience and great international prestige, has announced that they have opened a new store in Fuengirola.

The shop is staffed by a team of experts whose main goal is to offer customers the best solution for their homes. They are committed to doing things properly, which is one of the company's main values. Full customer satisfaction is their

main priority.

The brand specialises in the Exclusive Divanni Collection, which includes a carefully chosen selection of high quality sofas with unique, exclusive and comfortable designs.

Divanni Collection sofas stand out for their attractive looks, their outstanding quality and comfort and their very competitive prices.

At the end of the day, a Divanni Collection sofa from VOGGET ensures excellent comfort that will satisfy even the most

demanding customers.

As well as their exclusive collection of designer sofas, the VOGGET stores also sell Italian designer bedroom and dining-room furniture, tables and top quality decorative items.

Pop into the shop at number 41 on Avenida de Mijas in Fuengirola and have a look around. The professional staff will be happy to help you find what you're looking for.

Opening hours are Monday to Saturday from 10 am to 2 pm and from 4.30 pm to 8.30 pm.

HERE AND THERE

FUENGIROLA

New valley pathway opens in Carvajal area

SUR. The mayor of Fuengirola, Ana Mula, has paid a visit to a new pedestrian path through open land close to the Carvajal area of the resort which has been built by the council.

The walkway has been laid out for just over 700 metres along the side of the Arroyo Zaragoza stream bed valley running inland after the Torreblanca area. It ends at Calle Gorriones.

The path, which is part of the town's plan to maximise the potential of its green spaces, has been put in place at a cost of 426,600 euros and has involved laying paving and constructing fencing. Two green



Ana Mula (l) walks on the path. **SUR**

areas have also been added - one next to the N-340 coastal road which has a children's play area and one further up the path which includes a picnic area.

TORREMOLINOS

LGBT hotel building to be auctioned off by owner

I. GELIBTER. The company that owns the building in Torremolinos rented out to the high-profile Hotel Ritual has put it up for sale. However this will not affect the current business, multiple sources have confirmed.

Hotel Ritual has become known in recent years as a key attraction in the resort for LGBT tourism and the hotel operators have invested in the site which they rent from the owners. These now want to auction the site with bids from 20 million euros but the new owners will have to respect the existing contract.

MIJAS

Council's 2021 road resurfacing plan starts

I.G. Mijas council has started up its 2021 plan for maintenance of the roads in the municipality that fall under its control. The budget for the repairs to be carried out this year is 350,000 euros. Initially 16 streets will be resurfaced at a cost of 130,000 euros. The rest of the plan will be worked on after the summer.

One of the first parts of the plan to be completed and the most urgent is the resurfacing of the storm-damaged road between La Cala village and La Cala Resort, near El Jinete restaurant.

Donkey Dreamland appeals for funds to save life of newborn foal

T. BRYANT

MIJAS. The Mijas-based Donkey Dreamland charity and training centre in Mijas Costa is appealing for funds to help save the life of a newborn donkey. The foal was one of two donkeys that were born at the sanctuary last Sunday, although one died shortly after birth. The foals were delivered by the organisation's founder, Amaya, who said she was "extremely sad about the loss".

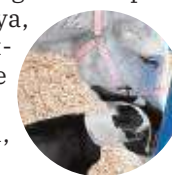
The surviving foal, which has been named Luz (light), is now in intensive care and is being looked after by six veterinary surgeons. The donkey is receiving oxygen through a mask, milk through a tube and

blood through a transfusion from its mother in order to help raise its oxygen levels.

In order to pay for the treatment, which in just two days amounted to more than 2,000 euros, the association has set up a GoFundMe page with a target of 4,000 euros.

"We hate asking for money, but this treatment is very expensive. Day one of intensive care amounted to 1,300 euros, so we need to raise as much money as we can to help save this poor baby foal's life, and to enable the mother to live a happy life without having to come to terms with the loss of her two babies", Amaya explained.

www.facebook.com/donkey-dreamlandmijas



Mother and foal

Carrefour



Estepona | Fuengirola | Mijas |
Torremolinos | Valle del Guadalhorce

OFFERS OF THE WEEK



FROM THE FISH MARKET TO THE TABLES OF MÁLAGA

The fishmonger's departments at the Carrefour centres in Estepona, Mijas, Fuengirola, Torremolinos and Valle del Guadalhorce offer the best products, prepared to suit each customer's tastes

Closely sourced, fresh products of the highest quality make up the varied selection available from the fishmonger's departments at the Carrefour centres in Estepona, Mijas, Fuengirola, Torremolinos and Valle del Guadalhorce.

To achieve this, the stock is purchased on a daily basis directly from the main fish markets in Estepona, Fuengirola, Marbella, Conil and Algeciras. The managers of each centre's fishmonger's department go to the markets every day to personally select the best fish available there.

The commitment to closely sourced fish is apparent in the products such as the purse-seine fish (sardines, anchovies, horse mackerel and mackerel) that come straight from the fishing boats to the centres' counters in little over an hour, resulting in unbeatable freshness.

Where varieties unavailable on our coasts are concerned, these centres are able, thanks to the Carrefour support platform, to purchase from fish markets all over Spain which offer the best quality at the best prices.

Aware of the needs of the new consumers, these Carrefour centres have the "Calidad y Origen" (Quality and Origin) range, which guarantees the excellence of salmon, sea bream and bass bred and fed under the best conditions and free of antibiotic treatments.

All to offer a constant selection of more than 120 varieties of fish, shellfish and seafood. Rock fish of

different species and sizes; red tuna of the highest quality prepared at their facilities and cut to the tastes of each customer; and, of course, the best seafood from the Andalusian fish markets, including those of Huelva.

It's worth highlighting that, as with the tuna, all these products are prepared both for customers who place orders and for the free service area. A fresh tray service is available to those who do not wish to queue.

Moreover, as is the company's custom, much attention is paid to presentation and to keeping the product fresh.

To check the offers and daily discounts with which to enjoy the best products at the best price, clients just need to look at the centres' promotional leaflets.

Trust in the best

To meet the demands of their customers with the maximum guarantees, the Carrefour centres in Estepona, Mijas, Fuengirola, Torremolinos and Valle del Guadalhorce have a team of professionals who provide the fish with the best treatment, preparing it as the customers prefer and packaging it so it reaches homes in the best condition and without breaking the cold chain. They also receive continuous training to satisfy the growing demands for new culinary styles, such as preparations for sushi, tartar or carpaccio, among others.

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By the cut

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Pack 2 pieces

5.85€
per Kilo

PORK RIB CHOPS
Origin: Spain

10.95€
per Kilo

PINK TOMATO
Origin: Spain
Calibre: G/GG. Category: I

2.49€
per Kilo

(BEEF) RIB STEAK

10.95€
per Kilo

CARREFOUR MANGO
600 grams (1)
OR CARREFOUR AVOCADO
450 grams (2)

1.49€
per Kilo

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Variety: Extra Sweet.
Calibre: 5/7. Category: I

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per Kilo

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off 2nd item

1 tray 2€
The 2nd tray
works out at
0,60€
2 trays 2.60€

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Town hall presents co-op housing project for 50 to 70 year olds

RINCÓN DE LA VICTORIA

Work to the complex, which will include 68 homes, common areas, medical facilities and allotments, is expected to begin in early 2022

SUR

RINCÓN DE LA VICTORIA. Rincón de la Victoria town hall unveiled on Tuesday plans for a cooperative housing project for people between the ages of 50 and 70 in the El Cantal area of the town.

Councillors explained that the “pioneering” Tartessos Málaga co-housing project will provide 68 homes and should be ready by summer 2023. They added that 20 jobs will be created and that six-million-euro project is being funded by private investors.

Urban planning councillor Miguel Ángel Jiménez explained that the housing cooperative is based on a “new lifestyle model based on efficiency and sustainability”. He went on to say that potential residents would need to have “clear values on community living” and that it was being designed to “combat loneliness”.



Councillors at the presentation of the housing project on Tuesday. **SUR**

Jiménez predicted that in 15 years time one out of three households will have just one occupant and that almost half of those people will be over the age of 65.

José Antonio López, president of Tartessos Málaga, a not-for-profit cooperative, explained that sixteen of the houses are to be allocated to people on the town hall register (Padrón) and the cost of living in one of the homes “will

not exceed the average monthly pension” which is 1,200 euros.

As well as the 68 private homes, the complex will comprise common areas including a dining room and cafeteria, doctor’s surgery and nurse’s room, rehabilitation and multipurpose facilities, a swimming pool, gardens and allotments and space for outdoor activities. Work is expected to start in early 2022.

Neglected pony recuperating well following Seprona and rescue-centre intervention

E. CABEZAS

ARENAS. A pony with deformed hooves and damaged tendons was rescued from private land in the hamlet of Daimalos near Arenas last week, following a routine inspection by an animal welfare organisation.

The organisation, APISMAN, followed the pony for around two months before contacting Seprona animal and nature protection branch of the Guardia Civil to in-

tervene.

The pony, a black stallion, was taken to the Andalusian horse rescue centre in Alhaurín el Grande, where it has had its hooves cut and is said to be recovering well.

The owner of the pony said he hadn’t cut its hooves on account of the fact that they were growing upwards instead of downwards. He has been reported to the police for alleged animal neglect.

The animal’s microchip was not in the name of the current owner



The rescued pony. **SUR**

and there were no vet’s records.

The horse centre is asking people to name the pony via its Facebook page: Centro Andalusi de Rescate de Caballos.

Lux Mundi appeals for donations for second hand shop as well as items for local food banks

TORRE DEL MAR

J. R. Lux Mundi has said that its Torre del Mar second hand shop is now open three days a week; on Monday, Wednesday and Friday, from 10am to 1pm. Donations of clothing and household goods are gratefully received and can be left during the shop opening times. Lux Mundi points out that all items are “quarantined” for a period of time before going on sale.

The organisation is also appealing for donations of food and money in order to continue its support to local food banks. Items such as dried and canned food, olive and sunflower oil and cleaning and toiletry items are particularly welcome.



One of the baby emus. **SUR**

Baby emus move in to Almuñécar bird park as popular tourist attraction reopens

ALMUÑÉCAR

J. R. Almuñécar’s Loro Sexi bird park has recently welcomed two new baby emus.

The birds were born in the nearby Peña Escrita tourism and nature complex in January and were moved to the bird park last week.

The two babies, who haven’t been named yet, will live with a new ‘family’ for a further six months and will be separated before reaching maturity.

In a press release the bird park explained that the emus will reach sexual maturity at between 12 to 14 months and are expected to be around two metres tall when fully grown.

They will weigh around 45 kilos and will be able to run at speeds of up to 50 kilometres per hour for short distances. It added that emus live anywhere between 10 to 20 years.

The Loro Sexi bird park reopened during Holy Week after a period of closure due to the pandemic. As well as the baby emus, it has introduced more species of parrots, after which the park is named (loro means parrot in Spanish).

The park can be visited every day between 10.30 and 2pm and from 5 to 8pm.

Contract for new chiringuito near Nerja’s iconic Balcón de Europa out to tender

NERJA

E. C. Nerja town hall has put a contract out to tender for the construction and management of a new chiringuito (beach restaurant) on Calahonda beach, next to the Balcón de Europa.

Work has already started to prepare the plot of land, which the town hall acquired in 2017 from a private owner for the sum of one million euros.

Prior to that, in 2014, the Papagayo chiringuito had been ordered to close due to complaints by neighbours.

The owners of the new chiringuito will have to pay the town hall 20,000 euros per year over a 25-year lease period.



Building work begins on new public park near centre of Coín

It will cost 2.5 million euros to develop the 20,000-square-metre site which will include exercise areas, play parks and a 1,000-seater outdoor theatre

ANDREA JIMÉNEZ

COÍN. Construction has begun on a new 20,000-square-metre public park by the Rio Bajo, near the centre of Coín. The major new project for the town will include four children's play parks, a 1,000-seater outdoor theatre for performances and an artificial lake. It is expected to have cost 2.5 million euros by the time it is finished in 2022 and it will become one of the largest urban parks in the Guadalhorce valley area.



A drawing of the plans for the new urban park. **SUR**

The building work will be carried out in several stages. The four children's parks will be spread out over an area of 2,000 square metres while the lake will take up another 2,000 square metres of space.

Once finished, there will be a café-bar on site along with space in which people of all ages can practise sports. There will also be 150 free parking spaces, with the Diputación provincial authority financing that part of the project at a cost of 180,000 euros.

Mayor of Coín Francisco Santos commented: "It's a very ambitious and complex project. We've spent years planning this so it gives me great pride to say we're starting the building work." He went on to explain that the site will be a combination of an urban park and a riverside park as it straddles land between the Rio Bajo and Ximénez de Guzmán school, close to Coín's town centre.

Santos stated that this was part of the council's "commitment to promoting culture and leisure" in the town.

Rare marbled duck released into wild as part of conservation plan

A. JIMÉNEZ

MALAGA. Environmental officials at the Junta de Andalucía have released 16 rare marbled ducks into the wild at inland Malaga province's Laguna de Fuente de Piedra lake.

The species of duck is under threat and the regional government has been carrying out a programme to breed examples in captivity then release them under supervision at certain wetland sites around Andalucía.

The small marbled duck ('cerceta pardilla' in Spanish) is the duck species most at risk of extinction in Europe. Last year only 48 breeding pairs were identified in Andalucía.

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Project for major new underground car park put out to tender

The facility, on the junction of Avenida Severo Ochoa and Avenida Nabeul, will have 585 spaces

JOAQUINA DUEÑAS

MARBELLA. Marbella town council has put the contract out to tender for the construction and subsequent operation (for 40 years) of an underground car park on Avenida Severo Ochoa at its intersection with Avenida Nabeul.

According to the specifications, it will have 585 spaces across three levels for hourly users, residents who purchase a space (at least 25 per cent) and for monthly, quarterly or annual subscribers.

The plot of land has a very elongated rectangular shape, with an approximate length of 185.17 metres and a width of 24.01 metres, resulting in an area of 4,445.93 square metres. Its location is right in the centre of Marbella - an area with narrow streets, many of them pedestrianised, surrounded by residential buildings as well as hotels and hostels.



The location of the future underground car park. JOSELE

According to the final draft prepared by company Dibein, "The location and design of this car park ensures good accessibility from the perimeter roads as well as good locations for its entrances and exits (two of each) to avoid congestion."

The draft includes the modification of the intersection of these two major roads with the crea-

tion of a roundabout to improve mobility. The tender is part of the Municipal Parking Plan, whose objectives, in addition to resolving the shortage of parking spaces, are to promote a change in the town's mobility model.

The value of the contract, before taxes, amounts to more than 18.8 million euros. The deadline for submission of bids is 7 May.

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Bernadette Cooper. SUR

New appeal for help to find a Costa del Sol bar owner missing since 1993

FERNANDO TORRES

BENALMÁDENA. A new appeal for information has been launched into the whereabouts of Bernadette (real name Susan) Cooper who ran the popular Irish pub Molly Malone's in Benalmádena in the nineties. In 1993, she closed the business and planned to hop on a plane from Malaga to fly to London, where she hoped to raise enough money to pay off some debts - but she never showed up.

Now, the Missing People charity and experts at Locate International have revived the search, asking Costa del Sol residents for any information that may help locate Bernadette - either relative to the premises she ran, her relationships or anything else they might know.

HERE AND THERE

MARBELLA

Petition to remove bust of emeritus king

J. D. The Izquierda Unida and Unidas Podemos opposition parties on Marbella council issued a joint statement on Wednesday calling for the town hall to replace the bust of King Emeritus Juan Carlos located in Plaza de los Naranjos (Orange Square) with a sculpture dedicated to key Covid-19 workers.

"It's incomprehensible to keep a bust in honour of a person who took advantage of his status as king to make a financial profit," the statement read.

ESTEPONA

Cudeca calls for volunteers for new shop

T. B. Cudeca's second-hand shop in Estepona has moved to a larger premises in Calle Adolfo Suárez Figueroa. The cancer charity has now launched a campaign appealing for volunteers to work in the new shop.

A spokesperson said, "The charity shops are the main source of income, so we need reliable staff who can offer a few hours each week to oversee the daily running of the business."

voluntariado@cudeca.org



Council representatives inside the old cinema. J. M. M.

CASARES

Town hall purchases old cinema and plans to convert it into a cultural centre

J. M. MARTÍN. The old cinema in Casares, which has been closed and vacant since the 1970s, has been purchased by the council which plans to convert it into a public space for cultural events.

Located on Calle Fuente, the iconic building was purchased for 120,000 euros and will also house new municipal offices.

The building has two floors and is over 500 square metres in size. The purchase agreement

also includes the adjoining plot that connects the old cinema with the area corresponding to the municipal swimming pool and the sports facilities. This will allow for the creation of further recreational areas.

This project forms part of the council's ambitions to recover and restore older buildings in the municipality, especially those of sentimental value such as this one.

MARBELLA

Pay and display to come into force on 26 April

J. DUEÑAS. More than a 170 parking spaces in the La Zambomba area of Marbella will become a 'zona azul' (blue zone) where motorists will have to purchase a ticket to park. This will come into effect on 26 April.

The paying zone comes as a result of demand from local residents who were becoming increasingly concerned by the presence of unofficial parking monitors, popularly known as 'gorrillas'.



Lines have been painted. JOSELE

Zero Covid-19 cases among residents, but several new ones detected in visitors

COVID-19

The population of Gibraltar has been Covid-free for days but this shows that caution is still needed

DEBBIE BARTLETT

GIBRALTAR. Gibraltar has registered no cases of Covid-19 among its resident population for several days, but on Wednesday the number of cases among visitors shot up from one to 14. These visitors are normally ships' crew or tourists, and the virus was detected while they were in Gibraltar.

One person has been admitted to the Covid-19 hospital ward, and the rest are in isolation. In total, 40 people are currently in isolation in Gibraltar, including those who are extra-vulnerable and people who have not tested positive themselves but have been in close contact with someone who has.

Gibraltar's vaccine campaign is generally believed to be respon-

sible for the lack of cases among residents. Yesterday the figures showed that 66,209 doses of the vaccine have been administered so far: 35,825 first doses and 30,384 second. These include vaccination of many of the cross-border workers, as they are part of the vaccination campaign.

In the meantime, the Gibraltar government is warning people to familiarise themselves with public health restrictions in Spain and to ensure that they comply with them, as the public health situation is of concern in several European countries and that includes the neighbouring Spanish region of Andalucía.

The statement said it is important to bear in mind that even a person who has been vaccinated against Covid-19 can still contract the disease, albeit with a lesser degree of severity, and spread it to other people. The Spanish authorities have indicated that a fourth wave of Covid-19 is expected to materialise over this week and the next as a consequence of contacts made during Easter.



The Governor (second left) during the visit. SUR

Governor visits the Post Office building in Main Street

GIBRALTAR

D. BARTLETT. The Governor of Gibraltar, Sir David Steel, visited the Royal Gibraltar Post Office at 109 Main Street on Thursday, where he was greeted by Glendon Martinez, Director of Postal Services, and by the Minister for Postal Services, Vijay Daryanani.

The Governor was given a short tour of the Main Street premises. Glendon Martinez gave him a background of current operations and the history of the post office building was given by local historian Rich-

ard Garcia MBE.

The Gibraltar Post Office has been running for over 150 years, as in 1857 the Overland Post Office (based in the colonial authorities' premises at Secretary's Lane) merged with the Packet Agency (which had offices in Turnbull's Lane). The first stamps went on sale in September and a year later a new building was completed and opened. It remains Gibraltar's main post office today.

Since 1886 Gibraltar has been able to issue its own stamps, and these are very much in demand from collectors.

IN BRIEF

CULTURE

Gibraltar Spring Festival programme

D. B. The programme for the Spring Festival 2021 includes a number of events, but many will be online or pre-recorded due to the pandemic. Full details are available from the Ministry of Culture, but some of the highlights will be the May Day celebrations on 1 May, the Culture versus Covid art exhibition at the John Mackintosh Hall from 5 May and the Drama Festival from 17 to 21 May.

BUSINESS

Face-to-face meetings at the One Stop Shop

D. B. The Business Liaison Team's One Stop Shop will begin face-to-face meetings with members of the public from next Monday, 19 April. The first phase launched on 1 February to provide via email support and guidance to individuals on the business start-up process. The second phase has been able to start as the Covid-19 restrictions have now been eased in Gibraltar.

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File photo of those effected by misselling protesting in Marbella. JOSELE

Favourable ruling brings hope for other Landsbanki claimants

When the Icelandic bank went bust in the 2008 crisis many expats found the complex loans they had taken out meant their assets were at risk

F. TORRES / J. CANO

MALAGA. There is renewed optimism among some 160 couples and individuals, most of them British expatriate residents in Spain, affected by alleged misselling by a collapsed Icelandic bank.

At the end of March a court in Malaga finally found in favour of one couple who had taken out one of Landsbanki's highly complex financial products sold to expats. These were based on remortgaging a home as a way of securing a loan which was then used to buy other financial products. Customers faced financial ruin when Landsbanki went bankrupt in the 2008 financial crisis as paying off the loan to the bank in part was confusingly tied up with the ongoing success of the bank itself.

Despite setbacks in court for

some early claimants, those affected are now being defended by Marbella lawyer Ignacio Infante and have joined forces in an association to defend their rights. Infante says the original products should never have been offered to pensioners in the way they were.

The recent ruling in favour of the one couple paves the way for possibly more favourable decisions in the future in this long-running story.

The Malaga court has cancelled the debt that the affected British couple had.

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What the Culture will be? Inspiring experiences to imagine a better future

There are many scenarios that arise after the pandemic, but none of them contemplate a return to the so called "old normality". The COVID19 crisis has changed our world forever. However, it has become an extraordinary and unique opportunity to build a better future. What is already being done in the cultural sector that allows us to imagine what will come? What inspiring experiences that have been reinvented can we take as a reference in the regeneration of our societies?

Welcome:

Adriana Moscoso del Prado
Ministry of Culture and Sports
GENERAL DIRECTOR CULTURAL INDUSTRIES, INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY AND COOPERATION

Moderator:

Antonio Javier López
Diario Sur
CULTURE EDITOR

Inspiring Cultural Destinations

Jose Luis Costillas
Oviedo City Council
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It was a dry year for olive groves. SUR

Local olive harvest is over and 54,000 liquid tonnes of oil have been made in Malaga province

EUGENIO CABEZAS

MALAGA. With the economically important olive harvest now closed for this growing season, local producers have been taking stock of the amount of olive oil that they have been able to produce in Malaga province.

At the start of the season, expectations were that some 74,000 liquid tonnes of oil would be pressed from olives in the province.

However the result has been more disappointing, with almost 54,000 tonnes produced in the end.

Growers are blaming the lower figure on lack of rainfall and less oil within the olives.

Nationally, 1.3 million tonnes had been pressed this season up to the end of March. Growers pay close attention to the level of production and the monthly supply and demand as it effects the market price they get for their oil.

PM under fire from opposition for defending Republican anniversary

Spain's Second Republic was proclaimed on 14 April 1931 but opinions on its importance and effects are still split on ideological and party lines

M. A. ALFONSO / N. HESKETH

MADRID. There was controversy this week in the Spanish parliament when Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez chose to make reference to the 90th anniversary of the proclamation of the Second Republic on 14 April 1931.

The Second Republic was declared two days after the Spanish monarch at the time, Alfonso XIII, went into exile following municipal elections nationwide that saw anti-monarchist sentiment surge.



Pedro Sánchez in Congreso. EP

Depending on whether a party is on the left or right of the political spectrum, the Second Republic is generally either seen as a triumph of progressive rights, such as the vote for women, or a

chaotic period that caused the Spanish Civil War in 1936 and the start of the dictatorship of General Franco.

PM Sánchez, who is leader of the Socialist PSOE party, said in his speech in Congreso on Wednesday that 14 April 1931 was a watershed moment in the history of Spain, comparable with the new democratic constitution of 1978 or joining the EU in 1985.

Leader of far-right Vox criticised the speech. Santiago Abascal accused Sánchez of “threatening” Felipe VI by talking up the Second Republic, adding it had been “no more than a criminal regime held hostage by socialists and communists”.

The conservative PP leader, Pablo Casado, accused Sánchez of “trying to divide the Spanish people” by making his speech.

IN BRIEF

VALENCIA

Scenic camel ride turns into tragedy

SUR. A camel ride through a natural park near Valencia turned into tragedy earlier this month. After a 20-year old-man and his sister mounted two cam-

els one of the animals took fright and ran wild, said observers.

The man was seriously injured after getting caught in the double saddle and being dragged more than 200 metres. He later died in hospital. His sister was also injured. They had been riding as part of a family group.

MADRID

Exhumation at war monument moves ahead

SUR. The government is speeding up its plans to exhume over 500 bodies buried in the controversial Valle de Los Caídos monument to the Civil War outside Madrid. The bodies, among the many thousands there, are being requested by their families. Government officials have now applied for a works licence at the local town hall.

MADRID

Ex-Cs member told not to stand for PP party

SUR. The conversion of high-profile member of the Ciudadanos (Cs) party in Valencia, Toni Canto, to the PP in order to stand in May's Madrid elections was seen as a propaganda coup for acting regional president Isabel Ayuso. Now a court has ruled against it as he wasn't on the local census in time. The PP is appealing to the Constitutional Court.

THE EURO ZONE MARK NAYLER

Adiós Twitter



I've pretty much given up on politicians, as I'm sure many of you have. Very few of them - and I'm mainly thinking of Spain and the UK here, but perhaps you'll think this applies elsewhere, too - inspire trust, loyalty or intellectual enthusiasm. They rarely make decisions or announcements that encourage voters to question the status quo, and most of them seem to be motivated by a love of power and status.

This week, however, Barcelona's mayor Ada Colau actually did something surprising and thought-provoking: she took herself off the hate-filled social media platform Twitter. To use the misleadingly jaunty term for posting half-formed thoughts on the site, she will no longer be “Tweeting” to her audience of almost a million followers.

In her departure message on Facebook (maybe that'll go next), Colau said that Twitter normalises “violence, insults [and] sexist verbal attacks” and condemned the practice of creating false accounts with the “sole objective of causing harm”. “Politics,” she went on, “has too much noise, testosterone and easy Tweet proclamations, and needs more empathy, complexity, listening, pedagogy and nuance.”


Of course I'm going to agree with this: I've never had a Twitter account because I dislike the

very idea of it, ditto for Facebook. But Colau's reasons for rejecting it, both as a political platform and as a forum for debate and discussion, will hopefully make even the most devoted “Tweeters” examine the nature and purpose of their online activity.


Her criticisms come just ahead of Madrid's regional election on 4 May, in which social media, especially Twitter, will play an instrumental role. That's to say, it will ceaselessly generate fake news and rumours, and enable online “personalities” to circulate accusations and caricatures of their enemy's ideology, flattening details into soundbites and slogans. Put your hands together for Twitter, ladies and gentlemen!

Colau's call for understanding and complexity instead of hatred and simplification applies to politics as a whole, whether conducted from a keyboard or in person. It's just as impossible to formulate a coherent argument in 280 characters (40-50 words) as it is to engage with ideas or policies by hurling insults at the opposition, the practice which has unfortunately replaced reasoned debate in Madrid's Congreso.

Barcelona's thoughtful mayor rightly wants a higher standard to prevail, and she leads by example.



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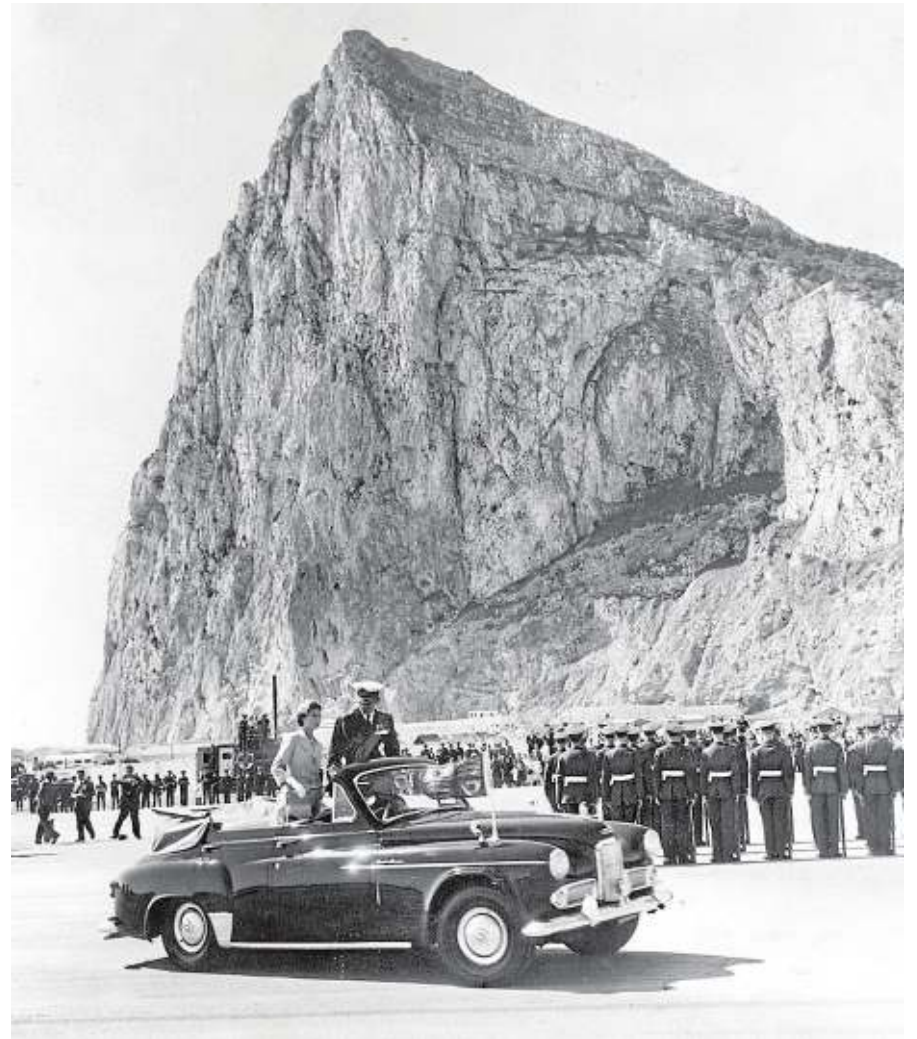
PHOTO FOCUS



Queen Elizabeth II and Prince Philip in conversation with King Juan Carlos and Queen Sofía during their only official visit to Spain, in 1988. **EFE**



The Duke of Edinburgh retired from public engagements in 2017 but did take part in the state visit of the Spanish royals, King Felipe and Queen Letizia, in the same year. **SUR**



The Queen and Prince Philip during a visit to Gibraltar in 1954. **SUR**



Prince Philip with Queen Letizia during the royal visit of 2017. **AFP**



The Duke with Queen Sofía during the Spanish royals' UK visit of 1986. **SUR**

'Dear Uncle Philip' is remembered

Spain and Gibraltar led the overseas tributes to the Duke of Edinburgh who died last Friday, aged 99

Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, the husband of Queen Elizabeth II, died at the age of 99 last Friday following a lengthy stay in hospital where he was treated for a pre-existing condition and an infection.

His passing saw tributes paid from across the world, with the most touching perhaps coming from Spain's King Felipe and Queen Letizia. The Spanish royals are related to the British monarch with Elizabeth II and King Emeritus Juan Carlos distant cousins descended from Queen Victoria.

The message, addressed to "Dear Aunt Lilibet" mourned the passing of "Dear Uncle

Philip". "We shall never forget the moments that we shared with him and the legacy of service and dedication to the Crown and the United Kingdom by your side."

Even though Philip had retired from public engagements in 2017, he did take part in the state visit to the UK by the Spanish royals, King Felipe and Queen Letizia that same year.

We have to go back to 1988 for the only official visit Queen Elizabeth and Prince Philip made to Spain.

Felipe and Letizia invited British Ambassador to Spain Hugh Elliott to La Zarzuela palace in Madrid on Tuesday to further extend Spain's con-

dolences. Elliott, for his part, said: "At a sad time for millions of Britons and people around the world [...] I would like to remember [Prince Philip] and to thank the Spanish people for their condolences."

Gibraltar gun salute

A gun salute in honour of the Duke of Edinburgh took place on Saturday, performed by the Royal Gibraltar Regiment at The Tower in MOD Gibraltar, while flags on the Rock are to remain at half-mast until the day after his funeral (Sunday).

In a statement on behalf of the government, Chief Minister Fabian Picardo said Prince Philip had always had an inter-

est in Gibraltar. He visited in November 1950 for the inauguration of the then Legislative Council and on several other occasions. He personally berthed the Royal Yacht Britannia alongside in the dockyard on the final stretch of his Arctic Adventure, and remained on the Rock for ten days.

His Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme touched the lives of many young people in Gibraltar and around the world, and in 1991 he personally piloted the aircraft in which he flew into Gibraltar airport for a visit to celebrate the 25th anniversary of his award scheme.

He was also Admiral of the Royal Gibraltar Yacht Club.

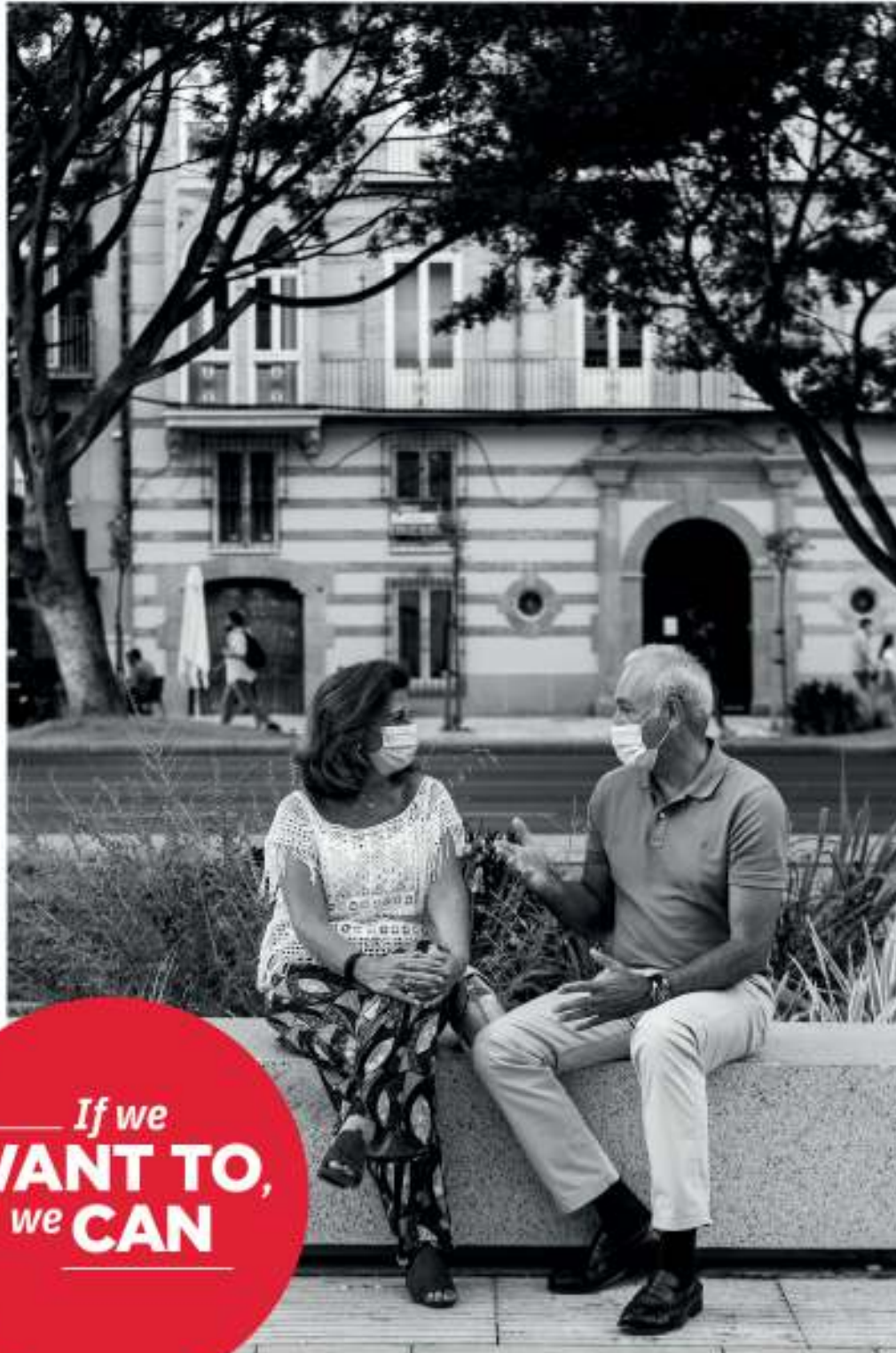
A book of condolences following the Duke of Edinburgh's death is available to members of the public in the foyer of the Governor's residence, The Convent, until 5pm today.

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LETTERS
TO THE EDITOR

Wheels on the Paseo

An open letter to Mayor María Ángeles Muñoz,
Ayuntamiento de Marbella:

I urge you and your council to prohibit the use of bicycles, tricycles, toy cars - some 1.5m long and unsupervised - skate boards and especially e-scooters which can be frequently seen racing each other and sometimes talking on phones as they fly past at speeds up to 30 km per hour. Many injuries have been caused to pedestrians and it will not be long until some innocent person is killed. Needless to say this illegal activity carries NO insurance, consequently rendering the town council liable to compensation claims.

As I live beside and overlooking the Paseo, I speak with great knowledge indeed. On Tuesday morning, 6 April, I spoke on live radio (TRE) on this matter. The vast majority who called in supported me. I urge you to impose a total ban on bikes, tricycles, toy cars and e-scooters from all pedestrian areas similar to what Malaga city council introduced on 20 January last.

Only mobility scooters for special needs people should be allowed; all other wheels must be prohibited.

The Paseo is there to be enjoyed by the majority and not ruined by the minority.

I look forward to your reply at an early date.

JOE TIERNAN

Car terror in Puerto Banús

Please take care of 'saving' Puerto Banús before it's too late - it's starting every evening around 8 to 9pm and goes on to 11. They drive 70-90 km per hour. It's dangerous for every one and it's not

a place to live. People who have created Puerto Banús with their money and consumption will be running screaming away.

It's a disaster and the police - you don't see them. Maybe they are only out after midnight when the lockdown is effective. **BOB**

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THE MUSIC MAKER
PETER EDGERTON
www.e-peter.com

Simple past

Like most pop stars, Mick Jagger has said lots of risible stuff over the years, with "Anything worth doing is worth over-doing," being a prime example. That's a philosophy which might explain - though never excuse - his shoulder pads in the nineteen eighties, but it's a laughable point of view nonetheless. Most things worth doing are worth doing in a somewhat restrained and dignified way, I would aver, but I do admit that, as a soundbite, my assertion doesn't have quite the same impact.

Anyway, if we were to make a list of Mick's daft utterances through the ages, we'd need the whole newspaper for the next couple of months to be able to do so. Imagine my surprise, then, when I found myself agreeing with Old Leatherchops recently, with regard to something he said in an interview.

The subject of his autobiography came up and how he'd begun to write one years ago but then gave up. His reasoning was as fascinating as it was prescient: "I really didn't enjoy it... reliving my life, to the detriment of living in the now."

Even better, he described the whole process of writing his life story as "dull and upsetting".

This is, I think, top quality analysis of what must be a tedious and dispiriting process - poring over days long gone. Even if your life has been as extraordinary as Jagger's undoubtedly has, why would you want to be raking over old coals? What's more, if your time on the planet has been rather more mundane, there can only be even fewer reasons to want to look in the rear view mirror.

This is why it's always slightly unsettling at a dinner party or some such, when one of the

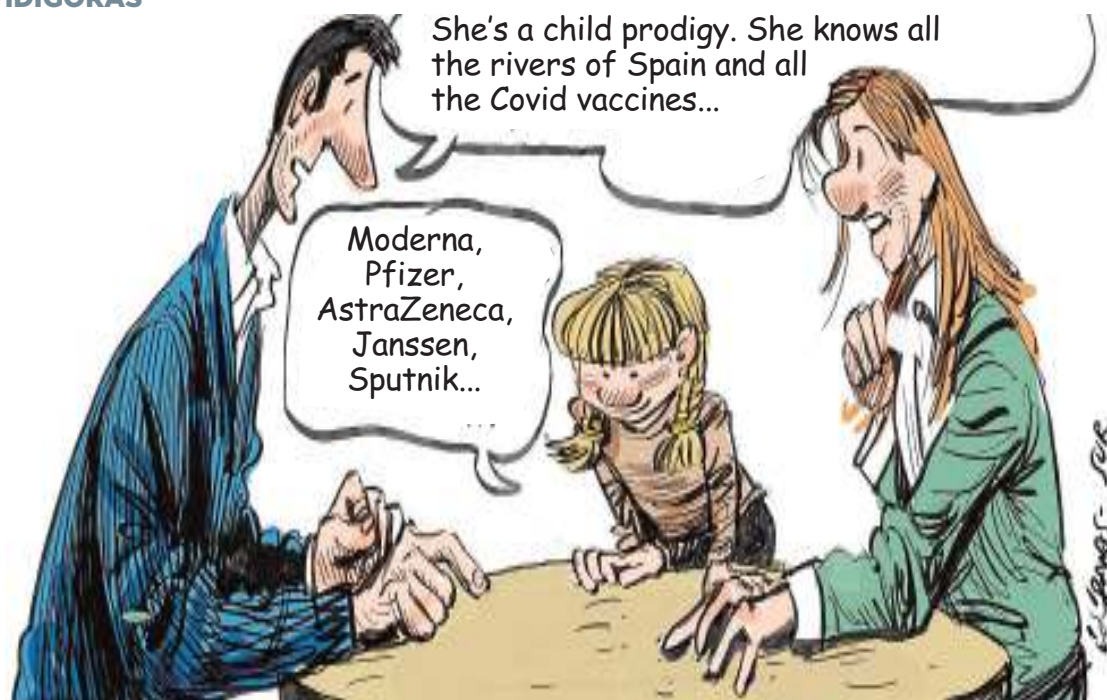
guests dallies a little too long on the details when recounting a story about when he and some chums climbed a lamp post in nineteen seventy three in order to drop pieces of digestive biscuits on unsuspecting passers-by. As the old cliché has it, you really did have to be there, and even then it probably wasn't that exciting. Unless they were the chocolate ones, I suppose.

It's always much more interesting and inspiring when someone avails you of the details of a current project or something dynamic they did that very day. I imagine even the lamp post story would be quite fun if it had happened that afternoon.

No, the past is a distant country and, for the most part it should, I think, stay that way.

Or, as Jagger himself drawls on Ruby Tuesday, "Yesterday don't matter if it's gone."

IDÍGORAS



SUR in English

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THE BOTTOM LINE
ROSA PALO

Kisses for everyone

Tuesday was International Kissing Day, but unfortunately we couldn't celebrate by kissing. That's an example of the paradox of the times we live in at present. I can't even remember the last time I kissed anyone outside the four walls of my home. There used to be kisses when you bumped into a friend in the street, or when you were seeing some-

one off at an airport. There were tender kisses on a child's sticky cheek or the wrinkled one of a great-aunt who smells of oriental perfume. We are restricted to intimacy now. To those who live under the same roof as us. Our kisses are now reserved only for those who taste of coffee in the mornings and toothpaste at night.

The other kisses, the ones we used to give out generously and indiscriminately among friends and strangers, who stopped being strangers at that very moment, are no longer given from our lips but from those of emojis on WhatsApp on our mobile phones.

We send kisses to people that way because we can't give them kisses anymore, because taking off our mask would be considered even worse than stripping off our clothes, because kissing is dangerous. Now, this risk is only taken by new lovers, those who are prepared to risk their lungs - and those of others - for the sake of their heart.

You sense them amid the shadows of an alleyway, where they hide from other

people's eyes to look into each other's, to uncover their masked mouths and find that the kiss within is a total revelation, that it unbalances bodies and minds, that it takes away the hunger because now all they want is to feed on the tongue of the other person, their teeth, their saliva.

And afterwards, putting the masks back on is like putting their underwear on after making love in someone else's bed, and they rush to get home before curfew starts, running through town with a stupid grin on their faces, covered by a small piece of fabric.

The new lovers don't need the kisses of others because the ones they have are enough.

Despite all this, kisses for everyone.

Making jazz music on the Costa Tropical

Music. Sophie Newick writes and records her own songs from her home in Almuñécar and says that the pandemic has given her time to focus on her music

JENNIE RHODES



Although she has been singing and playing piano and guitar since she was a child, it wasn't until Almuñécar-based British singer Sophie Newick turned 50 that she started recording her own music and releasing albums.

Sophie, 56, writes and performs her own songs and collaborates with local Jazz musician Lino Díaz. Songs include her own version of Edith Piaf's La Vie en Rose, which is a reflection of the many trips she made to France and in particular Paris as a young woman.

She describes her style as mainly

jazz, but says that some of the songs on her album also feature elements of ragtime, lindy hop, swing and flamenco fusion.

The singer, who used to practice on her parents' stairwell when she had the house to herself as a child, explains that her songs tell stories and one called Storyville is based on the town in New Orleans "where Jazz allegedly began in 1923".

She's also written a flamenco fusion song called Spain. "A lot of English speakers like flamenco but don't speak Spanish, so I wanted to write a flamenco song that they would understand," Sophie says.



Sophie Newick performing recently at a hotel in Malaga. **SUR**

Originally from Cambridge, Sophie first came to Spain at the age of 23. Her first stop was Barcelona where she combined working for a consultancy firm with opera lessons.

"I had opera classes with Montserrat Caballé's teacher and her daughter would go in for classes after me," Sophie says "it was a

pure coincidence" and that she "had no idea" until she started that she was receiving lessons from the teacher of one of the world's most famous opera singers.

Although Sophie admits she has never sung opera professionally, she says the training was an excellent basis for all the styles of music she performs.

She started singing in a band while living in Madrid, which is also where she met her husband. The couple moved to Almuñécar 15 years ago and have three grown up children.

The singer says she is "proud" of the fact that she focused on her passion at an age when many women "can feel lost with the children leaving home and it's a time of great change for many women". She adds, "It's the perfect opportunity to embrace projects you have always wanted to do. If you want to do something at 50 or 60, it doesn't matter; just go for it."

Sophie says that her silver lining to the Covid-19 pandemic has been more time to write and record music and she has "learned to appreciate her local surroundings and nature". She started going on long walks with her dog and rehearsing in the local countryside. "I put my headphones on with my backing tracks and sing in the middle of the campo," she laughs.

Sophie and her band will be performing songs from her albums at Almuñécar's Casa de la Cultura on Friday 23 April.

Further information : Tickets available from Casa de la Cultura and Viajes Ecuador, Almuñécar. Price 12€. Friday 23 April 7pm. Sophie Newick's music is available on Spotify. www.sophienewickmusic.com

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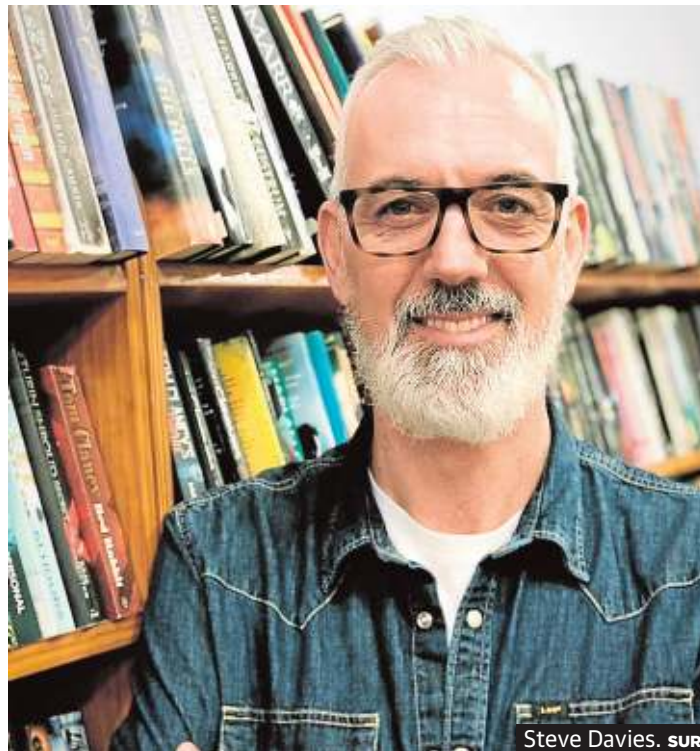
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IN THE FRAME

From boat to books - via cats, dogs and lessons taught and learned

Steve Davies. "My Spanish teacher didn't tell me about the Andalucía accent," says the owner of the Sabinillas Bookshop, who swapped his UK boarding kennels for a classroom in Spain in 2001

ASH BOLTON



Steve Davies. SUR

He's a familiar face to countless foreign residents living in the Manilva area.

But there's an interesting story behind how Brit Steve Davies came to be living and working on the Costa del Sol.

Steve was born in Stockport, Greater Manchester in 1969, which is also where he grew up.

After leaving school at 16 he started to work for the family business, selling arts and crafts until the age of 20.

He then went to work as a bar steward on a cruise liner called the Star Princess, which sailed around the Caribbean for three years.

Steve, 51, who lives in Estepona, told SUR in English: "It was a fantastic way to see the Caribbean and get paid for it. My favourite place was the island of Saint Thomas, it was beautiful."

After that Steve returned to the UK where he started working in a country pub/hotel in Nantwich, Cheshire, as an assistant manager.

But it wasn't long before he was off again to south Devon, where at the age of 27, he started running his own boarding kennels and cattery.

"It was a dream come true," said Steve.

"I thought I would be doing this for the rest of my life, as it was my dream job. But I needed a hobby. So I started learning Spanish to distract me from the long hours and working seven days a week.

"I was lucky as I hit it off straight away with my Spanish teacher; she came from Colombia and I went for three hours every week for two years. I thought my Spanish was great."

Then, at 31, Steve sold his business and his family encouraged him to put his Spanish into practise.

He explained: "I took the plunge and moved to Estepona in 2001. At the time I had five dogs, a tortoise and a cat. I came over for three months initially to find a property and drove over with the dogs and the tortoise in

a minivan. The cat was flown over - it was the most expensive flight ever!"

But as with a lot of people who move to the south of Spain, Steve initially struggled with the local accent.

He said: "My Spanish teacher had taught me all about the verbs, grammar and vocabulary, but she didn't tell me about the Andalucía accent. I understood nothing and my Spanish wasn't as great as I thought it was, so I enrolled in a language school in San Pedro.

"I did a three-month intensive course and learnt even more verbs, grammar and vocabulary but still understood nothing. So I told my teacher, the owner of the language school, that I needed a job to help me understand more and she asked me if I would consider teaching English to adults in her school. I had no experience but she said that the knowledge of the English language was more important than the certificate, so I accepted and began what would be my first 10

Steve overheard the bookshop owner tell a friend she was selling up; three months later he had bought the business

years in Spain working as an English language teacher.

"The first few weeks were great and I spoke only in English but then I had to cover the classes for the six to ten-year-olds. They were brutal! They said my accent was funny and my handwriting was weird, but I wasn't going to let a bunch of six to ten-year-olds intimidate me and within six months I understood everything, including the insults!"

After that Steve did his teacher-training course in Barcelona and officially became an English-language teacher.

He worked in two language schools, one in San Pedro for four years, and another in Este-

pona for six years.

"I loved it," he said.

"But one day in 2011 I went into what was then The English Bookshop to buy a card and I overheard the owner telling her friend that she was thinking of selling the business."

Three months later Steve had bought the business and in the past 10 years has transformed a small dusty little bookshop into a bustling hub of the community.

"I renamed it The Sabinillas Bookshop but everybody still calls it The English Bookshop," he joked.

Steve, who owns two African grey parrots that greet his customers and is also a balloon artist, is a big fan of the Manilva area.

He said: "Manilva, which covers Sabinillas, La Duquesa and Castillo, has a fantastic international community. All nationalities have integrated and it is clearly shown within the local festivities.

"Although everywhere is on standby at the moment, the shows will go on again. Sabinillas hosts one of the best San Juan nights as well as the Full Moon festival, medieval markets in Castillo, a summer market in the port of La Duquesa and the Grape Harvest Festival in Manilva village.

"The one event that has really put Manilva on the map is Manilva Pride. This event has brought in many people from other communities, as well as bringing people together from our ever growing community."

When asked what the future has in store for him, he replies: "Well, as I keep thinking up crazy ideas, you'll have to watch this space."

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SCHOOL TALK



Blue hands. SUR

School celebrates diversity with autism awareness month

SOTOGRADE

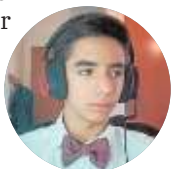
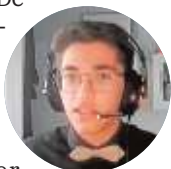
Sotograde International School extended World Autism Day (2 April) to a whole month this year to “celebrate diversity”.

Events kicked off in March with a Blue Travel Day, in reference to the emblem colour of autism. Students were invited to wear blue and displayed printed blue hands at the entrance to the school. The programme also included talks, games and presentations related to autism.

Swans sixth form debate team win challenge online

MARBELLA

Members of the Swans School Debate Team were recently crowned champions of the IE Debate Challenge 2021, an online tournament with schools from all over Spain. Over four days the Swans students won all nine matches they participated in.



Swans debaters

The sixth form debate club helps youngsters develop communication skills, said the school. “Their confidence in themselves grows, as does an ability to be open-minded and to think critically.”

Musicians join forces to help those suffering from the pandemic

MIJAS

A charity concert in Calahonda raised 1,500 euros for Collective Calling

T. BRYANT

MIJAS. Local entertainers came together last weekend to raise funds for people suffering from the effects of the coronavirus pandemic. During a charity concert held in Calahonda, 1,500 euros was raised and donated to Collective Calling. Organised by Steve ‘One Wish’ Hughes, the funds were boosted by a raffle, with prizes supplied by local companies. Members of the audience



Organiser Steve Hughes also performed at the concert last week. SUR

also donated non-perishable food products, which will be distributed among local food banks.

Steve Hughes said, “What can I say except a massive thank you. Well done to everyone involved.”

Easter raffle funds to benefit local community

Age Concern Fuengirola/Mijas/Benalmádena raised 1,095 euros from its Easter raffle, which was drawn at the charity’s second-hand shop in Los Boliches last week. The draw was made by the association’s president, David Long, who stressed that “all donations are used for the benefit of the communities we serve”.



OBITUARY

John Hardy, British author, 1934- 2021

JENNIE RHODES

SEDELLA. The well-known British author John Hardy passed away peacefully in his sleep on Sunday 11 April. He was 86.

John had been diagnosed with an inoperable brain tumour in January and it was his wish to remain at his home in Sedella with his wife of 42 years, Wendy, in his last weeks.

The couple have lived in Spain for 26 years, where John turned to writing. His first book, *Andalucian Mysteries*, was published in December 2013 and he went on to write and publish a further ten books, including three novels.

John leaves three surviving children, 10 grandchildren and four great grandchildren from his first marriage. His son Andrew died in 1988.

Wendy would like to thank her Spanish and English friends for their “support and affection over the last three months”.



John Hardy. SUR



DENISE BUSH



GARDENING READERS' PHOTOS



PETRA LANDERS

A floral cascade of wisteria blooms

Wisteria is one of spring's most attractive flowers but it can grow to be a bit of a monster and needs continual trimming to keep it in check - unless you can let it roam free as in this photo sent in by Patricia Unwin on behalf of Petra Landers. This wisteria is in Nueva Andalucía.



BARBARA ATHERTON

Double Kalanchoe

Kalanchoe is a very popular succulent and there are many different species. This one is a coral coloured double form of Kalanchoe blossfeldiana.



ROSALIND CAPLAN

Pandorea pandorana

Commonly called the Wonga Wonga vine, Pandorea pandorana is a woody, climbing vine native to Australia. It is a member of the Bignoniaceae family and has dark-green glossy foliage and masses of pendulous bell-shaped flowers which can be white, cream with maroon stripes or yellow. It is a vigorous climber and ideal for training over pergolas and other supports or used as a screen. The specimen in the picture was photographed and sent in by Rosalind Caplan.



CLIFF HUGHES

Photogenic Photinia

Photinia is a genus of around 60 species of small trees and shrubs and a member of the Rosaceae family (roses). This photo was sent in by Cliff Hughes.

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WHAT HAPPENED TODAY?

16 APRIL 1990

End of school boycott over HIV positive pupil

Montse Sierra's family had recently won a court battle to allow the five-year-old to attend Malaga's Pintor Denis Belgrano school

A boycott held by parents at Malaga's Pintor Denis Belgrano primary school came to a temporary end in April 1990 when Spain's health ministry agreed to contract a support teacher to work in the school with a pupil who was HIV positive.

The family of five-year-old Montserrat Sierra had won a court battle allowing the youngster to attend classes, despite fierce opposition from other parents who were fearful that their own children could be in-

fectured with the virus if they came into contact with Montse.

During a two-and-a-half-hour meeting between experts, government officials and the school's parents association (APA), around 30 parents abjectly refused to believe the advice of health experts who had said that there was no risk to other children's health.

At the end of the meeting APA president, Remedios Cortés, told journalists that she believed "The experts have convinced the parents through their explanations and the school will be full of pupils tomorrow."

Montse went to school on her first day, 16 April 1990, accompanied by her cousins. Police had to remove padlocks put on the school gates by parents and around 50 mothers protested with their hands tied



Montse Sierra (right) outside the school in April 1990. **SUR**

and sticking plaster over their mouths. Once inside the classroom, Montse sat alone with just her teacher.

The little girl was unaware of her condition and found it strange that there were no other children in her class. She was told that it was "too cold" or that the other children were "too ill"

to attend lessons.

However, the return to school was shortlived and Montse went on to be home-schooled with a private teacher until another attempt, also unsuccessful, was made in 1992.

Montse had caught the virus from an infected syringe which had been used by her mother,

an HIV-positive heroin addict.

Montse's story was reenacted in an episode of the Spanish television series, Farmacia de Guardia in 1992; some of the characters tried to fight against the stigma surrounding HIV-AIDS at the time, while others played the parts of parents who were keeping their children away from school.

Bilingual crossword inside back page

LANGUAGE FOOTNOTE

Colegio	School
Niños	Children
Padres	Parents
Primaria	Primary
Ministerio	Ministry
Boicotear	To boycott
Miedo	Fear
Contagiar	To infect
Experto	Expert
Rechazar	To reject
Alumno/a	Pupil
Enfermedad	Illness
Riesgo	Risk
Primos	Cousins
Jeringuilla	Syringe
Profesor	Teacher
Candado	Padlock
Protestar	To protest
Salud	Health

ANDALUSIAN BIRD WATCH
PETER JONES

The striking beauty of the Woodchat Shrike

The Andalucía Bird Society recommends looking out for the *Lanius senator* this month



The Woodchat Shrike. **PETER JONES**

Another of our birds that nature lovers look forward to seeing in spring, as they return from wintering grounds in tropical Africa, is the handsome Woodchat Shrike, *Lanius senator*. This is a striking looking bird, especially the male with black

and white upper parts, a chestnut-coloured crown and pure white underparts. It is a member of the shrike family and part of its genus name, *Lanius*, is derived from the Latin word for 'butcher', an appropriate name given their feeding habits.

In common with other shrikes, our bird will watch for prey from exposed and favoured perches. It is a behaviour that aids in our efforts to find and admire these beautiful-looking birds. They have a hooked upper bill and just behind the hook a sharp notch, rather like the old-fashioned bottle openers that older readers might remember.

The bill is adapted to deal with armour plating on beetles and for easily shredding less well protected insects, reptiles and mammals; it also has the habit of storing food by impaling prey on thorns, or even barbed wire fencing, thus creating its own larder and giving rise to the name butcher bird.

Most of our Woodchat Shrike have returned from Africa by April, with males arriving first to quickly establish territories for attracting later arriving females.

They prefer open country with either scrub or small trees from which to hunt, many can be seen using fencing as a vantage point.

I hope you might get to see these beauties - these wolves in sheep's clothing!

www.andaluciabirdsociety.org

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EXHIBITIONS

Carmen Aros

EL MORCHE. From 29 April to 26 May. Biobeach Club restaurant. Exhibition of works by Chilean painter Carmen Aros.



Carmen Aros, El Morche

Imon Boy

MARBELLA. Until 16 May. Galería Yusto/Giner. La Ermita industrial estate, C/Madera, 9. Cute But Cop is Imon Boy's first solo exhibition. Born in 1992 Imon Boy has spent years in the world of graffiti, alternating between street art and other studio projects. He uses graffiti, videogames, internet, cinema, music and travel to create stories full of bright and colourful detail. Viewing is by appointment only. gale-ria@yusto-giner.com / 951507053

Gallery Art Club

FUENGIROLA. Until 18 April. Calle Quemada. Monday, Wednesday, Friday, 11am - 2pm. This year's first exhibition is of works by an international group of artists; Michele Uzac, Elizabeth Williams, Bodil Schöön, Magga Nancy, Daniel Huss, Ian Stephen and Lars Hedin.

Alfonso Pulido

MIJAS. Until 19 April. Centro Cultural la Cala de Mijas. An exhibition of charcoal and pastel drawings by artist and musician Alfonso Pulido.

El Arte de un Principante

MIJAS. Until 26 April. Casa Museo de

Épicus, flamenco without artifice

MALAGA

The show from flamenco great La Lupi comes to the Soho CaixaBank Theatre in Malaga on 25 April

REGINA SOTORRÍO

Renowned Malaga flamenco dancer Susana Lupiáñez (stage name La Lupi) will perform in the show Épicus at the Soho CaixaBank Theatre in Malaga on 25 April as part of an annual flamenco cycle running from 23 April to 2 May.

Épicus, which was postponed by a year due to the pandemic, is flamenco without artifice, distinguished by its minimal scenography.

It came into being, explains La Lupi, during the long days of "introspection" brought on by the first lockdown and represents a throwback to her past, as she will perform some of her most "symbolic" and celebrated pieces.

"I thought that before going forwards, I still had to work on the path I had paved over the



La Lupi brings "introspection" to the show. FRANCIS SILVA

years, on things that I had forgotten and needed to refresh," she said.

The show encompasses a variety of flamenco styles that take the spectators on a journey through La Lupi's career, including verdiales, also known as Malaga fandangos, and festive cantiñas. It ends with a taranto, a palo that made a great impression on La Lupi when she saw it being performed in Madrid in the 90s.

She is joined on stage by dancers Marina Perea and Sara Carnero, singers Alfredo Tejada and Miguel Ortega and guitarists Óscar Lago and Curro de María - the latter her inseparable career and life partner.

Épicus starts at 7pm and runs for approximately 95 minutes. Tickets are available from 25 euros and can be bought on the theatre's website (<https://teatrodel-soho.com/teatro/>).

Mijas.

Miguel Ángel García Moreno uses discarded items and stones and sea-washed glass to create these amazingly intricate sculptures.

El Paso

BENALMÁDENA PUEBLO. Until 22 April. C/Real.

The town hall has organised a special exhibition of photographs of the Semana Santa processions taken in previous years. There are 24 panels

displaying the photos as well as every poster announcing the Semana Santa celebrations since 2007.

Malaga Picasso Museum

MALAGA. Museo Picasso Málaga, Calle San Agustín.

It is possible to see works from the Meret Oppenheim exhibition in the museum on the website www.museopicassomalaga.org under 'exposiciones digitales'.

Collection. Dialogues with Picasso.

Collection 2020-2023 is formed of 120 works by the artist.

James Turrell. Until June. The exhibition entitled Cherry, is an experiment with light, space and time.

Metamorfosis. Until September. An exhibition of around 100 paintings, ceramics, drawings and bronzes by Miquel Barceló.

Picasso exchange. Until February 2022. The MPM has made an exchange with the Musée National Picasso-Paris and will be able to

exhibit the wood and oil paint sculpture Copa, Periódico y Dado that Pablo Picasso created in 1914. www.museopicassomalaga.org

Tatiana Pirogova-Saulskaya

ESTEPONA. Until 29 April. Casa de Las Tejerinas, Plaza de las Flores. The exhibition by this Russian artist consists of 28 paintings inspired by nature and can be visited from Tuesday to Saturday, 9am to 8pm. Free entry.



Tatiana, Estepona

Centre Pompidou

MALAGA. Muelle Uno. <https://centrepompidou-malaga.eu/> From Miró to Barceló. The semi-permanent exhibition is entitled De Miró a Barceló. Un siglo de Arte Español (From Miró to Barceló. A century of Spanish art). This chronological journey through a century of Spanish art shows that the generation of contemporary artists has kept alive the spirit of the avant-garde with extraordinary energy.

Museum Jorge Rando

MALAGA. C/ Cruz del Molinillo. www.museojorgerando.org Expressionist museum of work by painter and sculptor Jorge Rando. www.jorgerando.org

Galería JM

MALAGA. C/ Duquesa de Parcent, 12. Selva de Tiempo is the title of the current exhibition at the gallery. It consists of works created by artist José Luís Valverde.

Melancolía Papel y Tinta

MALAGA. Until 30 April. Ateneo de Málaga, C/Compañía, 2. Free. The museum is exhibiting a selection of prints by artists such as Matisse, Dalí, Miró, Tàpies and Goya.

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Centro de Arte Contemporáneo MALAGA. CAC Málaga. C/Alemania. **Jules de Balincourt.** Until 30 May. After The Gold Rush is a series of 40 paintings.

Rafa Macarrón, Quince. Until 6 June. The exhibition consists of canvases, drawings and four bronze sculptures.

Pasión II. Permanent collection. From the collection of Carmen Buqueras on permanent loan to the CAC.

MALAGA. CAC Málaga - La Coracha. Museo del Patrimonio Municipal.

Ana S. Valderrábanos. Borderline. Until 20 June. The artist's first solo exhibition features more than fifty works, including paintings and embroidery on different mediums, using vibrant colours, prominently featuring a woman's silhouette.



Borderline, CAC Malaga

Carmen Thyssen Museum

MALAGA. C/ Compañía, 10. 9.30 - 2.30pm. 7-9pm Tuesday to Friday. 9.30am-9pm Saturday and Sunday. **Collection.** A journey through mainly Spanish art from the Old Masters through to Romantic Landscape and Costumbrismo, Précieux Style and Naturalist Painting and Fin-de-Siècle. The past collections of the Thyssen museum can be viewed online at www.carmenthyssenmalaga.org

Museo Revello de Toro

MALAGA. C/Afligidos. Félix Revello de Toro is a distinguished Malaga artist. Around 117 of his works are on display in the museum. museorevellodetoro.net

Brigitte Bardot

MALAGA. Until 6 June. La Térmica. A series of photographs of Brigitte Bardot taken during the filming of the French film Les Bijoutiers du Clair de Lune in 1957. It was directed by Roger Vadim and many scenes were shot in various locations in Malaga province. www.latermicamalaga.com

Paisajes Cotidianos

MALAGA. Espacio Cero, Contenedor Cultural, Universidad de Málaga. British mother and son, Margaret Harris and Timsam Harding are exhibiting a selection of their works entitled Paisajes Cotidianos (everyday views), while the father and husband, sculptor Robert Harding, has an exhibition in the garden of El Contenedor.

LIVE CONCERTS AND MUSIC

Soul Train Tour

FUENGIROLA. 17 April, 7pm. Palacio de la Paz. 15 euros. Fronted by Oscar Roots, The Soul Train Tour presents the hits of Earth, Wind & Fire and Kool & The Gang. Tickets: eventbrite.es

Richard Ray Farrell

ALMUÑÉCAR. 17 April, 7pm. Casa de

Music returns after a year to one of Malaga's most iconic venues

MALAGA

The Malaga Philharmonic Society is planning five more concerts at the María Cristina concert hall in the coming months

R. SOTORRÍO

After over a year closed due to coronavirus restrictions, live music is back at the Unicaja María Cristina concert hall. The venue reopened its doors last night, Thursday, with a performance from Prague's Halir Trio and the Malaga Philharmonic Society has five more concerts coming up this season.

Although restrictions will currently limit attendance to 75 people, it is hoped this will eventually rise to 50 per cent capacity and 183 spectators. In order to reduce coronavirus risks, the Society has reduced performances to one hour and removed breaks to avoid social contact during the intervals.

The next concert is on 29 April and sees Claudio Constantini and Louiza Hamadi pay tribute to Astor Piazzolla, Stravinsky and Gardel. On 15



One of the Society's previous concerts. DANIEL DÍAZ

IN DETAIL

► **The programme.** Claudio Constantini, accordion, and Louiza Hamadi, piano (29 April); Alfonso Guerrero, violin, and Sara Calvo, piano (15 May); Dmitro Choni, piano (26 May); Aldo Mata, cello, and José María Oyola, piano (4 June); Josu de Solaun, piano (16 June).

► **Venue.** Sala Unicaja de Conciertos María Cristina. 7pm.

► **Tickets.** Free for members. 15 euros general release.

May, violinist Alfonso Guerrero and pianist Sara Calvo will perform pieces from Mozart to the contemporary age. Then on 26 May, renowned pianist Dimitro Choni will perform works by Scriabin, Debussy and Rachmaninov. Following this, on 4 June, cellist Aldo Mata and pianist José María Oyola are in concert. Finally, on 16 June, pianist Josu de Solaun plays Liszt and Chopin.

Attendance is free for members (who pay 70 euros for a trimester) while general release tickets are 15 euros. Each concert will begin at 7pm.

A night of nostalgic rock anthems

MIJAS

Performed by Rock of the Ages, the concert at the Cazbah Live Lounge will present the classic hits of some of the greatest stadium bands

TONY BRYANT

Lovers of classic rock music will enjoy a special tribute concert held in the Cazbah Live Lounge in Mijas Costa tomorrow (Saturday). Performed by Rock of the Ages, the concert will present celebrated hits by some of rock's greatest stadium bands, including Starship, Toto and Joan Jett and the Blackhearts.

The four-piece band have gained a considerable following on the coast because of their spectacular renditions of rock anthems like Hold the



Rock of the Ages will perform hits of rock's top stadium bands. SUR

Line, We Built This City and I Love Rock and Roll. The brain child of popular Costa duo Lucy Pardoe and Ollie Hughes, the show is loosely based on the jukebox musical Rock of Ages, which is built around monster rock hits of the 1980s.

Tickets for the show, which will start at 5pm, cost ten euros and can be reserved on the Cazbah Lounge Facebook page, or by calling 622399366.

Audience capacity will be restricted and Covid-19 regulations must be observed.

la Cultura. 12 euros.

American Blues musician Richard Ray Farrell will perform tracks from his latest album. Tickets from Casa de la Cultura (C/Puerta de Granada, 5) or Viajes Ecuador (Paseo del Altillio, 2).

International Jazz Day

MALAGA. 30 April, 1 May. Plaza de la Merced, 6 to 8pm.

Two-day event to coincide with International Jazz Day (30 April) presents some of the region's most-celebrated jazz musicians: The Lito Blues Band, The Pepa Niebla Quintet, the Malaga Jazz Collective and more. Capacity limited to 300 but spectators can enjoy the sound from nearby bar terraces.

Malaga Philharmonic Orchestra

MALAGA. Various venues.

18 April, 12pm. Sinoidal Ensemble sax recital with music by Bach, Sciarrino, Ligeti and Scarlatti. Museo de Málaga.

30 April, 6pm. The Barber of Seville. Teatro Cervantes.

Tickets: www.entradas.mientrada.net

Michael Jackson and Elvis tribute

MIJAS. 24 April, 7pm. Teatro Las Lagunas.

A tribute concert to two musical greats. Tickets 15€ in advance, 20€ on the door two hours before the show. www.eventbrite.es

Mussorgsky recital

ONLINE. 17 April, 7pm. Via Zoom. 15€

A presentation and recital entitled Mussorgsky, Pictures at an Exhibition with pianist Jorge Lechado. Reservations: reservas@musicacanoncanto.org / 654013232 / www.musicacanoncanto.org

Ricky Lavazza

MIJAS COSTA. 22 April, 1.30pm. La Sierra Restaurant, Cerro del Águila Golf. 30€.

Ricky Lavazza and special guests present Curtain Up, celebrating the best shows of Broadway and the West End. Ticket includes a three-course meal with a glass of wine or cava on arrival. Reservations: 951313257.

TALKS / LECTURES

The Arts Society de la Frontera

SAN ROQUE. Lectures online.

The Arts Society de la Frontera streams lectures to its members via Zoom. Free for members, 12€ for visitors. Visitors can register by contacting lucianaobrien1@gmail.com

21 April, 11am. A brief history of wine by David Wright.

Floral Art Club

ESTEPONA. 20 April, 2.30pm.

The club's April demonstration will also be online - this time via YouTube. It will be given by Nina Tucknott, a talented NAFAS Area Demonstrator. Contact esteponafloralartclub@hotmail.com for joining instructions.

CHARITY

ARCH

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

The ARCH team at the Rescue Centre

for Horses and Donkeys have resumed their popular Sunday open mornings. Children can groom the donkeys and ponies, and volunteers are on hand to explain the charity's work. More information on Facebook: Centro Andalusi de Rescate de Caballos or www.horserescuespain.org

St George's Day for the Poppy Appeal

NERJA. 23 April, 2pm. Chapel Bar. A fundraising event for the Poppy Appeal by the Royal British Legion Nerja branch. Tombola, raffle and fun games. The event is being held outside to enable social distancing.

MORE IDEAS

Pop Art workshops

TORREMOLINOS. Centro Cultural Pablo Ruiz Picasso. Free. Free workshops to learn pop art for children aged between 12 and 16 years. Reservations: 952385182 / bibliotecapicasso@torremolinos.es
16 April, 6.30 - 8pm. Comic art.
14 May, 6.30 - 8pm. Keith Haring.

Trails for Hikers

AXARQUÍA. Throughout the spring. Cártama town hall has launched a new season of hiking trails within its Cártama en Ruta initiative. The routes will pass through the Alhama Natural Park, Sierra de las Nieves and the Tagus trail of Los Bermejales -Río Cacín in Granada. Registration is 15€ at the Sports Delegation in the Cártama town hall or call: 951010872

Madcap afternoon in aid of Lions Club Alzheimer's group

MIJAS

The fundraising event will include an interactive session of zingo, a music quiz game inspired by bingo

T. BRYANT

A fun-filled charity afternoon will be held at the Village Inn, Riviera del Sol, in aid of the Mijas Lions Club Alzheimer's Support Group tomorrow, Saturday 17 April.

Under the banner of Zingo, the "madcap" event will be hosted by two accomplished musicians known as Zing. Gillian (saxophone) and Carmine (keyboards) have performed at festivals and top venues worldwide, where they have worked with the likes of Ed Sheeran, Suzi Quatro and Prince.



Zing will host the interactive afternoon. **SUR**

The event will include an interactive session of zingo, a quiz game inspired by bingo, during which, the duo will perform a live concert where the playlist is controlled by the audience: participants will be able to choose songs from a catalogue of 250 diverse hits.

Those wishing to participate must register a team - a maximum of four people - by e-mail (info@msvillage.es) or by phone, 951 665 438. Due to social distancing, the event,

which starts at 2.30pm, is limited to 22 teams.

Tickets cost 10 euros and includes food and a complementary drink on arrival, plus tickets for the zingo and the prize quiz.

"We have been looking to do an event like no other on the coast - and one that is reliant on the participation of our audience. We know they love to get involved so we decided to have an event where they have control," Gillian explained.

Mijas Walking Tours

MIJAS. 15€.

The 90-minute tour is limited to individual groups of up to 10 persons and

will give a personal, intimate guide to the history of the village and its stories. The tours are conducted in English. Bookings by email: [\[magic@yahoo.co.uk\]\(mailto:magic@yahoo.co.uk\) or call 6105 22605. Also on Facebook.](mailto:mijas-</p>
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Photography workshops

MIJAS. Casa Museo de Mijas. Free. Learn how to take good photos. Register by email: cultura@mijas.es or call: 952590380. Free but each participant should donate 3kg of non-perishable foodstuffs to the food bank at the start of the course.

Travel photos. 24 April. 10am-2pm, 4-8pm. With Alex Jaime.

O. V. FILMS

SUR in English advises calling cinemas to check for any last-minute time changes. Lunchtime and late night screenings weekends only.

Yelmo Cines, Plaza Mayor

MALAGA. Centro de Ocio, Plaza Mayor, Avda Alfonso Ponce León. Tel: 902902103. www.yelmocines.es.

Godzilla vs Kong: 13.15 (Sun)

Minari: 17.45 (Tues)

Mortal Kombat: 18.00 (every day)

Nomadland: 20.20 (Tues)

Promising Young Woman: 19.40 (Tues)

Cinesur Miramar

FUENGIROLA. Avda de la Encarnación. Tel: 952198600.

Mortal Kombat: 15.45, 18.00 (Fri-Sun); 20.00 (Mon-Thurs)

Promising Young Woman: 18.00 (Mon-Thurs); 20.15 (Fri-Sun)

Kong vs Godzilla: 12.00, 16.45 (Fri-Sun); 18.15 (Mon-Thurs)

Cine Albéniz

MALAGA. C/ Alcazaba, 4. Tel: 902360295. www.cinealbeniz.com
Nomadland: 12.00 (Sat, Sun); 17.00, 19.45 (every day)

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Ageing procedures

ANDREW J. LINN



The fundamental way wine is made has not changed for centuries, apart from minor improvements and economies, but in this time-conscious era it is the ageing process that is in the spotlight. Visitors to winer-

ies marvel at the hundreds of butts covered in dust and are told that x million euros' worth of wine is tied up here for decades and underwrites the value of the company, together with the vineyards and the brands. Conventional ageing

has always used expensive oak barrels, so unsurprisingly the quest is on for alternatives. But what would happen if the ageing activity could be fast-tracked to a point where a two-year-old wine could develop the qualities of a 20-year-old wine in days? In the eventuality the issue of storage would no longer be a costly problem. Barrel and bottle-ageing is used to create smoother, fully developed wines with rich complex flavours. It requires nothing more than patience, and self-control, not to drink the wine before it has reached

peak maturity. Essentially, a wine's tannins gradually develop from harsh and astringent to dry, smooth, voluptuous and velvety. However, time is money and recently hi-tech methods of artificially ageing wine have been developed; the market leader is simply an additive, that also works its magic with spirits. Lo and behold we then have a vintage wine of the age we have chosen and with the collateral economic savings. No-one can tell the difference. Is this what the average wine-drinker wants or is the 'old' method the best?

WINE OF THE WEEK

Viore Mencia 2018

Long-established Bodegas Riojanas is making sure it can represent all the major wine growing areas. The Bierzo region is in the northwest of Spain (Castilla y León) and this young version is typical of the delicate, fruity wine that many experts believe is the nearest Spain will get to producing wines similar to those of Burgundy. Marvellous value at around €6.50.



Sending an SOS for a 'mule's leg'

León. A crowdfunding campaign is saving an artisan cheese-making business in a village of 200 inhabitants. It has already sold over 1,800 of its unusually-shaped cheeses

ANA G. BARRIADA

The opportunity Fran had been awaiting for so long came in 2012: a traditional cheese-making business in León was looking for a new owner. Fidel, a shepherd from Sahelices del Payuelo, a small village with only 200 inhabitants in the east of the province, had just closed his business down after 30 years. "My sister Teresita and I took it over, and for me it was a dream come true," says Fran. That dream took the shape of excellent cheeses made with loving care from fresh sheep's milk, and they included the traditional 'pata de mulo' cheese, which has a strong flavour and gets its name from its shape, similar to the leg of a mule. But then came March 2020 and the pandemic, which shook his business, Los Payuelos, to the core. "Three years ago we had begun to carry out major improvements and they cost a great deal of

money. We still hadn't recovered our investment in that, and then the pandemic arrived and absolutely crushed us," says Fran. The closure of the hospitality sector, which bought 80 per cent of their production, was devastating for them. That was the situation at Los Payuelos when Rubén Valbuena came onto the scene, a fellow cheese maker who owns an online sales platform. "In the middle of last month he came to visit us at the factory because we are friends, and after we explained the situation we were in he said it was time to do something about it." A Facebook post telling their story, a direct link to buy their cheese and the power of social media worked wonders. "We set ourselves a target of selling 2,000 pieces of 'pata de mulo' in three weeks," says Fran, and within 12 days they had already sold around 1,800 and believed



A happy Fran with two of his 'pata de mulo' cheeses. R. C.

the target was attainable. "With luck we will meet that target, but the main objective was to give the business a boost and put Los Payuelos on the map, which we have done. We are delighted by people's response and it is a good incentive to carry on supporting small businesses," he says. The system works like a type of crowdfunding: the clients commission a cheese weighing more than two kilos at a price of 45 euros. It is made in April and May

and, after maturing for four months, will be sent to their homes in the second week in September. So far they have raised over 80,000 euros. "That gives us a respite after some really difficult months, but above all we have reached a lot of people and are obtaining loyal clients and distributors who want to work with us, so that is helping to keep us afloat," says Fran, who is still astonished at the response. "We couldn't be more delighted."

Four new Malaga restaurants are awarded 'suns' in prestigious Repsol Guide

MARINA MARTÍNEZ

MALAGA. Four more restaurants in Malaga province have received a 'sun' distinction from the Repsol Guide, a respected authority on Spanish cuisine. This accounts for half of the eight restaurants in Andalucía to receive the award for the first time and means that establishments in Malaga province now have a total of 24 'suns'. At the ceremony in San Sebastián on Monday, Kaleja and Ta-kumi in Malaga city were given 'suns' for the first time, as were Kava and Leña in Marbella. There were a total of 96 new 'suns' distributed nationally. Five restaurants in the province maintained their prestigious ratings of two 'suns'. These include José Carlos García at Muelle Uno in Malaga and Bardal in Ronda. Skina in Marbella also kept its two 'sun' rating, as did Los Marinos José and Sollo, both of which are in Fuengirola. On a regional level, Andalucía has the fourth-highest number of 'suns', with 60 of the total of 618. Catalonia, Madrid and the Basque Country make up the top three.



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"It's hard to tell people that you have multiple sclerosis"

Antonia Rubio

President of the Ayfem Association in Alhaurín de la Torre

The president of Ayfem says many people are afraid to say that they have the illness, especially young people, because they fear they will miss out on job opportunities

ANDREA JIMÉNEZ

ALHAURÍN DE LA TORRE. Antonia Rubio is the president and founder of Ayfem, the Association of People with Multiple Sclerosis and their Families, of Alhaurín de la Torre. It was created in 2017 to raise awareness of the illness. Antonia says people are often afraid to admit that they have it after they have been diagnosed, especially young people, because they are scared they will miss out on job opportunities.

–How did the association start?
–I started Ayfem in 2017, after

many years in which I had turned my back on the illness. When I was 40 I had a very serious episode. That's when I started to meet other people with the same problem, and I worked with associations in Madrid. We even did the Camino de Santiago. I saw there was a way of keeping the spirit alive and being able to help other people who were like me. That's when I created this association, to bring together those in the same situation. We now have a bigger network, although there are people who still don't want to admit that they have this illness. It's hard to do that, especially if you're young, which is when most people are diagnosed. They are afraid they won't be given job opportunities. The association is there to encourage them and their families, because that is something very important. I suffer from this illness, but so do

my husband and my children. They have to modify their life in order to look after me when I am ill.

–What did it mean to you, being diagnosed with multiple sclerosis?

–I was diagnosed with this illness when I was 25. I didn't accept it. I didn't want to tell anybody. At that time, nobody knew anything about multiple sclerosis. I was told that I wouldn't be able to have children, that I would have to live in a bubble, but I said I was going to be stronger than the illness was. I withdrew into myself and went for 17 years with no treatment. I only went to the hospital when I was having a bad episode. When I was 40 I had a very serious one, and that's when I started to take medication.

–What projects does the association have at the moment?

–Many of our members don't



Antonia Rubio. SUR

people think is that it is an illness 'of the bones'. Someone with multiple sclerosis needs to know that they are not alone and they don't have to be afraid. You have to carry on. It's really important for them to find support and I always invite anyone I meet with multiple sclerosis to join our association. The only condition is that you need to be positive. It's also important to find an activity you like: flamenco has helped me a great deal. A year ago my legs were shaking and I couldn't coordinate my hands. Now I have taken part in a competition and passed through to the Andalusian stage. It is very hard to take that step, you have to be really strong to do it, but you can overcome everything when you try.

–What are Ayfem's objectives for the future?

–We want people to know more about us. We are preparing a short documentary with all our members, to raise awareness. We have a lot of energy and are very keen to do things. Our biggest project for the future is without a doubt to do the Camino de Santiago, with financial help so we can adapt the trip to the needs of our members.

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◀ Estefanía Manzano, far left, with her son and husband. Ana María (top right) and Antonia B. Durán (below) talk of their experience with Covid a year after they caught the virus.

Coronavirus is like Russian roulette. Although the average time from the start of the symptoms to recovery is two weeks, in many cases it can be longer and the battle against SARS-CoV can last for months. That was the case for Estefanía, Antonia and Ana María, three women from Malaga who caught Covid-19 during the first wave in March 2020 and are still experiencing symptoms now, a year later, which are affecting their lives.

Chronic fatigue, dyspnoea, muscular pain and headache, low-grade fever, blurred vision, lack of concentration, cough, dry eyes, diarrhea, vomiting and respiratory difficulties are just some of their symptoms. They are said to be suffering from long Covid, a syndrome recognised by the Ministry of Health which affects one in every ten people who have had the virus, and they have joined an association of sufferers called Long Covid ACTS which, with the Spanish Society of General and Family Practitioners, is trying to raise awareness of the problem: "It's as if you become much older all of a sudden. Research needs to be carried out and protocols drawn up about how to deal with this," they say.

When the hell of this coronavirus lasts a year

Long Covid. Estefanía, Toñi and Ana María caught the virus in March 2020 and, 12 months later, still have symptoms that affect their lives. "It's as if you suddenly get old. We need research into what is happening to people," they say

ROSSEL APARICIO



Estefanía Manzano (Telemarketer) "I cough 24 hours a day, it's still a nightmare a year later"

Estefanía's voice sounds very weak and she stops frequently to breathe and recover from the incessant cough that affects her, morning, noon and night. "This will be the end of me. It's a nightmare," she says. This 36-year-old telemarketer, who is married with one child, caught the virus - at work, she thinks - in March last year. It caused double pneumonia, which left her bedridden and isolated from her family. She was monitored by phone until, in April, she ended up in A & E. "I thought I was going to die: I couldn't breathe," she says.

She kept having to go back to the hospital, until they admitted her in June. "My Covid tests were negative by then, but I still had symptoms," she says.

Now, after a year, Estefanía is still off work, at home, with severe bronchial asthma. She suffers from dizziness, aphonia, high temperature, fatigue, blurred vision and her lung capacity is 60 per cent. Despite all this, she remains optimistic: "I'm still alive, so I feel lucky to have survived. We need more awareness of long Covid, though," she says.

Ana María Oña (Shop owner) "I know elderly people who were very ill with the virus but they're much better healthwise than I am now"

On 10 March 2020 Ana María was already feeling unwell. She is sure she caught the virus at her business, a newsagents and gift shop which also sells lottery tickets. "I was dealing with a lot of customers, and at that time masks weren't compulsory," she says.

During the lockdown she was at home on her own, incapacitated by the virus. Her head felt as if it was exploding and she was so tired she could hardly get off the sofa. "For eight months I slept sitting up. If I went to bed I felt suffocated, as if there was an elephant on my

chest," she recalls.

In May, when the lockdown ended, she decided to take a test before reopening her business, to make sure she had got over the virus. The result was negative, but the problems continued. By September, she could no longer work. She constantly surfs the Internet, looking for information about what has happened to her, and that's where she found the association. "It was like a lighthouse guiding my path," she says.

Ana María still has unbearable headaches, difficulty talking and gets very tired after any everyday task. She has been seeing specialists for months and is waiting for a test for post-Covid pericarditis. However, she's not throwing in the towel. "I'm a born warrior," she says.

Antonia B. Durán (Hospital porter) "For five months afterwards, I was not fit for work"

She began to feel something wasn't right a few days before the state of alarm was decreed, at the height of the pandemic. "I'm never normally ill, not even a headache," she says. However, a week later she had to go to A&E. "I was so tired. I couldn't take a shower without help. I had difficulty breathing and was so exhausted I couldn't even speak," she says.

It took nearly five months, until August, for her to "feel human again" and take up her present job as a hospital porter. "I was unemployed when I caught the virus. They had rung me before, but there was no way I could work," she says. These days she has muscular and chest pain, blurred vision and sore eyes. She has lost concentration and can't read, one of her greatest passions. Covid has also caused leucopenia (a reduction in the number of leukocytes in the blood) and thrombocytopenia, too few platelets. Despite everything, like the others, she is being brave. "At the hospital I still smile under my mask at the patients, although it's hard sometimes," she says.

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ORTHOPAEDIC CLINIC

Arthritis: Surgery Yes or No?

Should you hold on as long as possible without surgery or rather go for it?

BENALMÁDENA

Sandalf. Unfortunately time won't pass by without leaving arthritic marks on our joints. The most often effected joints are hips and knees, followed by shoulders and fingers.

After many decades of weight bearing pressure, signs of so called arthritic changes will appear eventually. And as there are no nerve endings inside a joint the initial stage of arthritic changes of the joint won't have clinical symptoms and is usually detected as a secondary diagnosis when radiographic images are taking for other reasons. This is considered stage I of arthritis, and does not require any treatment. But the far more advanced stage III and the final stage IV would cause significant pain even when resting, due to the by then very much deformed joint, untreated often ending in an inability of moving that joint.

In the moderate stage of the arthritis, when the joint is not worn out and the symptoms appear only occasionally, conservative treatment can be applied consisting in specific physiotherapy, gentle sports like swimming, anti-inflammatory medication in form of crèmes or tablets, as well as direct infiltrations with Cortisone and/or hyaluronic acid. In the very advanced (III. degree) and the final stage (IV. Degree) of the arthritis the surgical substitution should be considered. In these stages of arthritis there is a generally



The most often effected of joints are hips and knees, followed by shoulders and fingers. Sandalf

accepted rule of thumb that in men over 60 and women over 65 the joint replacement should be the treatment of choice.

In the hands of an experienced orthopaedic surgeon a joint replacement is considered a routine surgical procedure. Following a hip or knee replacement you would be allowed full weight bearing immediately. In-patient stay would be 2 – 4 days, in a private hospital, and under supervision and training by a specialist trained physiotherapist

In the very advanced (III. Degree) and the final stage (IV. Degree) of the arthritis the surgical substitution should be considered

the joint would gain practically full range of movement within 2-4 weeks, pain free. Returning to normal daily activities like longer

walks, swimming and even an easy round of golf should be possible after 6-8 weeks. Statistics have shown that out of 100 hip or knee replacements 99 are functioning that well that only the scar would remind you that you actually have an artificial joint.

The general recommendation is that in case of advanced arthritis of a joint, with significantly reduced life quality, and the patient being in the equivalent age group, the surgical replacement should be done rather sooner than later,

allowing to return to usual daily activities and a normal life quality. Postponing the surgery for a prolonged time could not only cause damage on the joints of the other leg due to compensatory limping, but also lead to other medical problems like diabetes and heart conditions coming in, making the surgery more difficult or even impossible. One should also keep in mind that the agreement between the NHS UK and Europe, with respect to funding of up to 80% of private surgery abroad in Spain, is still valid at least until the end of this year.



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Yanis Rahmani and Caye Quintana score to gift Malaga an easy home win

Bottom side Albacete threatened in isolated incidents but never looked likely to trouble the Blue and Whites

DARYL FINCH



MALAGA. For the first time in what feels like an age, Malaga secured what turned out to be an easy home victory at La Rosaleda, this time defeating bottom side Albacete by two goals to nil on Sunday afternoon.

Coach Sergio Pellicer persisted with his trusted 4-1-4-1 formation, with Alberto Escassi holding the midfield, and it served to keep their visitors on the back foot for much of the game.

Yanis Rahmani had the first chance but his header floated wide. He wouldn't be denied, though, and he gave Malaga the lead in the 23rd minute, diverting Ale Benítez's wayward shot past the hapless keeper, played onside by a deep-lying defender who didn't vacate his penalty area quick enough following the corner.



Rahmani (left) celebrates giving Malaga the lead midway through the first half. **ÑITO SALAS**

Despite Albacete looking more purposeful at the start of the second half, Malaga extended their lead 11 minutes after the break with a classic counter-attacking goal. Jairo chased a long ball by Cristian out of defence down the right wing before sending in an inch-perfect cross for Caye Quintana to pounce at the back post and effectively seal the victory.

The win leaves Malaga on 48 points, seemingly safe from relegation and comfortable in the mid-to-upper part of the table.

In his post-match press conference, Pellicer admitted that being asked if reaching the play-

offs was even a possibility "makes me proud", hinting that his side was already overachieving compared to the objectives set for the year.

"We're at our physical limits, but mentally we're very strong," he added. "We have heart and soul. Every week there have

2-0

MALAGA-ALBACETE

Malaga: Soriano; Benítez, Lombán, Juande, Matos; Escassi; Jairo (Alexander, 88'), Cristian (Ramón, 88'), Jozabed (Benkhemassa, 80'), Jairo, Rahmani (Scepovic, 73'), Caye Quintana (Joaquín, 73'). Unused substitutes: Dani Barrio, Dani Strindhalm, Quintana, Cristo, Julio, Guerrero and Larrubia.

Albacete: Bernabé; Javi Jiménez (Benito, 80'), Boyomo, Gorosito, Fran García; Dani Torres (Diamanka, 72'), Eddy Silvestre (Mvondo, 57'), Manu Fuster, Álvaro Jiménez (Álvaro Peña, 80'), Zozulia (Vargas, 80'), Ortuño. Unused substitutes: Tomeu Nadal, Arroyo, Tana, Caballo, Kecojovic, Isaac and Cedric.

Goals: 1-0 Rahmani (23'), 2-0 Caye Quintana (56').

Referee: Trujillo Suárez. Yellow cards for Manu Fuster, Eddy Silvestre and Vargas.

Venue: La Rosaleda.

been new obstacles and we've been able to overcome them. We want more so we have to keep going."

The Blue and Whites will now travel to the Canary Islands for a difficult away trip against Las Palmas on Saturday (kick-off 6.15pm). A defeat for Malaga would see Las Palmas draw level on points.

Third defeat from four sees a change in the dugout for Femenino

Nati Gutiérrez has this week been replaced by Javi Ramos as coach after Malaga dropped to sixth place in the nine-team group battling relegation

MARINA RIVAS / BORJA GUTIÉRREZ / ADG

MALAGA. After four games of the relegation phase, Malaga's women's side slipped to a third defeat with a 1-0 loss away to Levante B on Sunday afternoon - a result which cost coach Nati Gutiérrez her job. The club announced that she had been relieved of her duties on Wednesday.

The visitors were the better side in the first half and found some joy early on through winger Clo. However, seconds after half time, the Valencian side had a penalty after Gema was brought



New coach Javi Ramos. **MALAGA CF**

down in the box. Andrea Okene duly stepped up to give her side the lead.

Malaga responded by dominating the ball once more, but an equaliser never seemed likely.

Javi Ramos, the new coach

With six games remaining in Group South D, Malaga are in

sixth in the nine-team group where the bottom four will be relegated. Next up is a home game against Femarguín on Sunday, the first in the dugout for new coach Javi Ramos.

The former Malaga player has been appointed until the end of the season. The 35-year-old from Benalmádena's brief is to guide the team to survival.

Ramos was mainly involved with the B-team during his time with the Blue and Whites but did score a memorable winner in a cup match against Tenerife for the first team in the 2007-08 season.

He has coached several youth teams in his career so far, most recently at Benalmádena Atlético, but this is his first appointment at senior level, as well as his first role in women's football.

He will be assisted by Marina Gallardo, previously a coach within the women's youth setup at the club.

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Covid-19 Regular Updates



A LOOK AT LA LIGA
ROB PALMER
Commentator, Sky Sports

A perfect week

Real Madrid came out on top in the Clásico and in the Champions League this week and are turning it on just at the right time of the season



A Clásico that lived up to the spectacular billing and a Champions League date with Liverpool which was as workmanlike as it needed to be. Zinedine Zidane has mastered the art of management again.

Let's be truthful, the Real Madrid team is held together by a midfield that many would have pensioned off years ago and no longer can they boast a Galáctico. Even the warrior-like skipper Sergio Ramos is missing. Zidane has needed to mend and make do.

Earlier in the season his club had been written off domestically and in Europe. Shakhtar Donetsk did the double in the Champions League



Zidane and his players have upped their level in recent weeks. AFP

and Alcoyano killed the giants in the Copa del Rey. The Liga campaign was damaged by poor results against Levante, Cadiz and Alavés.

The man who led Madrid to three Champions League titles and last season's Spanish crown was on the brink according to the Spanish media. Luckily the club held their nerve and didn't panic. They learnt from what happened when he stepped aside last time.

It could be argued that he was let down by his players – a bunch of Big Time Charlies. This may be true but now the big games are stacking up, the Charlies are displaying their charms. These are footballing heavyweights who took a few bruises against the lesser sparing partners; when they get in the ring with those of a similar stature the class kicks in.

The season could have been over in a week. It turns out it has been ignited by three incredibly important victories. First they preyed on Liverpool's inadequacies to win the home leg of the Champions League quarter final. Next they went toe to toe with Barcelona. It was a humdinger of a Clásico with all of the elements. A red card, chances ga-

lore, an opportunity for Barça to equalise in the final minutes. When the dust settled it was Real who had the resolve to win the game and take second place in the table.

To complete the week, it was a visit to Anfield. Zidane oversaw another tactical masterclass. It was conservative without being defensive. Liverpool were held to a nil-nil draw. An instantly forgettable game at a stadium renowned for famous European evenings. Job done! Now he heads into the final straight with a bunch of players who have been down this road so many times and emerged with medals to show for the journey.

Zizou's clearly assessed the situation and found a formula, indeed several formulas to make things happen. He cuts a quiet figure on the touchline and there are very few, if any, memorable quotes from Zidane the manager. He is the exact opposite of his stylish playing persona but he's amassing just as many medals as a coach as he did as a player.

Next, it's Chelsea. There will be trepidation in one of the changing rooms and it won't be one where Spanish is the prominent language.

Two wins from two extends new Marbella coach's perfect start

An away win for Abraham García's men boosts their bid to avoid the double drop this year

**RECREATIVO GRANADA 0
MARBELLA 1**

RICARDO CONTRERAS. ADG

GRANADA. Marbella made it two wins from two in their relegation play-off group following a

1-0 victory at Recreativo Granada on Sunday afternoon. An Eliseo goal in the first half made the difference while the hosts played much of the match with ten men.

Marbella quickly grew into the encounter and Esteban Granero almost managed to rob the ball off keeper Joao Costa following some high pressing.

The first big flashpoint came near half-time when Isma followed through on Marbella's Alex Bernal. This provoked a brawl and

Recreativo's Caio was shown a straight red. Moments later, Eliseo found himself in space and was able to convert Gustavo's deflected shot to give Marbella the lead.

A goal and a man up, Marbella pushed for a second after the interval and almost got it through Callejón. Beyond this, the Costa side seemed content to see out the game. Recreativo never looked particularly likely to score, allowing Marbella to hold on to three important points in the battle to avoid a double relegation this season.

As it stands, Marbella are second in their eight-team group, which would be enough to ensure they only drop into the new Segunda RFEF and not the fifth tier (Tercera RFEF). Next up is a home game against Lorca Deportivo on Sunday evening.



JOSELE

Spain end Marbella stay with a win

Spain's women's team ended their ten-day stay in Marbella with a 3-0 friendly win over Mexico at the municipal stadium on Tuesday night. It wasn't until the 66th minute that Cardona opened the scoring but then a late brace from Nahikari sealed the win.

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Munar and Carreño pose with their trophies, presented by tennis legends Manolo Santana (far left) and Björn Borg (far right). JOSELE

Pablo Carreño wins fifth career title at the AnyTech365 Andalucía Open

He beat fellow Spaniard Jaume Munar 6-1, 2-6, 6-4 in the final at the Puente Romano tennis club in Marbella

PEDRO LUIS ALONSO



MALAGA. Spanish star Pablo Carreño secured victory at the AnyTech365 Andalucía Open after defeating compatriot Jaume Munar 6-1 2-6 6-4 in the final at Puente Romano Tennis Club in Marbella on Sunday. Top-seeded Carreño overcame Munar in a gruelling two-and-a-half-hour encounter to earn his fifth career title and the first trophy for a Spanish player this year.

The day before, Carreño had beaten Albert Ramos in another tight game, eventually winning 6-1, 3-6, 7-6. Meanwhile, Munar had earned his place in the final with a 7-6, 6-4 win over rookie Carlos Alcaraz in the other all-Spanish semi-final (the first time the final four in an ATP tournament have all been from the same country since 2004). A week earlier, Munar also reached the final of the ATP 80 Challenger event at the same venue, losing 6-3, 2-6, 6-3 to Italy's Gianluca Mager.

In the final, Carreño dominated the first set, making very few errors and only conceding one break point. However, Munar be-



Carreño celebrates the moment he sealed victory on Sunday. JOSELE

IN NUMBERS

200

victories racked up on the ATP Tour for Pablo Carreño on Sunday, with 169 defeats.

gan to grow into the game and was buoyed by support from the crowd. He was able to draw on his higher level of match sharpness given that he had twenty-seven games under his belt already this year compared to Carreño, who had only played seven before the Marbella tournament in what has been an injury-disrupted season so far.

In the second set, Munar broke Carreño's serve in the second game, and then again in the sixth and eighth games to take the

Players back the Andalucía Open and call for more events in Spain

P. L. ALONSO

MALAGA. "That's the importance of having tournaments at home...", tweeted Carla Suárez, back in training after overcoming Hodgkin's lymphoma, referring on Saturday to semi-finals in Marbella being packed exclusively with Spanish talent. According to the players themselves, it is key to improving their competitive level, as evidenced by the breakthrough of Berrettini, Sinner and Musetti in Italy where a growing number of Challenger events have been hosted in recent years.

Champion Pablo Carreño alluded to the fact that it was not normal that in Spain, due to its level of tennis, there were only two ATP Tour events, and just one women's event, the Mutua Madrid Open.

In comparison, in 2021 there are eight ATP Tour events taking place in the USA (Delray Beach, Miami, US Open, Newport, Atlanta, Washington, Cincinnati and Winston Salem) and seven in France (Monte Carlo, Montpellier, Marseille, Roland Garros, Lyon, Paris Bercy and Metz).

"We have to thank those who made this [Marbella] tournament possible. It's very important that more tournaments are held in Spain," said Carreño, who admitted that of his five titles this was the best, because "winning in Spain is much better".

match to a decisive third set. Here, Carreño managed to make his quality show but still did not have it all his own way as his underdog opponent refused to give up. In the ninth game of the set, Munar saved six break points before finally falling on the seventh, leading Carreño to his 200th match win on the ATP Tour and his first trophy on Spanish soil.

This is Carreño's first title since he won in Chengdu (China) in 2019. He has also lifted trophies in Winston-Salem (United States) and Moscow in 2016 and Estoril (Portugal) in 2017. Commenting after the game, Carreño said: "Marbella is a very special place to play tennis so I'm really happy to be lifting this title." He also spoke of his pride in playing in front of Manolo Santana and Björn Borg, who were both present for the trophy presentation.

Carreño's victory has seen him rise three places in the world rankings to twelfth while Munar is up fourteen spots to 81st.

Behar and Escobar win in the doubles

Uruguay's Ariel Behar and Ecuador's Gonzalo Escobar beat Bosnian Tomislav Brkic and Serbian Nikola Cacic 6-4, 6-2 in an hour and three minutes in the doubles final on centre court. The result is a reverse of the final of the ATP 250 tournament in Buenos Aires, also on clay.



JOSELE

Local stars fall at the final hurdle in an otherwise perfect start to World Padel Tour season

Padel players Bea González and Álex Ruiz made history by reaching their respective finals of the Adelsas Madrid Open but both had to settle for being runners-up

MARINA RIVAS

MALAGA. Saturday was a historic day for sport in Malaga as padel players from the province reached the final in the men's and women's section, respectively, of the same tournament for the first time.

Bea González from Malaga city, 19, and Álex Ruiz from Alhaurín de la Torre, 26, both reached the showpiece of the Adelsas Madrid Open, which kicked off the 2021 World Padel Tour season.

For González, Sunday was the fourth Open final of her fledgling

career and her second chance to win a title after she and former number one Marta Ortega claimed the Vuelve a Madrid title in July 2020, which made González the youngest ever winner of an Open.

However, alongside Lucía Sainz, González lost out in Sunday's final to the number three ranked pair, Paula Josemaría (González's former partner) and Ari Sánchez. This young duo kept their opponents tied down right from the out-

set and took the championship in just two sets thanks to their consistency, very few unforced errors, and Josemaría's brilliant smashes.

In the men's doubles, Álex Ruiz and his partner Franco Stupaczuk reached the final to fight for what would have been Ruiz's first title after steam-rolling the number ones, Lebrón and Galán, and the number threes, Tapia and Lima, in the earlier rounds. In a memorable clash, the Spanish-Argen-



Ruiz and González came up short in their respective finals. **WPT**

tinian duo took the first set of the final against the number two ranked pair, Fernando Belasteguín (former world number one for two decades) and Sanyo Gutiérrez, but their opponents fought back and

eventually claimed victory in three sets (7-6, 4-6 and 3-6).

Though runners-up this time, the 2021 padel season holds great promise for the two players from Málaga.

Club de Rugby Málaga miss out on promotion with narrow defeat

SUR

MALAGA. Club de Rugby Málaga fell agonisingly short of promotion to the top division of Spanish rugby union after a 28-27 defeat to top-of-the-table Unión Rugby Pozuelo on Sunday afternoon.

In their final game in the promotion play-offs, the Andalusians were just five minutes away from securing a place in the top flight. Until the closing minutes, Malaga were ahead on the scoreboard and had managed to snuff out the Madrid side as an attacking threat, although the home team enjoyed greater success in the scrums.

This was one of Malaga's best performances of the season, as they combined good defensive work with quick and efficient attacking play. However, it was not to be and they lost their lead in the final stages.

The result demonstrates the high level at which Malaga have been playing this season and suggests that, given this was only their second season at this level, the team has not yet reached its full potential.

Overall, Malaga is the only club in Andalucía with three senior teams competing in the league system while their under-18 and under-16 teams are both in with a chance of winning their respective regional championships.

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The match against Sevilla which marked the official opening of La Rosaleda in September 1941. SUR

Celebrating 80 years of La Rosaleda stadium

La Rosaleda. The opening was unexpected: a storm destroyed the pitch at Los Baños del Carmen in April 1941 and a venue was needed in a rush for the match against Ferroviaria

SERGIO CORTÉS



On 13 April 1941, eighty years ago now, the so-called 'Stadium' opened its doors for the first time to welcome Malaga fans (at that time the club was actually called Malacitano) to a football ground which now holds an important place in Spanish football history: La Rosaleda.

The official inauguration took place five months and one day later, with a match against Sevilla, but for nostalgics the game against Ferroviaria on 'la parcela' (as it was known to local people in the Martiricos district at that time) was far more exciting.

The year 1941 marked the consolidation of football in Malaga, and there were numerous changes around that time. The biggest news came on 18 September, ten days before the start of the Segunda season, when the board headed by Luis Ramírez decided to give the go-ahead to the new name for the team, which would be called Club

Deportivo Málaga instead of Malacitano (the serious debate about this had begun two months earlier). However, not even this compared with the excitement over the new venue, even though emotionally it would be hard to leave the Baños del Carmen after 19 years.

Over the years, as well as a merger between Malaga SC and the FC Malagueño, there had already been several changes in location: from the esplanade opposite the Hospital Noble to a field at the Convent of Las Adoratrices in Calle Cristo de la Epidemia (at the entrance you could see the word 'football' in English), from Los Baños del Carmen to La Rosaleda. Some of these changes occurred quite rapidly, but none with quite the urgency of the opening of the 'Stadium'.

There was no time for sentiment or fond farewells. A storm practically buried Los Baños del



Match.

The stadium full in 2008 for the Spain-France game. SALVADOR SALAS

Works.

A photo of the construction works for the 'Stadium'. SUR



One of the first scoreboards. SUR



La Rosaleda today. S. SALAS



Joaquín celebrates a goal amid general euphoria. SUR

Carmen, the scene of so much joy for football fans in the past, and the move had to take place from one day to the next.

Three rows and some ropes

And so, with no fanfare, a three-row stand and ropes to separate spectators from the pitch, La Rosaleda stadium was born.

It was an unforgettable day for supporters of Malacitano, but especially the local centre-forward, Fuentes, who not only scored the very first goal at the ground (nine minutes into the match) but five of the team's six during a memorable day playing Ferroviaria de Madrid (6-0).

He didn't let the supporters down. He crowned an already great season with 20 goals from 24 matches played. However, neither should it be forgotten that

Everything had been prepared for La Rosaleda to open at the beginning of the following season but events accelerated the opening. The team led by José Qui-rante (who had taken over from Antonio Sorribas the season before) had finished the Segunda season in fifth place but were in the Copa and still required a venue to play their remaining games.

In the cup Malacitano, whose kit was white shirts and black shorts (the change to the traditional blue and white coincided with the change of name), lost 0-1 to Jerez in the first preliminary round and won at Los Baños del Carmen 3-1.

The next rival was Ferroviaria and after having won 4-1 in Madrid, that was when the storm rendered the football pitch at the spa

resort unusable and forced the improvised opening of the 'Stadium'.

There was almost as much excitement among supporters about seeing the inside of La Rosaleda for the first time as there was about the match, and whether the outcome would mean the team achieved its long-awaited qualitative leap.

As everybody expected, Malacitano practically steamrolled Ferroviaria during a magical afternoon for Fuentes, who was affectionately nicknamed 'El pistola'.

No good-bye

The last-minute and unexpectedly rushed opening of the 'Stadium' didn't diminish the anticipation of the official inauguration, on 14 September against Sevilla, one iota, but it did deprive Malacitano fans of the opportunity to say a proper goodbye to Los Baños del Carmen.

However, it did mark the start of a story which has now been continuing for 80 years.

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IRISHMAN 68, WLTm loving, passionate, broadminded lady, long relationship, marriage. 602596196 Torremolinos

FOR POST Covid, older submissive gentleman would like to establish contact with a contemporary of 50/70 who is assertively active and lives within 100kms of Fuengirola for leisurely un-inhibited company in nice peaceful surroundings for mutually activities with no boundaries except CP. outrefun1@ya-hoo.co.uk

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USEFUL PHONE NUMBERS

EMERGENCIES			
Emergency operator	112	Bus Station	952475066
National Police	091	Taxi Service	952471000
Local (municipal) Police	092	Tourist Office	952467625
Medical	061	Town Hall	952589300
Fire	080	Foreign Residents Dept.	952589440
Guardia Civil	062	MALAGA	
Sea Rescue	900202202	Bus Station	952350061
Crime report	902102112	Railway Station	902240202
		Taxi Service	952345693
		Tourist Office	951926020
ENGLISH-SPEAKING HELP			
Samaritans in Spain	900525100	MARBELLA	
Alcoholics Anonymous	600379110	Bus Station	955038665
Age Care	952933409	Taxi Service	952774488
Age Concern (Estepona)	608458555	Tourist Office	952768760
		Town Hall	952761100
		Foreign Residents Dept.	952768760
ANDALUSIAN HEALTH SERVICE			
Salud Responde (Doctors' appointments and advice)	955545060	MIJAS	
		Town Hall	952485900
		Town Hall Las Lagunas	952473125
		Taxi	952478288
		Tourism Office	952589034
		Foreign Resident Dept.	952589010
ESTEPONA			
Bus Station	955038665	NERJA	
Taxi Service	952802900	Bus Station	902422242
Tourist Office	952802002	Taxi Service	952520537
Town Hall	952801100	Tourist Information	952521531
Foreign Residents Dept.	952809031		
FUENGIROLA			
		Town Hall	952548400
		Foreign Resident Dept.	952548401
TORREMOLINOS			
Bus Station	902143144		
Taxi Service	952380600		
Tourist Office	952371909		
Town Hall	952379400		
Foreign Residents Dept.	952374231		
BENALMÁDENA			
Bus Station	902450550		
Taxi Service	952441545		
Tourist Office	952442494		
Town Hall	952374231		
Foreign Residents Dept.	952442494		
VÉLEZ-MÁLAGA			
Bus Station	952503162		
Taxi	952540016		
Town Hall	952559100		
Tourist Office	952541104		
GIBRALTAR			
General emergency	199/112(mobiles)		
Fire/ambulance (emergency)	190		
Tourist Office	(00350) 20074950		
Taxi	(00350) 20070027		

To notify symptoms of coronavirus

With symptoms and/or contact with persons with coronavirus or who come from an area of risk



APP Salud Responde: take the Coronavirus symptoms test



If the virtual test is **positive**, the health services will contact you by telephone

There is also a number to notify symptoms, but to avoid jamming the line **try the APP first**

900 400 061

Coronavirus information


955 545 060

Other emergencies


061 / 112

For general health emergencies. **Avoid using this if not urgent**


THE STARS




Aquarius
January 21st - February 19th
What you are being asked to do this week may well go against your principles. Try to apply a little more imagination to find solutions. Working things out requires some deep thought.




Pisces
February 20th - March 20th
Balancing work and home is much easier if you look for the best that you can do and then do it! Trust much more in your experience and instinct.




Aries
March 21st - April 20th
Midweek the accent is on finances. Spend as little as possible to allow flexibility as sudden expenses could arise.




Taurus
April 21st - May 21st
On a new project, perhaps involving a child, try not to run before you can walk. It is sometimes hard to relax, but do try.




Gemini
May 22nd - June 21st
You don't have to explain yourself to others all the time. Let them figure it out for themselves. Be guided by your instincts this week but do not part with more money than necessary.




Cancer
June 22nd - July 23rd
Someone who needs a helping hand may be slow to ask for it. Keep your eyes and ears sharp to find out what is going on. Use the hand of friendship rather than the glove of conflict.




Leo
July 24th - August 23rd
This week something is distracting your attention from a more urgent matter. See clearly the areas where you need to act first. Some of these are taken for granted but are very important.




Virgo
August 24th - September 23rd
Sometimes you worry much more than necessary. Think back to when life was much simpler. Could you get back that plain approach?




Libra
September 24th - October 23rd
Where you see leadership gap this week, maybe you should aim to fill it? Taking your usual balanced approach, it is easier to go between helping and interfering.



Scorpio
October 24th - November 22nd
Life is full of ups and downs. This is a confusing time and you are unsure. Relax and make the most of the good time, merely tolerating the lows.

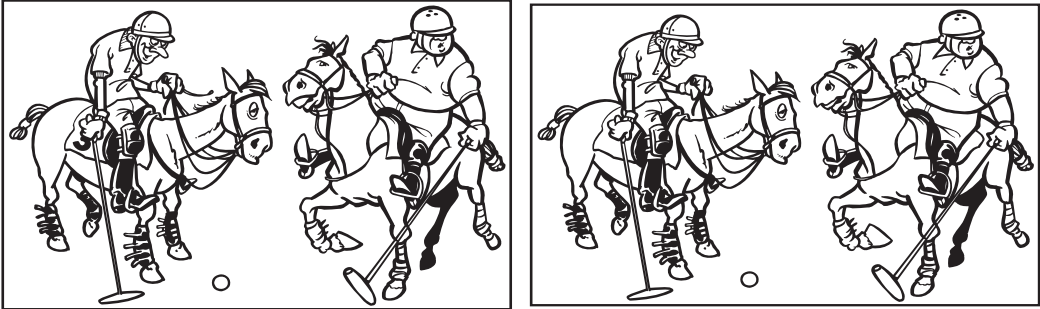


Sagittarius
November 23rd - December 21st
Instead of looking for doom and gloom, why not look for the bright light of opportunity? This week you need bags of faith and a lot of patience. Not finding that too difficult, are you?

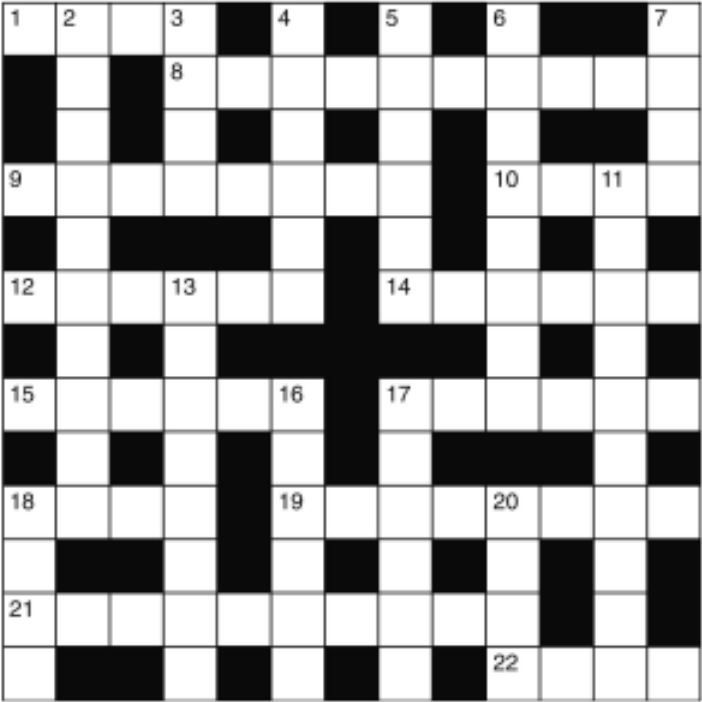


Capricorn
December 22nd - January 20th
Be it at home or work, optimism is well rewarded. Make a point of doing things properly. Cutting corners or being lazy would do you no good and even could upset others.

THE SEVEN DIFFERENCES



CRYPTIC CROSSWORD N° 11457



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, every 3 by 3 subsection includes all digits from 1 to 9

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

THE WORDPUZZLER

A	R	P	I	N	S	P	I	N	E
L	P	I	N	O	P	I	N	I	P
N	I	C	O	P	I	N	G	L	I
P	D	A	P	I	L	K	I	A	N
L	U	P	I	N	A	R	E	P	O
E	P	I	N	C	L	O	W	I	N
P	I	N	S	H	O	P	I	N	G
I	N	O	S	U	P	I	N	G	P
N	G	R	O	P	I	N	T	P	I
D	E	A	S	I	N	E	P	I	N

Can you identify the words that contain 'pin' from the clues listed below?

- Managing
- Copying
- Flower
- Colour
- Yearn
- Deceiving
- Rotate
- Nip
- Liquid measure
- Aspiring

BATTLESHIPS

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

Battleship

Cruiser

Destroyers

Submarines

A										
B										
C										
D										
E										
F										
G										
H										
I										
J										
	2	1	1	4	1	3	1	1	0	6

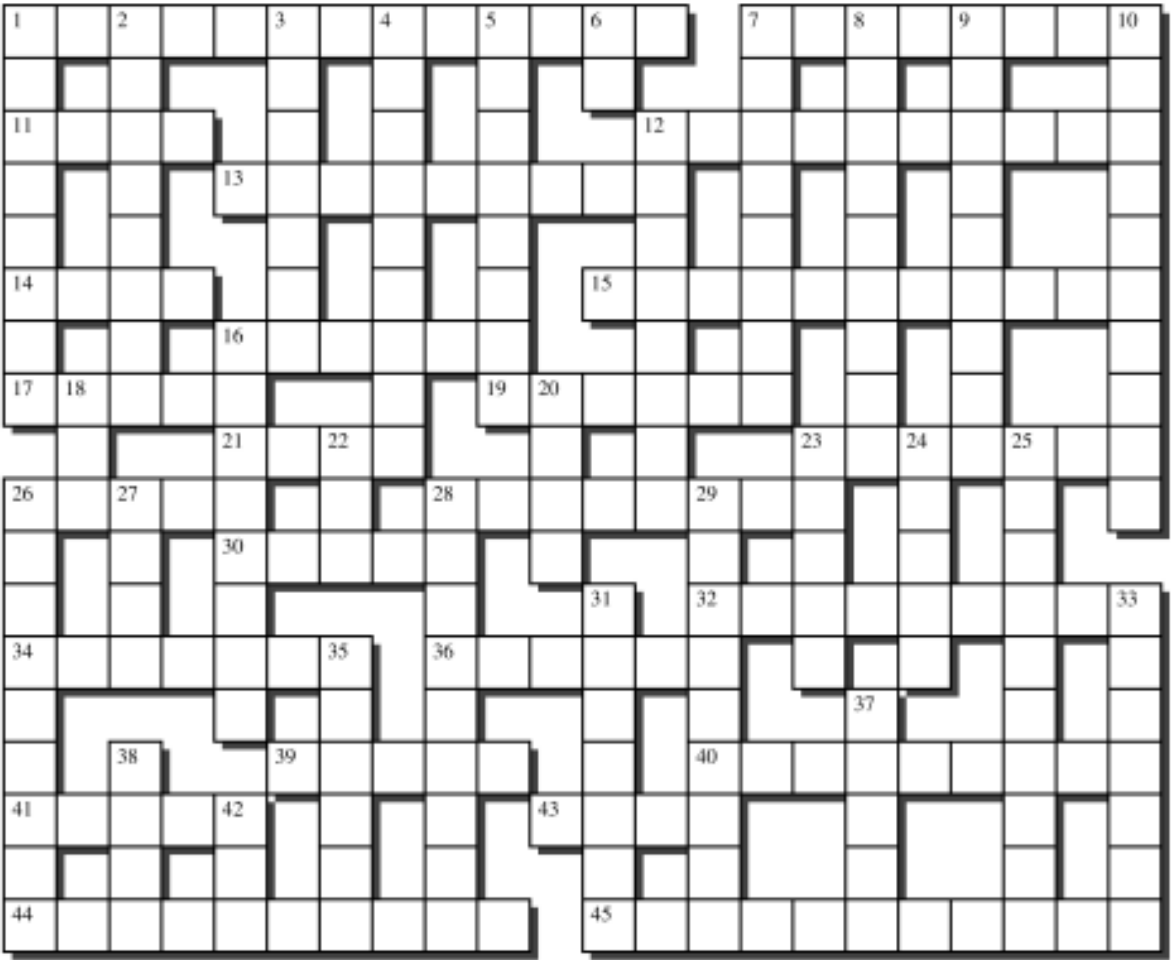
CIRCLEGRAM

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

LANGUAGE CROSSWORD FILL IN THE SPANISH WORD

- Across
- 1) Explanations (13)
 - 7) Primary (8)
 - 11) Worse (4)
 - 12) Ministry (10)
 - 13) Liar (m) (9)
 - 14) Fee (4)
 - 15) Syringe (11)
 - 16) They were able to (6)
 - 17) Serious (m) (5)
 - 19) Athlete (6)
 - 21) To read (4)
 - 23) Advice (7)
 - 26) Parent (5)
 - 28) Sponge cake (8)
 - 30) Fear (5)
 - 32) To boycott (9)
 - 34) Trunks (7)
 - 36) To attract (6)
 - 39) Gum (5)
 - 40) You ruin (9)
 - 41) Awning (5)
 - 43) Clone (4)
 - 44) They rejected (10)
 - 45) Accompanied (f.pl) (11)

- Down
- 1) Experts (8)
 - 2) Teacher (m) (8)
 - 3) School (7)
 - 4) To infect (9)
 - 5) Timely (f) (8)
 - 6) It's (2)
 - 7) He penalises (8)
 - 8) Instigated (m) (9)
 - 9) Surnames (9)
 - 10) Association (10)
 - 12) Purse (8)
 - 16) Controversy (8)
 - 18) It was (3)
 - 20) Chalk (4)
 - 22) That (m) (3)
 - 23) Cushion (5)
 - 24) Children (5)
 - 25) Illness (10)
 - 26) To protest (9)
 - 27) Die (4)
 - 28) Sandwich (9)
 - 29) Covering (9)
 - 31) Battle (7)
 - 33) Risks (7)
 - 35) Watermelon (6)
 - 37) Cousin (f) (5)
 - 38) Note pad (4)
 - 42) Wave (3)



ANSWERS

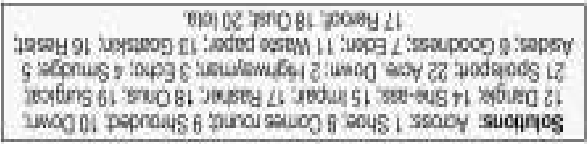
Quiz answers

Answer: London, Paris
Of interest: A Tale of Two Cities is an 1859 historical novel by Charles Dickens, set in London and Paris before and during the French Revolution.
Answer: King Lear
Of interest: Cordelia's father King Lear exiles her when he asks for professions of love from his three daughters to determine how to divide his kingdom. Cordelia's sisters, Goneril and Regan, give deceitfully lavish speeches professing their love. Cordelia however, refuses to do the same.

Language Crossword



Cryptic Crossword



Wordpuzzler solution

1. Coping	A	R	P	I	N	S	P	I	N	E
2. Aping	L	P	I	N	O	P	I	N	I	P
3. Lupin	N	I	C	O	P	I	N	G	L	I
4. Pink	P	D	A	P	I	K	I	A	N	
5. Pine	L	U	P	I	N	A	R	E	P	O
6. Duping	E	P	I	N	C	L	O	W	I	N
7. Spin	P	I	N	S	H	O	P	I	N	G
8. Pinch	I	N	O	S	U	P	I	N	G	P
9. Pint	N	G	R	O	P	I	N	T	P	I
10. Hoping	D	E	A	S	I	N	E	P	I	N

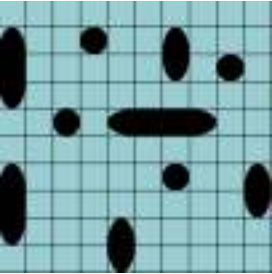
Sudoku solution

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

Circlegram

The letter represented by the question mark is N. Panesar, Anderson, Harnison, all England bowlers.

Battleships



WHERE IS THIS?



A modern clock tower

Last week: Manilva

On the edge of the town of Manilva, on Calle Dr Álvarez Leiva is this roundabout with a spectacular fountain.



THE SUR IN ENGLISH CORNER

Mijas, get snapping!

This month SUR in English plans to continue its series of In The Spotlight supplements, which focus on individual towns or municipalities in the area.

This time it will be the turn of Mijas to shine in the special edition, which will highlight the place and its people at the end of April.

As usual we would like to invite readers who share a love for both Mijas and photography to send in images that could be selected to be published in the supplement.

It's not a difficult challenge in the case of Mijas, with its picturesque Pueblo, the busy Las Lagunas area, La Cala by the sea and the beautiful mountains behind.

So capture the essence of Mijas and send the images (no more than three per person) by 25 April to english@diariosures

And don't forget to keep up with events meanwhile at www.surinenglish.com, on Facebook @surenglish and Twitter @SUR_english



◀ Socially distanced prayers in the central mosque in Malaga on Wednesday.

SALVADOR SALAS

al-Ándalus is one of the biggest in Europe. It can hold 1,000 people and has three prayer rooms. As well as the four smaller ones in Malaga, on the Costa del Sol there are also mosques in Marbella and Fuengirola.

Chasmedinne helps out at one of the city's smaller mosques, in La Palma-Palmilla. He explains some of the basic notions of Ramadan: "All Muslims who have passed puberty and are healthy have to do it. Breakfast is before sunrise and fasting should last until there's no daylight left."

Chasmedinne points out that the social aspect of the large dinners after dark (iftar) during Ramadan has been lost again this year due to the pandemic. The Islamic Commission has called on Muslims to avoid large gatherings. In any case the Andalusian government prohibits gatherings of more than six people.

Hussam Siddiq is the director of the al-Ándalus mosque, which also houses the Andalusí cultural centre. He is 33 and has arrived in Malaga recently from Madrid.

Everyone knows what a mosque is but few know what happens inside. Hussam, representing a new, more integrated generation, wants that to change and has even created an Instagram account (@Mezquita_Malaga).

This bridging of two worlds, however, will have to wait until after the pandemic. Today only 200 people can be in this huge mosque at any one time.

"No one can come in without a face mask and now everyone has to bring their own mat from home. The safe distance is marked with stickers on the floor," explains Siddiq.

Ramadan in a pandemic: more distance, same faith



▶ Waiting for the arrival of the imam in the mosque.

Religion. The ten thousands Muslims in Malaga province begin another month of fasting marked by masks and social distancing in the mosques

MATÍAS STUBER



Some things will be as they have always been. The pleasant sensation of the first drop of water in your mouth after the sun goes down. Not to mention the intense flavour of the first food after several hours of strict fasting. Other things however, are still unthinkable. Just

like the Christians in Holy Week, Muslims around the world are having to do without important rituals. Ramadan, the most important festival on the Muslim calendar began on Tuesday. For the next month Muslims around the world try to be at peace with themselves and feel closer to God.

That means that in the province of Malaga around 10,000 people will refrain from eating, drinking, smoking or having sexual relations during the daylight hours.

This figure has been provided by Javier Isla, one of the spokespersons of the Muslim community in Malaga province. For the

second year running, this will be a Ramadan marked by restrictions, with face masks, social distancing and reduced numbers in the mosques, a reminder of the pandemic currently affecting the world.

Malaga city has five mosques; the main one, known as Mezquita

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