



HEALTH CRISIS

Dramatic lockdown turns Spain on its head with no signs yet of Covid-19 containment

Confirmed cases of
coronavirus number
more than 17,000

Police have already
started fining people
with no reason to be
outside their homes

Charities work harder
than ever to ensure that
elderly and vulnerable
residents are safe

After nearly a full week of lock-
down, with the public confined to
their homes in a bid to curb the
spread of coronavirus, the num-
ber of cases continues to soar
around Spain. By Thursday eve-

ning, 767 people infected by the
virus had died in Spain. Prime Min-
ister Pedro Sánchez announced a
200-billion-euro aid package this
week as the country's industry
ground to a halt. **P2-14**

TOUGH MEASURES TO FIGHT A WAR AGAINST A VIRUS

The UME military emergency unit was brought in to disinfect Malaga's airport and station as well as to patrol the streets **P2**



Members of the UME unit at Malaga Airport on Monday. **ÑITO SALAS**

Tourists flee and hotels close, leaving a huge hole in the economy

With almost all of the Costa del Sol's hotels shut by this
weekend, Andalucía estimates its losses at 6bn euros **P6**



The closure of
schools has thrown
teachers and pupils
head first into online
learning **P10-11**

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Fast-moving spread of Covid-19 sees dramatic nationwide lockdown and life upturned

The government looks set to seek an extension of the state of alarm, in place for almost a week, for up to a month at least

SUR

MALAGA. It was as recently as late last week that people in Spain were first digesting the inconvenient news of a possible schools closure. With bewildering speed, just 48 hours later measures had been extended to include a virtual lockdown on all their daily lives.

The fast-moving expansion of measures as the number of coronavirus infected and fatalities rose exponentially forced a seven-hour-long crisis meeting of ministers last Saturday. The rate of increase was now clearly showing the same path as Italy.

On Saturday evening, Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez addressed the country via videolink, taking press questions remotely. The state of alarm came into force on Sunday morning. The general public were to stay at home, unless they needed to go out to buy food or medication, to go to and from work, to care

for dependents, or go to the bank, among other exceptions.

The Spanish Constitution includes three state-of-emergency levels that a government can resort to in exceptional circumstances. The first, brought in last weekend, is the 'estado de alarma' (state of alarm); the second, 'estado de excepción' (state of exception); and the third 'estado de sitio' (martial law).

The 'estado de alarma' also allows government to intervene in businesses, property and private health centres, as well as ration supplies.

Possible extension

Initially announced as for two weeks, the government is now openly talking about month-long measures. This will require an MPs' decision on 25 March by remote voting.

"This is a time for social discipline," said Sánchez, stressing the need for each individual to respect their responsibility. Firms harbouring medical supplies and masks were asked to come forward.

As people got used to their new home routine and visitors looked for a way out early last week, Interior minister, Fernando Grande-Marlaska, kept up the fast pace,



Police, military and health chiefs at their daily videolink press briefing. EFE

saying land borders would be closed and only Spanish citizens or residents allowed into the country. This was ahead of a similar EU-wide ruling the next day.

Further major announcements this week included a package of 200 billion euros for the economy, clarifications to the ban-on-movement decree and the Foreign Affairs ministry explaining how it planned to repatriate

65,000 Spanish tourists trapped around the world. Not to mention the daily mid-morning televised press conferences to an empty room, where the country learned repeatedly that the victim numbers continued to rise.

For more information on what the state of alarm means and how to comply and keep safe, see pages 4 and 14.

King Felipe makes reassuring TV speech and thanks key workers

SUR

MADRID. King Felipe addressed the nation in a television broadcast on Wednesday night.

Normally it is only at Christmas that there is a King's speech. The last exception was during Catalan independence troubles in 2017.

In his speech, King Felipe asked the Spain to put "differences" to one side.

"We should unite behind each other with one aim: to overcome this grave situation," he said. The king also paid tribute to workers in health care and security services.

"You are the vanguard of Spain in the fight against this illness, you are our first line of defence. You are an unforgettable example," he said about people caring for patients.

Military drafted in to disinfect main transport hubs

The emergency military unit (UME) has been deployed across Spain by the Ministry of Defence as a measure included in the state of alarm

SUR

MALAGA. Troops from the emergency military unit (UME), deployed across Spain by the Min-

istry of Defence, began operating in Malaga city on Monday morning in response to the nationwide state of alarm declared to combat the spread of coronavirus.

Disinfection tasks, as well as information campaigns, took place at María Zambrano train station and Malaga Airport during the morning in coordination with city hall.

The units were also due to be



A member of the armed forces sprays disinfectant at the airport. ÑITO SALAS

deployed to the port, the municipal markets, the bus station, the surroundings of the municipal reception centre and around the historical centre.

In total there were 130 troops (of a total 2,622 nationwide) of the second emergency intervention battalion and 24 vehicles in Malaga.

Sources from UME said that it has not yet been ruled out that in the coming days, depending on how the situation evolves, that they would have to be deployed to other municipalities in the province. The troops are expected to be seen for the foreseeable future.

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Local cases reach 361 as containment effect fails to kick in for now

Madrid was still a particular focal point of the over 17,000 cases across Spain on Thursday, with questions asked about old people's homes

SUR

MALAGA. Three women aged 90, 75 and 82 died on Thursday in Malaga province bringing the total number of recorded local deaths since the outbreak to 13.

In total, 23 deaths had been reported in Andalucía by Thursday evening.

In Malaga province, including the Costa del Sol, there were 361 cases of Covid-19 on Thursday (19 March), 28 more than the previous day. From this figure, 93 were in hospital and 255 being monitored at home.

In Andalucía, there were 1,008 reported cases on Thursday, out of a regional population of around 8.5 million. In the region there were 307 in hospital, 25 in in-

tensive care and 678 being monitored at home. The regional health service has increased the number of laboratories analysing test samples to 13.

Last Friday, 13 March, a 70-year-old man, who was admitted to the Xanit Internacional in Benalmádena, became the first to die in Andalucía.

National cases continue surge

On Thursday, it was announced that there were over 17,100 cases nationally. This was a 24 per cent increase on Wednesday. Health officials said they are waiting to see the rate of daily increase fall, as the effects of confinement take effect. This has not started yet.

The majority of cases were located in Madrid, Catalonia and the Basque Country. Almost 800 deaths nationally were being reported.

Madrid is a particular focus of the epidemic, registering 6,777 cases and 498 deaths. As in other countries, however, the likely number infected is higher as not



One of the homes in Madrid where residents have died. J. MARTÍN / EFE

The number of cases in the province of Malaga, including the Costa del Sol, reached 361 on Thursday

Thirteen people infected by Covid-19 have died in Malaga province since the outbreak started

everyone can be tested.

There was concern later this week over the rate the virus was spreading in senior citizens' homes in the capital, as all stayed on lockdown. An inquiry has been launched after at least 19 residents of a home died and some 50 have died in homes across the capital region.

In the Basque Country, another region seriously affected, a 52-year-old nurse died of coronavirus on Thursday.

Pressure on health service mounts as plea goes out for more resources from masks to staff

SUR

MADRID. In all areas of health care provision, there were increasing pleas in the latter half of this week for more resources. From more masks and sanitising fluid to staff, local, national and regional authorities were fighting to keep up with the spread.

Madrid was under particular pressure. On Thursday, the regional president and the mayor of the capital both called for more masks, gloves and breathing equipment. The regional government is estimating health services still need 14 million face masks and 254,000 disposable bedgowns.

The national Health ministry has said it will urgently add an extra 50,000 health workers, a mixture of medics and nurses nearing the end of their studies and former staff coming out of retirement. Many healthcare workers are having to go off sick.

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IN BRIEF

TORROX

Torrox man arrested for insulting police officers

E. C. A 42-year-old man was arrested on Tuesday for allegedly insulting and shouting death threats at Local Police officers when they told him to return to his house, according to police

sources. Residents on Avenida García Peñalver in Torrox Costa, where the incident happened, called police when they heard the man shouting in the street for the second time in less than 12 hours. The man was not outside for any of the justified reasons. He faces up to 3,000 euros in fines for resisting arrest and flouting the state of alarm.



Torrox Costa arrest. SUR

MALAGA

Evangelical church service stopped by police

J.C. / A.F. Dozens of evangelical Christians were told to leave their meeting room in Malaga on Wednesday after flouting the ban on public gatherings. Surprised leaders said they had been advised by a lawyer and a police visit on Sunday that it was allowed, maintaining social distancing. The services have now been suspended.

MIJAS

Over 45 fines for rule breaking given out so far

I. GELIBTER. Mijas council said on Wednesday that town-hall controlled Local Police had given out 45 fines to people breaking the rules about staying at home. Mayor of Mijas, Josele González, said most people were respecting the decree but that fines of between 601 and 3,000 euros may be given out to individuals.

Can I go for a walk? Can we go shopping together? - Common questions answered

Emergency rules order people to stay at home and only leave if necessary; police have been told to step up fining

J.C. / A. F. / N.H.

MALAGA. Can I go out for a run? Can I take out the dog? The government has restricted the free movement of citizens and only authorises the opening of food stores, pharmacies, vets, health centres, opticians, banks and shops selling orthopaedic products, newsagents, petrol stations, tobacconists, shops selling technical equipment and telecommunications, pet food and dry cleaners and laundrettes. Trading online, by telephone or post is also authorised.

Fines will be issued more readily by police now to people breaking rules although most offenders have just received a warning so far.

Here is a question and answer summary to help guide readers as understood at time of going to press. Information is subject to change - follow www.surinenglish.com for updates.

If I go out do I have to carry ID?

Yes, everyone must be able to show national photo ID or passport if stopped in the street.

How will they check where I'm going?

Police can ask for whatever documents or evidence they deem necessary to confirm the reason for a person to be outside their home. However, they will apply common sense. Keep receipts when shopping or withdrawing cash to justify being in the street. If going to work, get your boss to prepare a signed letter you can show if possible. Or better still, work from home if you are able.

If I go to the supermarket, do I have to go by myself? Should I walk or go by car?

People should go alone unless with children, elderly or disabled people who depend on them and there is no alternative. You can go on foot or by car. Couples at the same workplace (with proof) can reportedly travel together but the passenger should sit in the back on the opposite side.

Can I take food to my elderly mother?

Yes. Caring for dependents is a reason that is included.

Can I go to a friends' to get items such as masks or gloves?



Mounted police check a woman's ID on the Malaga seafront. NITO SALAS

Yes, but you'd need to prove it. The decree allows going to pharmacies to buy health goods, and so if you need these from elsewhere, it would be included.

Can I go out for a run or to do other sport?

No. The order, which allows no exceptions, and covers all types of leisure and sports activities, is to stay at home. You can't even exercise in the communal areas of your block of flats, as the virus can be transmitted by touching things.

My doctor says I should exercise for diabetes, hypertension

or similar. Can I go out to walk?

Yes, if it is on doctor's instructions and very close to home. Practise common sense as you are in a vulnerable category. You can be accompanied if you are a dependent person. Be prepared to justify why you are out.

Can I take my dog out?

Yes, only for the essential time and very short distances. And never with someone else unless they are dependent and you can prove it.

If I am in my holiday home and I have to go home to work, can I travel with my family?

Yes, the journey back to a main residence with all the family for work reasons is allowed, but you can't go back again.

Can I go and fetch my son from the airport? Can two people go?

Yes, picking up a relative from the airport is justified, although recommendations are to avoid this and for the passenger to get a taxi. If you have to go, go alone.

What about the homeless? Social services will take them to shelters.

Whenever out, practise social distancing: about 1.5 metres away, including from loved ones.

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Now is the time to lock in residency in Spain

By Sarah Burke, Partner, Blevins Franks

UK nationals living in Spain or owning Spanish property can feel reassured that little will change while the Brexit transition period is underway. But with no certainty beyond 2020, time is running out to secure your position and lock in guaranteed protection.

What is at stake?

If you are lawfully settled in Spain before 31 December 2020, you can acquire guaranteed citizens' rights under the UK/EU Withdrawal Agreement. This provides the right to remain indefinitely and access the same social security, education and employment opportunities as today, for as long as you remain resident in Spain. You would also be entitled to existing Spanish healthcare benefits and annual cost-of-living increases to the UK State Pension.

However, anyone arriving from 2021 may have restricted movement in Spain and be subject to a new residence regime to access similar rights. While the post-Brexit residence rules are yet to be confirmed, the requirements may be more stringent and the process more complicated than today.

As such, there is everything to gain by taking steps now to become Spanish resident and come under the protection of the Withdrawal Agreement.

How to become lawfully resident in Spain

If you are already in Spain but have not yet secured settled status, register with the local authorities as soon as possible to get your residence recognised.

All EU/EEA nationals staying in Spain more than three months should apply for the temporary (green) residence certificate. If you spend more than 183 days here, you are also obliged to register with your local *padrón municipal*.

Of course, if you meet the criteria to be tax resident, you also should have formally registered with the Spanish tax office and submit annual income tax and wealth tax (if applicable) returns, as well as *Modelo 720* (reporting of assets abroad).

Temporary residents must continue meeting the conditions of residence and be prepared to demonstrate this

each year. After five years, you can qualify for permanent residency.

Spanish citizenship is available after ten years – however, under current rules, you would have to renounce your UK nationality as Spain does not allow dual nationality.

Existing residents

If you already hold residence papers – whether just temporary or permanent – you are considered lawfully settled but may be expected to apply for the new 'Foreigners Identify Card' (TIE) when it becomes available.

What changes for non-residents in 2021?

From 1 January 2021, UK nationals without settled status lose automatic freedom of movement and will be treated as 'third country' (non-EU) citizens. This means you would only legally be able to stay in Spain for up to 90 days in any 180-day period.

UK citizens will, of course, still be able to acquire Spanish residency... but under unknown rules and requirements. Current rules for

non-EU/EEA citizens require each individual to demonstrate a base income at least equivalent to the national Spanish minimum wage (€1,050 per month; €12,600 per year in 2019). Note you cannot apply 'in-country', so would have to leave Spain to apply through the relevant UK consulate.

So if you are still thinking about moving permanently to Spain, it will never be easier than today – wherever possible, relocate and register before the end of 2020 to be protected by the Withdrawal Agreement.

What else do you need to know?

The Withdrawal Agreement extends lifetime citizens' rights to partners and dependent family members, allowing them to join you in Spain even after 2020, so long as the relationship was established before 31 December 2020.

Beware, however, you would lose your guaranteed rights if you are absent from Spain for five consecutive years. Also, there is no onward freedom of movement, so if you want to move to another EU state from 2021, you would have to apply

as a non-EU/EEA citizen.

For the best results, take personalised advice to establish what you can do to secure your position in Spain and ensure your tax, estate planning, pensions and investments are set up in the best way for your life in Spain, before and after Brexit.

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Keep up to date on the financial issues that may affect you on the Blevins Franks news page at www.blevinsfranks.com

Are you planning on living in Spain long-term?

Once the Brexit transition period is over and the ETIAS visa waiver programme comes into effect, UK nationals may only be able to spend 90 days visiting the Schengen area within a 180-day period, unless they have an official Spanish residence card.

If you are not already 'lawfully residing' in Spain, you need to apply before the end of 2020 to be sure to benefit from today's rules and lock in your rights for residence, healthcare and pensions. For personalised advice about your secure future in Spain, talk to your local Blevins Franks advisers.

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Up to 55,000 job losses expected as tourists head home and hotels close

Andalucía is set to lose eight million tourists and six billion euros from its economy as the coronavirus has a devastating effect on the tourism sector

PILAR MARTÍNEZ

MALAGA. Practically all hotels on the Costa del Sol are expected to close by the end of this week - an action that will have massive repercussions for the local tourism industry. As a direct result, some 12,000 people are set to become unemployed in the area, a figure which rises to 55,000 when looking at Andalucía as a whole.

One hundred and four establishments on the Costa had already ceased activity by Thursday morning following Sunday's exodus from Malaga Airport.

Long queues formed as tourists cut short their holidays to escape the lockdown imposed by the Spanish government to fight the coronavirus crisis. Public announcements advised passengers to keep a distance of two metres between them in the queues, but this caused several problems with numbers similar to those seen during August.



A crowded Malaga Airport on Sunday. SALVADOR SALAS

Notices had informed hotel guests of the ban on leaving the premises as well as the closure of hotel gyms and pools, and airlines put into action special plans to return tourists to their countries of origin.

On Sunday Easyjet, TUI and Jet2.com announced that they would stop flying in and out of Spain on Tuesday, while Ryanair said that it would cut its schedule to comply with the state of alarm decree.

As a result, according to the head of the CC OO trade union in

Malaga, Lola Villalba, it is now only a matter of days until all 500 hotel establishments on the Costa, which total 78,000 beds and employ about 12,000 workers in a month like March, will close and issue temporary stoppage notices (ERTE) being issued. In her view, most of these ERTes would remain in place until at least June.

"It is an exercise in responsibility in the face of the situation we are experiencing," she said, calling on the sector not to take advantage of the situation to cut

staff permanently.

Worrying figures

Vice-president of the Junta de Andalucía and Minister for Tourism Juan Marin said on Wednesday that "in Andalucía this crisis will mean a reduction of between 25 and 30 per cent in the number of travellers this year", with the total number of arrivals predicted to fall to around 24 million - a figure last seen in 2006.

This means a loss of eight million visitors to the region and six billion euros from the economy. What's more, these predictions are based on the shutdown lasting no longer than the end of April.

Marín also pointed out that disused hotels could now be used "to keep older people or groups at risk in isolation or to house reinforcements from military units".

New campaigns

In order to reduce the effects of the coronavirus on the region's tourism, the Junta aims to restart its promotional campaigns the moment the health alert is lifted, targeting the domestic market in particular. The bigger task will be to attract back the foreign market.

In any case, Marín said: "I am confident that in the summer there will be tourists back on the Andalusian coast."

Low-cost airline Ryanair to stop practically all flights from next Tuesday

P. M.

MALAGA. Ryanair, the leading airline at Malaga Airport, has announced that it will temporarily cease operating from next Tuesday, 24 March.

Since Wednesday, the operator has reduced services to 80 per cent and has been focusing on getting passengers back to their country of origin. In fact it has called for all travellers to return as soon as possible. From Monday, it is expected that they will only operate a limited service between the UK and Ireland.

The company is contacting all affected passengers by email informing them of their options and asks customers not to contact them due to overloaded call centres.

UK government advises against travel to Spain and recommends all tourists return

SUR IN ENGLISH

MALAGA. British Ambassador to Spain, Hugh Elliott has reminded residents and tourists still in Spain that the key requirement of the Spanish government's state of alarm decree is to stay at home.

The Spanish government has not restricted flights to the UK and tourists can still return home should they wish to do, he said, although they are encouraged to check with their airline or travel company.

The message comes after the British government advised against all but essential travel to Spain and recommended that all tourists return home if and when possible.

Norwegian sends in giant Dreamliner to rescue tourists trapped in Malaga

P. MARTÍNEZ

MALAGA. One plane stood out from the rest on the ground at Malaga Airport on Tuesday morning. The airline Norwegian sent in the biggest plane of its fleet, a Boeing 787-9 Dreamliner, in a bid to carry as many tourists from the Costa del Sol back to Norway in one trip.

"This is on top of the usual operations between Spain and Norway," explained the airline. The

plane, normally used to cover longer haul journeys is to be used in these exceptional circumstances for flights between Spain and Norway, both from the Costa del Sol and from Alicante.

The full flight from Malaga headed for Oslo where passengers would find special controls on arrival. From yesterday the government is only allowing Norwegian nationals or foreigners resident in Norway into the country.



The Boeing 787-9 Dreamliner takes off from Malaga Airport. NITO SALAS

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Firms queue up to submit ERTE layoff requests as Madrid announces financial aid

Initial discontent among self-employed that aid did not include a reprieve on their Social Security payments appears to have been addressed

SUR

MALAGA. March looks set to be the worst ever for unemployment figures as businesses shut down. On Wednesday, the national Ministry of Work said it was already dealing with 400 to 500 official layoff requests from nationwide firms. Regional governments, including Andalucía, said they had already received thousands more requests from local firms.

The minister of Work, Yolanda Díaz, called for companies to be

“responsible” in using a key temporary layoff mechanism, known in Spanish by its initials as an ERTE. This allows a company to send staff home temporarily, or reduce their hours, in times of economic trouble. The staff member can claim some temporary unemployment benefit.

The government said this week that it would make the scheme more flexible, including helping businesses pay Social Security for laid-off workers. But the minister added that she would study each request for an ERTE to avoid misuse of the system.

Firms putting in applications this week included Seat which wants to send its almost 15,000 car workers home for five to six weeks. Adolfo Domínguez said that it would ask for an ERTE for its 728



Burger King is one of the firms affected by forced closures. EP

staff after closing 188 of its clothing shops. Burger King and Iberia were also among firms that asked to stand down staff. In Malaga, components firm Fujitsu Ten fell back on its expected ERTE and hotels are expected to follow.

Self-employed unhappy

There was initial disappointment among “autónomos” (self-employed workers) affected by the crisis, that the government was not going to relax the payment of Social Security quotas. However, on Thursday afternoon it appeared to have relented, pending formal clarification on the process.

The government has indicated it will make it easier for autónomos to claim unemployment benefit if they stop work without having to deregister as self-employed and so lose acquired rights.

There was also concern this week that regional government unemployment offices were shut, which means workers affected by ERTes cannot sign on, and replacement phone or online services are inadequate.



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Broad measures in 200-billion emergency plan include mortgage breaks

JOSÉ MARÍA CAMARERO

MADRID. Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez announced an unprecedented economic stimulus package on Tuesday, contained in a 45-page Royal Decree that is worth “20 per cent” of the annual turnover of the Spanish economy.

As well as assistance to companies in the 200-billion-euro giveaway, there were significant measures for the general public.

Mortgage payment breaks

Homeowners will be allowed to put off all or part of their mortgage repayments for the time being if they can prove their income has been affected by the coronavirus crisis. Loan holders should make the request at their bank before 3 May. A bank has up to



Banks will process requests. SUR

two weeks to reply.

Different financial factors will be taken into account and applicants will be asked to provide documentary proof.

For example, total household income cannot be more than about 1,600 euros, although there

are reductions for having children or older people at home, single parents and people with disabilities. The monthly mortgage payment and basic expenses have to be at least 35 per cent of total household income. Self-employed needing a mortgage break have to prove their income has dropped 40 per cent.

Restrictions in utility firms

Public utility companies have been banned from cutting off their most vulnerable clients if they do not pay their bills during the crisis.

The government has also stopped people changing mobile phone operator during the crisis in order to provide stability for telecom companies.

In extra workplace measures, those forced to stay away to help family members will have the right to reduce the number of hours they work. This is in addition to the already announced rule change where sick leave taken because of coronavirus counts as a workplace accident, in order to protect longer-term welfare payout rights.

Inditex sees drastic sales drop in black week for the Spanish stock market

SUR

MADRID. Inditex, the owner of Zara and many other high-street clothing brands, said on Wednesday that its worldwide sales had dropped 24 per cent during the first half of March. It added that it was suspending payment of its 2019 dividend to shareholders and has made a 287-million-euro provision in its accounts to offset the decline.

The problem comes from the temporary closure of stores, which the group said had reached 3,785 in 39 countries, despite all except 11 being now open in China. Online sales were “normal” in all markets.

Inditex, which includes brands such as Massimo Dutti, Bershka and Stradivarius as well as Zara, is based in Galicia.

It has 165,000 staff globally and for the moment says it does not plan on making anyone redundant, probably relying on ERTE layoffs instead.

Stock market crash

The trading update from Inditex was not surprising for the Spanish stock exchange, which has fallen dramatically in recent days, along with other international share markets.

In the last month, the IBEX 35 leading-shares index has dropped some 40 per cent.

On Thursday, the index was up slightly at two percent on the previous day after the European Central Bank announced a 750-billion-euro public and private asset-buying programme. It closed at 6395 points, down from 8683 on a week earlier.



Local charities step up to help the vulnerable during coronavirus crisis

Volunteer organisations will endeavour to help the elderly during the lockdown but the disruption is limiting the services they can offer

TONY BRYANT



COSTA DEL SOL. People all over Spain are adjusting to the state of alarm that came into force at the weekend, a decree that has forced the country into a minimum two-week lockdown in an effort to contain the coronavirus (Covid 19). By Monday, the streets and public areas of the Costa del Sol were virtually deserted as business owners and residents appeared to be heeding the government's advice to stay at home.

The coast is home to thousands of foreign senior citizens (considered the most venerable group) and many of them rely on the assistance and services of local charitable associations. Most of these charities are endeavouring to continue to help those in need during these difficult times, but the disruption is having a direct effect on the services they can offer.

Age Concern Fuengirola, Mijas and Benalmádena is one of the charities that has pledged to offer its members a continued service, albeit a limited one. The charity has closed its shop and social clubs, although it will assist with hospital visits and doctor's appointments. Along with the safety of its members, the organisation is also concerned for the welfare of its volunteers

"We deal with vulnerable people and, as such, our actions are driven by the need for their safety and welfare. Similarly, our volunteers, who are the lifeblood of the charity, have to be protected. Inevitably this means we are oper-



Age Concern clients enjoying a social meeting before the lockdown. **SUR**

ating a limited service at this time," secretary Steve Marshall explained to SUR in English.

The secretary, who is adamant Age Concern will survive the crisis, explained that the helpline, open weekdays between 10am and 5pm, is receiving a "higher volume of calls than normal".

The Cudeca Hospice in Benalmádena has also employed special measures to protect both staff and patients. In a statement issued on Monday, the cancer charity said, "We do not know of any confirmed case of infection of the coronavirus disease in any worker, family member or patient, so our

current objective is to increase preventive measures.

"We believe that we must send a clear and real message of the current situation and extend the protection measures that we have been taking. These measures are temporary, and will be adapted or graduated according to the evolution of the situation."

Cudeca has cancelled all training courses, meetings and events, while access to the hospice is restricted and the day centre has been closed. The charity is still operating its homecare service.

Identity badges

Age Care Calahonda has also set up initiatives to ensure its clients are looked after during the lockdown. The charity, which has closed its drop-in centre, has issued volunteers with identity badges and an official letter stating they are working on behalf of the charity to help the elderly.

The charity has kept in constant contact with those considered vulnerable and it has also set up a 24-hour hotline to keep people informed of the latest updates, as well as a special WhatsApp group to help volunteers keep in contact.

"We are keeping up to date with new policies coming out from the government and then advising our

clients by e-mail or phoning them personally, welfare officer Lesley Berridge explained.

Lux Mundi in Fuengirola and Torre del Mar have also had to make adjustments to their daily schedule. Both ecumenical centres have closed their doors, and the solidarity kitchen that offers hot food to the homeless has also been suspended. Lux Mundi is providing telephone and internet assistance in both Spanish and English, but the Christian association is concerned for those in vulnerable situations.

"We have closed our facilities because the vast majority of our volunteers are older people and we do not want to put them at risk. We are sorry for the inconvenience caused to the groups that gather in our centres, but we are convinced that this is the only way we will be able to combat this contagious virus. We hope that the authorities have an alternative for the homeless, as they have become even more unprotected," Lux Mundi representative Martha Rivera said.

Meanwhile, town halls have also launched solidarity initiatives aimed at combating the spread of the virus between senior citizens, especially those that live alone. Social Services departments have drawn up lists of people over the age of 70. Social workers will call daily to perform individualised attention and will also inform of any developments concerning the state of alarm. In a bid to minimise the risk of contagion among the elderly, volunteers will offer to collect groceries or medical supplies, as well as walking pets.

Some town halls are also offering emergency supplies to senior citizens and those at risk. Each case will be assessed by the urgency of the individual's situation.

The town halls have set up special hot-lines and people are advised to check relevant websites for more information.

HERE AND THERE

VÉLEZ-MÁLAGA

Local support phone numbers in English

J. R. The Red Cross and the town hall in Vélez-Málaga are both providing phone and email information and advice services in English. The phone number is for the Red Cross English language service is: 952 50 03 21 and email: 29094social@cruzroja.es.

Vélez-Málaga town hall's English speaking service is: 673 32 32 36 and email: jariza@velezmalaga.es. The town hall service is available from 9am to 2pm Monday to Friday.

BENAMOCARRA

Town hall offers sports at home for neighbours

J. R. Benamocarra town hall has launched a sports at home programme for residents. Instructors will use online video conferencing platform zoom to record sessions, which include gym for seniors, adults and children. The videos will be shared via WhatsApp. The town hall has also set up a support service for seniors, offering shopping for food and medicines. Tel: 952509534. Whatsapp 666565851, email: atencion-alvecino@benamocarra.es.

ALMUÑÉCAR

Police receive donation from Chinese shops

J. R. Almuñécar town hall has thanked a number of the town's Chinese-run shops for donating protective items to the local police force. 100 face masks, six boxes of gloves, 10 bottles of antiseptic liquid, hand sanitiser and dispensers were handed in to the local police on Tuesday.

Acting local police chief José Antonio Rivas said that the items "will help to protect our personnel while they carry out their work in our offices and on the street."

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New technologies allow students to keep learning

Since schools closed due to the coronavirus crisis, pupils have been engaging with their teachers via virtual platforms, as on-site lessons are replaced by online tuition

JENNIE RHODES



MALAGA. Public and private education centres across the province have all had to adapt almost overnight to the coronavirus emergency.

There are 338,765 pupils in

public primary and secondary education across the province, along with 22,575 teachers; they teach and learn at 1,213 public and subsidised schools. Add to that more than 35,000 students at the university or Malaga, as well as thousands more pupils and teachers in private schools and colleges.

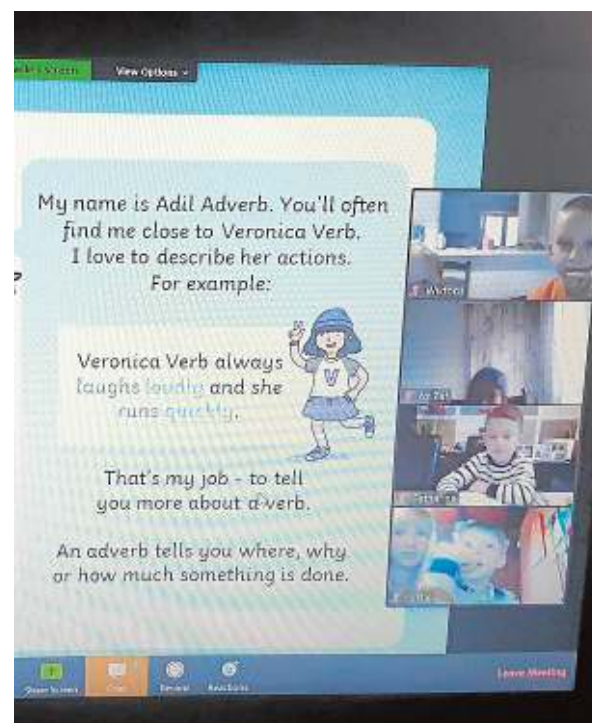
Across the sector, teachers and other education professionals have adopted methods and learned how to use online technologies to continue to teach their students.

Schools are using online platforms such as Google Classrooms to upload exercises for their students in an attempt to keep up with the curriculum and some are even providing online classes thanks to video conferencing facilities like

Skype and Zoom.

Joanne Murray, a secondary school English teacher in Malaga said, "Education was already heading towards a more technologically based approach but it is still generally lacking in schools." She explained that she and her colleagues spent "all weekend" setting up classes for the start of the school week.

This was also the case for many of the international schools on the Costa del Sol. However, as a number of them, including The British School of Malaga and Laude San Pedro International College, belong to international groups, they were able to learn from the experiences of sister schools in China and Italy, which had already closed. "As there were already



Children participate in a class in Estepona. EIS

alarm bells ringing we were able to come up with an emergency plan for our schools in Spain," explained Nick Campbell, Director

of Education at ISP Europe, to which the two schools belong.

Principal of Laude San Pedro, Amanda Hughes, said in a state-



Don't panic: there's no risk of supplies of fresh produce running out

More than 100 tonnes of fish, fruit and vegetables are brought to Mercamálaga every day and in many cases prices have dropped

FRANCISCO JIMÉNEZ

MALAGA. Any fears shoppers have of supplies running out in supermarkets because of the coronavirus crisis would quickly dissipate if they visited the Mercamálaga wholesale market, the biggest supplier of fresh products in the province.

Imagine a space the size of two football stadiums, filled with hundreds of tonnes of fish, shellfish, fruit and vegetables: that is what is brought in to this market every

day. In fact, supplies are up 25 per cent compared with last week, says the general manager, Jaime Touchard. "The supply of fresh foods is guaranteed," he said.

At 5.15 am, while the city is sleeping before facing another day in lockdown, Mercamálaga seems like another world. The frenetic activity began hours earlier and there is a constant stream of lorries arriving with deliveries.

Some of the produce will be sold to other markets, fishmongers and some supermarkets.

Many people are wearing masks and gloves, but it is difficult for them to keep two metres away from others in the narrow aisles between the stalls. However, the management is asking retailers to order by phone, to keep the number of people on the



More supplies are being delivered than before. SALVADOR SALAS

premises down. Security and cleaning have also been stepped up.

"There is the same amount of business, maybe even more. A lot of people are worried about the risk of contagion, of course, but we are aware of the importance of supplying the population," said

Rafael Fernández, who runs Congelados Sanamar.

He doesn't understand "the hysteria in supermarkets".

"There are no problems with supplies, and prices are staying the same, at least for our products," he added.

Vegetables, however, are becoming more expensive, which the manager of Cofrumba, Pedro Machuca, blames on panic-buying. "I don't understand the psychosis this has caused. There is plenty of everything as normal," said Francisco Jiménez, who runs a fruit and vegetable stall.

Peppers, tomatoes, onions and potatoes are the best-sellers at present. "It's like a war; food is a priority," said Andrés Rojas of Malaga Natural.

Since the lockdown was first proposed, people started stocking up on basic products and ignoring the more exclusive ones like mango, strawberries and custard apples, which a few days ago were four euros a kilo and now cost half as much. Fish sales have also dropped, especially as bars and restaurants are closed.

"All the food they would normally buy is available for consumers and much of it is cheaper than usual," said Rafael Rodríguez, who runs Pescados Marymar.

Looking at Mercamálaga, there is no need to panic. There is enough food for us all.



San Pedro International College's online platform. **SAN PEDRO INTL COLLEGE**

ment that thanks to the virtual platform “the whole school is taking part in a complete daily timetable”.

It is a similar picture at the Sotogrande International School, which also belongs to an international group and is able to “learn

lessons” from other schools. Students there are also continuing with regular school hours, albeit online.

Director of The International School Estepona, Gillian Godbold, also reported on her school's preparations, “Our team have been working round the clock to be ready for 16 March and we went live at 9.30am as planned. Children from Year one to Year six can continue their studies remotely.”

Malaga's Lycée Français has also adopted similar measures; teacher Rory O'Meara said it was “business as usual” but via the web.

With the demand for English qualifications high in Spain, private language academies have proliferated in recent years. The sector has also had to adapt rapidly to demonstrate to their students that online classes are a good substitute for on-site lessons.

Cofounder of Malaga's Babel language school, Angie Abá, explained that as a the lockdown looked more likely, she had to “think quickly” about how to manage the closure of three physical sites but continue

to give classes online.

Joanna Firth of Atlántico in Rincón de la Victoria explained that the academy contacted all of their students individually to “make sure” that students could access the classes.

Although teachers have been keen to point out that it is early days, Fiona Dunbar, director of the ELI school said she has been “impressed” at how well students have adapted to the new way of working. Classes at FGUMA, the university of Malaga's general foundation, of which the Cambridge university exams forms part, have also been taking place online.

Embracing the new technologies has been both a fast-learning curve as well as an opportunity to discover new ways of working. However, as many teachers have experienced, not everyone has easy access to the internet or computers.

The education sector is facing a rapidly changing situation and the long-term effects are yet to be felt, but for now it's business as usual, online.

Thousands of exams cancelled for the foreseeable future

The coronavirus crisis has meant that official exams have been cancelled for the foreseeable future, leaving many students and public sector workers uncertain about their futures. From Selectividad, the university entrance exam which is normally taken in June, to public ‘oposiciones’ exams for civil servants including teachers, which this year were due to be sat for secondary schools (they alternate between primary and secondary so that each level is offered every other year). Language exams have also been cancelled, including the Cambridge University qualifications, Trinity College and British Council APTIS exams as have exams at the university of Malaga.



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BEST PRICE. BETTER COVER.

Hotels donate unused food and equipment to charities before closing down

MALAGA

The Parador group has given eight tonnes of food to help the most vulnerable and 137,000 pairs of disposable gloves to the authorities

PILAR MARTÍNEZ

MALAGA. Hotels are closing down in Spain because of the coronavirus crisis, and some are helping those in need by donating the food they will no longer need to charities and the authorities. The Parador chain of hotels has given eight tonnes of food to help the most vulnerable, and has provided the Ministry of Health with 137,000 pairs of disposable gloves. Organisations such as

Cáritas, Cruz Roja and food banks will benefit, as well as care homes and social canteens. In different regions of Spain, Paradores has donated 1,550 dozen eggs, 2.6 tonnes of juice oranges, 2,000 kilos of other fruits, 1,300 kilos of vegetables and more than 800 kilos of potatoes, as well as 4,000 dairy products.

The Fuerte hotel group, which is staggering the closure of its establishments, has already closed its two in Marbella, Fuerte Marbella and Amàre Beach Hotel Marbella, and is donating more than 1,500 kilos of perishable food items to Cáritas.

The AEHCOS hotel association is also calling on its members to donate any face masks or gloves in their possession to the state security forces when they close down.



Veterinary staff at he SOS Animal hospital in Malaga. **S. SALAS**

Pets cannot spread the coronavirus, insist vets

MALAGA

EMILIO MORALES. Pet owners should keep calm and not worry about catching the coronavirus from their pets, say veterinary surgeons, and they are allowed to take them for veterinary appointments despite the state of alarm. They point out that many

dogs and cats need regular treatment and medication and it is important that this is continued. Clinics are taking added precautions with regard to cleanliness and keeping clients at a safe distance from each other, and nobody should be afraid to take their pet for attention when needed.

IN BRIEF

CÓMPETA

Vote of no confidence postponed indefinitely

A. P. Cómputa town hall announced on Monday that the no confidence vote due to take place on 23 March has been suspended until the current state of alarm is over. There will be a new 10-day period, the time required after a vote is registered, before it takes place.

ENVIRONMENT

Contamination levels drop in Malaga

I. LILLO. Air pollution in Malaga city is dropping because of the reduction in traffic since the lockdown started last weekend. There is 70 per cent less traffic on the main roads in the city centre at present, and emissions have dropped by around 40 per cent.

Gibraltar increases preventive measures and steps up preparations for new cases

Two people who were previously confirmed as having Covid-19 have completely recovered and the government says there are currently eight active cases

DEBBIE BARTLETT



GIBRALTAR. It was a sobering end to a serious speech. "My dear friends, our resilience will be tested, but our resolve will never be broken. Stay safe. Keep your loved ones safe. If you believe, pray. And if you don't, hope. Because better times will come. We will smile again and return to normality as soon as we are able to. Goodnight," said chief minister Fabian Picardo at the end of a televised address on Tuesday evening. If anything brought home the severity of the coronacrisis, that did.

The situation in Gibraltar is constantly changing, with new measures continually being introduced according to Public Health advice. Restrictions on movement have now been imposed on people aged over 70, for their own protection. Some shops and businesses are closed. The government is giving daily briefings, and the Covid-19 statistics are sent by text message to all mobile phone users in Gibraltar every afternoon. Schools are open but children are not obliged to attend, and from Monday the schools will provide a safe environment for extended hours for the children of workers who are not otherwise able to make safe alternative childcare arrangements



The border between Spain and Gibraltar is much quieter than usual. REUTERS

without involving relatives over 70 years of age.

Currently, two people in Gibraltar have recovered fully from Covid-19, and eight cases are currently active.

It has been a frenetic week for Gibraltar on other fronts, too. On Sunday Juan Manuel Moreno, the president of the Junta de Andalucía, announced that he had recommended to Spanish prime minister Pedro Sánchez that Spain close its borders to contain the virus. A Spanish newspaper assumed that would include the Gibraltar border, and said as much. It was picked up by other media and went viral. Gibraltar's Chief

Minister spoke by phone to the Andalusian president, who insisted that he had not recommended closing the border, and he made a public announcement to that effect. On Monday, Spain, like other EU countries, announced that it was closing its land borders so that only Spanish citizens, legal residents, cross-frontier workers and those with documented justification could enter the country that way. This, of course, meant that workers from Spain would be able to cross into and out of Gibraltar.

But then there were rumours that the border guards were to demand to see work contracts and other documents from people

crossing from Spain to Gibraltar; Gemma Araujo, the former mayor of La Línea who is now an MP, investigated and reported that this was not the case. Everything appeared to be normal for the early part of the week, but there are reports that on Wednesday evening queues built up as the Spanish border guards wanted everyone crossing to show their NIE (foreigner identification number) and work contracts.

The Gibraltar and Spanish authorities are also working together against Covid-19 and keeping border fluidity while respecting the State of Alarm in Spain and restrictions in Gibraltar.

IN BRIEF

NEWS

Cruise liner coming to take on fuel

D.B. Cruise ships are no longer able to visit Gibraltar, but the World Dream will be coming on Saturday 21 March for a purely technical call. The ship is carrying no passengers and the crew will not be permitted to disembark, nor will shore-based staff be able to go on board. The World Dream is berthing solely to take on fuel in order to reposition to the United States.

TRAVEL

Flights cancelled due to travel restrictions

D.B. Easyjet cancelled its flight from Bristol to Gibraltar on Thursday, apparently because of a lack of demand for the service. The airline also contacted passengers due to fly to or from Gatwick and Manchester to say their flights have been cancelled. Royal Air Maroc, which flies from Tangier to Gibraltar, has also suspended all international flights.

CULTURE

Gibraltar Museum now has virtual posts online

D.B. The Gibraltar National Museum may have closed its doors to visitors because of the coronavirus but it is still possible for those anyone who is interested to enjoy the history, archaeology, heritage and natural history of the Rock online, thanks to its new virtual museum posts on its Facebook page, an initiative which began this week.

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The Carrefour centres in Estepona, Mijas, Fuengirola, Torremolinos and Valle del Guadalhorce have a wide range of seasonal fruit and vegetables from local producers

Eating vegetables and greens is an essential part of a balanced diet, so the Carrefour centres in Estepona, Mijas, Fuengirola, Torremolinos and Valle del Guadalhorce place a wide selection of fresh and seasonal fruit, vegetables and greens at the disposal of their clients.

To guarantee freshness, quality and flavour, these hypermarkets have agreements with vegetable farms and local suppliers so clients can enjoy the taste of freshly harvested produce at the best prices.

That's why the entire fruit and vegetable section occupies a prime place in the

area known as La Plaza (The Square). This allows clients to see, in a glimpse, where each item on sale is displayed. A global vision that facilitates shopping and improves time optimization.

As well as local producers, Costasol has a wide range of Sabor a Málaga (Málaga Flavour) brand products and agreements with suppliers from the Axarquía and other places in the region. In addition, there is a selection of Bio and organic products for the more conscientious consumers. All of this makes their fruit and vegetables a benchmark for quality.

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Los Lirios s/n.



Carrefour Torremolinos
C.C. Costasol Centro,
Avda. Circunvalación s/n.



Carrefour Valle del Guadalhorce
C.C. La Trocha,
Ctra. Coin-Cártama, Km 1. Coin



ESSENTIAL INFORMATION

How to report symptoms of Covid-19

With symptoms and/or contact with someone infected or who has come from a risk area



APP Salud Responde: take the **Coronavirus symptoms test**



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There is also a telephone number where you can report symptoms but **using the APP first is recommended** to avoid blocking the lines

900 400 061

Coronavirus information

955 545 060

For general information

Other emergencies

061 / 112

For general health emergencies.

Avoid using these numbers unless you need urgent attention

Coronavirus symptoms

1

Fever and general fatigue

2

Dry cough (no phlegm or mucus)

3

Shortness of breath: difficulty breathing and chest pressure

Precautions to avoid infection

1

Wash your hands frequently with soap and water or with a disinfectant hand sanitizer, for at least 30 seconds

2

Cover your nose and mouth when you cough or sneeze with a tissue or if not with your forearm. Never with your hands

3

Avoid large gatherings - while events are now banned, big crowds are unlikely, but beware of busy shops

4

Don't touch your face, eyes, nose or mouth with your hands

5

Keep a minimum of one metre in distance between you and another person, especially if they show symptoms

:: E. HINOJOSA

How to keep homes clean and tidy during the lockdown

Experts advise wearing the same pair of shoes outside and then disinfecting them, using diluted bleach on surfaces and making sure clean clothes are dry

SUR IN ENGLISH

MALAGA. The coronavirus has changed the routine of millions of people, and one of the most direct effects is that we are now stuck indoors because the country is in lockdown.

Our homes have, in many cases, suddenly become an enclosed space shared with other people which may include young children, elderly relatives, patients at risk and even pets. This means we have more contact than usual, but we also need to keep our homes clean and tidy to make sure they are comfortable and, above all, safer.

Numerous questions spring to mind. Is it safe to keep our shoes on indoors? Should we be wearing gloves and masks at home? How often should we change the towels? What about washing our clothes? Are there specific products which guarantee disinfection of surfaces? One answer is clear, however. "Our cleaning routines should be the same as usual, unless someone in the family is infected with coronavirus. In that case, people should follow the advice given by the health authorities," says José María Bellido, who runs the Cuisad company which specialises in domestic cleaning.

It is a good idea to be careful about footwear that we use outside, and Bellido recommends that we always wear the same pair of shoes on the few occasions when we do go out during the lockdown. Experience in China and the work there on disinfecting the asphalt in the streets shows that the virus can remain



Laundry can be done in the same way as usual. **EL CORREO**

on this surface for between nine and 12 hours, so "when we get home we should take those shoes off and wear a different pair indoors. It is also advisable to disinfect the outdoor shoes completely, not just the soles, using a solution of bleach and water".

He says this should be done throughout the lockdown.

Diluted bleach in spray form is an ally at times like this, for use on light switches, door handles, tables and worktops.

Bellido says it isn't necessary to wear gloves and masks in-

doors unless someone in the family is suspected of being infected. Laundry can also be done in the same way as usual, although if someone is contagious their clothes and bedding should be washed separately in hot water (60 to 90 degrees).

Avoid damp towels

José María Bellido also says we shouldn't use damp towels: "Change them as often as necessary," he insists. As we are all having to wash our hands frequently nowadays, this is more likely to make the towels damper sooner.

He also says that when we bring our washing in, we should make sure it is absolutely dry and aired. It is best to dry clothes outside if possible, rather than in a tumble dryer.

Finally, in recent days people have been wondering whether they ought to ventilate their rooms before making the bed or starting to clean. "Of course, it is recommended to open the windows wide for 20 to 30 minutes," says Bellido.

Apart from the advice given here, he says the best thing is to keep homes clean and tidy in general. That way, they will be more pleasant and more comfortable spaces for people to share the space, and that is pretty important.

Hitman gang who killed Marbella nightclub owner brought down with ten arrests

JUAN CANO / ÁLVARO FRÍAS

MARBELLA. Ten members of a criminal gang have been arrested as a result of investigations into the fatal shooting of a 49-year-old bar and nightclub owner in Marbella at the end of January 2019.

The man, who was Spanish but of Moroccan descent, was taken by surprise on his return to his San Pedro home. He was shot 14 times.

The arrests, including of the two men thought to be responsible for this attack, came after a year of investigations carried out jointly by the Spanish police and forces in the Netherlands. The group proved incredibly difficult to trace as they communicated via encrypted mobile phones.

The group was contracted by other criminal gangs to carry out hits to settle scores. The gang was brought down shortly after receiving an assignment in February - to kill someone located in Spain.

Two shootouts break the silence of a deserted Malaga

Three men were arrested and four firearms confiscated following shootouts in the space of minutes in the La Trinidad and La Palmilla areas

ÁLVARO FRÍAS / JUAN CANO

MALAGA. Three men have been arrested following two shootouts in the city of Malaga in the early hours of Wednesday morning.

The silence of the lockdown was first broken at around 2.30am. Several calls reported that a shooting was taking place on Calle Bustamante in the La Trinidad area. The police were informed that there were three armed men shooting at the front of a house.

Once the National Police arrived, the occupants said that the perpetrators were from the 'Jordan' clan with which they are in conflict. The officers then radioed in the characteristics of the three men.

It didn't take long for them to be located. A Local Police patrol crossed paths with two of the sus-



The bag and weapons that were recovered. SUR

pects who were on a motorbike on Avenida Barcelona. The officers told them to stop but their instructions were ignored. Sources say that they threw the bag that they were carrying on the ground and that the police officers had to stop the chase to recover it. Four firearms (three pistols and a revolver), as well as almost 300 cartridges were found inside.

Just moments later, the second of the shootings took place. Several calls alerted that shots were

heard in the La Palmilla neighborhood. The description of these alleged perpetrators matched that of the La Trinidad incident.

Shortly afterwards, a Local Police patrol spotted a shirtless man who fit the description of the third man allegedly involved on Calle Guadalén. The 22-year-old suspect was arrested after a chase and allegedly kicking one of the officers.

The other two suspects, aged 31 and 32, were located by Local Police on Paseo de Martiricos.

Thieves steal safe with 50,000 euros from Marbella supermarket but can't get it open

C. MÁRQUEZ / F. TORRES

MARBELLA. The search is on for four men who broke into a supermarket in Marbella and removed the safe containing 50,000 euros.

After checking the CCTV footage, it appeared that the men had studied the premises well. They also struck on a Sunday night, knowing that the takings from Friday and Saturday would be in the building.

What happened next was somewhat less professional. After being unable to open the safe, it was quickly found abandoned on wasteland by police.



The safe was quickly located. SUR

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Winter's not over just yet in southern Spain

Snow on the Ronda to San Pedro road and six-metre-high waves have been making those in lockdown a little happier to be inside

IGNACIO LILLO

MALAGA. Inclement weather this week confirmed that winter isn't over yet, even in the south of Spain.

The first bizarre incident to strike for this time of year was snowfall in the mountains near Ronda early on Tuesday morning. The Junta de Andalucía had to activate its winter road management plan to clear the stretch of the A-397 that links Ronda and San Pedro, improving safety for the few vehicles still out on the roads after the lockdown due to the coronavirus crisis.

Precipitation also fell in the form of snow in that area as well as at levels above an altitude of 1,200 metres in the Sierra de las Nieves and the Sierra Bermeja.

The Hidrosur water agency's rain meter in Los Reales showed eight millimetres of precipitation.

By Wednesday, however, the



The Ronda road on Tuesday morning in a photo supplied by the Junta. **SUR**



The water came right up to the promenades. **SALVADOR SALAS**



Clearing the beaches. **S. SALAS**

weather took a different turn. Throughout the day Aemet, the Spanish Met Office, issued an orange warning for the whole day for coastal phenomena, with waves up to four metres having "a special impact on the coastlines and seafronts". The high level of risk remained in force until 6pm that evening, and then changed to yellow (up to three metres high) until Thursday morning.

Waves just off the coast reached 3.4 metres, while further out to sea they were around six metres.

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King Juan Carlos, ahead of Corinna Larsen, in 2006. SUR

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MARK NAYLER

First aid



On Tuesday, prime minister Pedro Sánchez announced that his government will provide an aid package of €200 billion to deal with the Covid-19 (C19) outbreak in Spain. The next day, during a subdued parliamentary session attended by just a few MPs, the Socialist leader called for an emergency budget to deal with the pandemic's economic consequences. Sánchez's rhetoric on both occasions verged on doom-mongering, especially on Wednesday, when he warned that the "worst is still to come" and that 2020 is likely to consist of only nine or ten months as far as the Spanish economy is concerned. Spain, he said, will need "re-constructing" after the curve has spiked.

Talk like this contrasts sharply with the government's insouciance at the beginning of the month, when it allowed huge marches to go ahead for International Women's Day on 8 March. Despite a rapid rise in cases nationwide, especially in Madrid, the Health Ministry said that public demonstrations attended by hundreds or thousands of people weren't risky enough to cancel. Now, after a week of quasi-dystopian weirdness, we can only dream of taking to the streets with such freedom.

On 9 March, Italy was locked down. Less than a week later, Sánchez followed suit, taking the tragic and unprecedented step of closing all of Spain's bars and restaurants (I would have appreciated the wines at my local a lot more last Satur-

day evening if I'd known what was coming).

Now, he's intent on showing how seriously he's taking the pandemic and how his administration proposes to deal with its effects on Spain's population, services and economy.

It's already clear that the groups targeted by Sánchez's aid package - small businesses, the unemployed, employees on temporary contracts and the elderly and unwell - will need help in getting through this crisis. The problem, however, is that it's still too early to know how much C19 will cost Spain and what the medium-to-long-term damage will be for a country that's barely recovered from the last crisis. In other words, it's questionable whether the emergency package will be enough, by itself, to cope with the fallout from a pandemic that has temporarily silenced Spanish villages, towns and cities.

Sánchez is doing what he can to deal with the potential effects of a virus that is still, in many ways, an unknown quantity. But to really make a difference, his emergency package needs to function as part of an ongoing, informed response that's supported by Spain's other main parties. When things have returned to some kind of normality, the Socialist leader's priority will be to pass a budget, which proved impossible during his first term because of opposition in congress. But that was last year, long before C19 came along and made cooperation at all levels a vital necessity.

King gives up inheritance from his father amid corruption probe

Felipe VI has stripped Don Juan Carlos of his grant to pay for his household as scandal involving Corinna Larsen deepens

SUR

MADRID. King Felipe has dramatically announced that he is giving up his rights to an inheritance from his father, former-king Juan Carlos, who abdicated in 2014.

In addition, the monarch has decided to withdraw an estimated 200,000 euros annual grant to the 82-year-old King Emeritus.

In a surprise written statement from the Royal household, King Felipe reacted to new revelations in the British Telegraph surrounding Juan Carlos and alleged multi-

million-euro bank accounts and foundations linked to Switzerland and Panama.

The Royal household said that the King had promised at his 2014 investiture ceremony that, "the Crown should... protect the dignity of the Institution, preserve its prestige and conduct itself in an integral, honest and transparent way..."

The Telegraph alleged that two foundations linked to Juan Carlos stated that his son, King Felipe, and his family would be beneficiaries on his father's death.




The statement added that the King had no knowledge he was beneficiary of one of the foundations, Fundación Zagatka, and that for the other foundation, Fundación Lucum, he had renounced being a beneficiary in 2019 after receiving a letter from lawyers.

In complicated ongoing probes

in Spain, Switzerland and the UK, investigators suspect that the foundations could have been set up to receive huge commission payments due to former King Juan Carlos. One key element of the corruption investigation is a high speed-rail contract given to Spanish constructors in Saudi Arabia in 2012 and a 100-million-euro payment to one foundation from the Saudi Arabian king.

At the centre of the cases is a former lover of Juan Carlos, Corinna Larsen. In recordings leaked in 2018, it emerged she supposedly received a transfer of 62 million euros as part of a brokering deal with Saudi Arabia.

Larsen has launched a lawsuit in the UK claiming harassment since the recorded revelations and it is leaks in that case that prompted King Felipe's latest move.




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LETTERS
TO THE EDITOR

A moment for the family

We have been almost a week confined to our homes. We can't go out, we can't go shopping, we can't consume. Thanks to technology, we are in contact with our friends and we are also up to date with the news that is coming to us via the media. I don't know about you but all this is starting to look like we were all in a television series.

The television news headlines, the memes that arrive by WhatsApp or the tweets with grand words are starting to get a bit old.

And, on the other hand, a new reality is rising up in front of us, something that before had been hidden behind our busy day-to-day lives. The little things at home, games around a table, a film and dinner in the living room, conversations that go deeper than our plans for the next weekend or how the kids are doing at school.

And I think with hope that, although this Covid -19 pandemic is a great catastrophe for our society, perhaps it will make our families more united and stronger, proving to themselves that they can live happily without empty consumerism. And a society based on united households will never be beaten. **JUAN GARCÍA**

Chaos

"I've never seen anything like this, not even in World War II," said a 90-year-old Italian, shocked by the selfishness and rudeness, the lack of solidarity which has emptied the supermarkets around his country due to the coronavirus panic. In Spain, the same happened. The reaction to the worrying situation we find ourselves in has been combined with selfishness brought on by the law of the jungle. People have gone mad and caused chaos that will

damage society as a whole; patients and vulnerable citizens included. We must follow the recommendations of the authorities and shop at a normal rate. And if this virus causes breathing problems, why have we run out of toilet paper? Have we got the runs? Like my Italian friend, I'm astonished. And then we look down on those who cross frontiers escaping a war and hunger! Let's be sensible and responsible!

MIGUEL FERNÁNDEZ PALACIOS

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Days of whine and closures

We are, of course, so lucky to have the technology available to allow us to maintain contact with family and friends during these seemingly endless days of isolation. Nonetheless, there are only so many conversations you can have with your best friend about the colour of his wallpaper or what he's going to have for tea without wanting to beat yourself about the head with your mobile phone. As an alternative, you can log on to Facebook to watch some cats falling over or read a few vacuous motivational phrases but after approximately one minute of that, it only makes you want to know more about your mate's living room colour scheme and whether he's got any eggs and chips left over from yesterday.

No, the fact of the matter is that being stuck at home, no matter how justified the cause, is

mind numbing. Once or twice as a youngster, I pretended to be a bit peaky because I didn't fancy going to school. This always seemed like a marvellous ruse at the time, until about 11 o'clock that is, when lying in bed with a thermometer in my mouth, pretending to groan, became far a more unpleasant experience than trigonometry with Mr Ryan. Inevitably the following day, I'd be back to the classroom like an over-excited whippet.

Anyway, back to the present. Whatever are we to do to keep the ennui at bay? Well, you could try what I did - learning a new skill. So, I bought a frying pan, some bacon and some eggs. What could possibly go wrong? Well, the thing about new frying pans is that they have stickers and cardboard all over them, with a particularly sneaky example of the genre on the base of the pan. In my haste to explore my culinary capabilities,

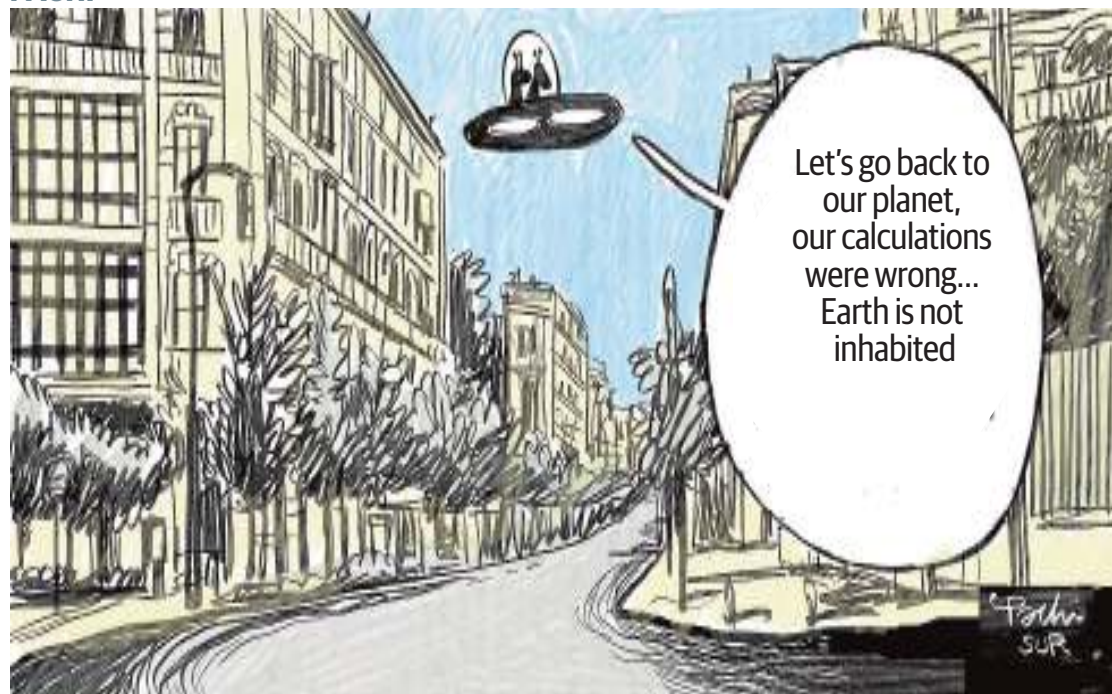
I inevitably forgot about that little blighter. Cue smoke bellowing from under the pan, the pungent aroma of molten plastic and the by now inedible victuals being scraped into the rubbish bin. I had a banana instead.

Not to worry. What about reading one of those books you've always meant to but never managed, or tried and didn't like? Right, For Whom The Bell Tolls it is, because everyone loves Hemingway. Except me. After ten tortuous pages, I remembered why I'd vowed never to let his overrated prose darken my door again and would have consigned the book to the same fate as the bacon and eggs except that it looks good on a shelf. Unread.

This always happens when attempting to fill the empty hours; I start with the best of intentions and then end up where I always do - binge-watching Frasier.

Stay safe.

PACHI



SUR in English

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THE BOTTOM LINE
RACHEL HAYNES

From one day to the next



Just a few days ago I enjoyed a long telephone conversation with a cousin in a rainy northern European country. We were discussing details of the holidays we were planning for this coming summer.

Later I went for a walk on the busy seafront - people were happy, the sun was

shining, the sky blue and the sea twinkling. It was so lovely I sent my cousin a photo; she replied with the raindrops on her window. All was well, but nevertheless I had a nagging feeling of unease: I had just committed myself to organising a complicated trip for a family group in a country that was nothing like their own. I could

feel the stress building up already.

Yesterday, my cousin sent me a message. Was I OK? Well, yes, I said, but confined to my home, as she was, although in her case perhaps without the threat of police fines if she leaves her house.

I wish the only thing that was bugging me was how I was going to organise a summer holiday! Since that conversation, since that sunny, day the world has turned on its head. Everything changed from one day to the next.

We are at war. More and more warlike vocabulary is slipping into our conversations: frontline, battle, victory, attack, defence... But the enemy is that cute-looking thing at the top of a lot of the pages in

this edition. We are at war against a toy you would buy for your cat. And all we have to do is stay at home.

Next week some say we'll be seeing signs that we are all going to come out of this with better family relationships, more concern for humanity and cleansed of all consumerism. I don't think that will happen somehow, but at least now we'll test our capabilities of living without things we thought were essential.

Scrolling up from the most recent message from my cousin today, I saw that photo of the promenade, the beach and the shining blue sea. That freedom has temporarily been taken from us; there's a war to be fought... then I'll plan a holiday.



QUARANTINE STORIES

Coping with confinement

TONY BRYANT

COSTA DEL SOL. The current lockdown enforced by the Spanish government in an attempt to contain the spread of the coronavirus

has left almost the entire population confined to their homes. Many believe that the isolation period will definitely be extended and they are showing concern about the financial

implications this will create. SUR in English asked residents from different professional backgrounds how they were coping with the lockdown, and what they are doing to pass the time.

"There are six in our house and we are routinely organised"

Cath John
Bar Owner

BENALMÁDENA. Bar owner Cath John has had plenty of time on her hands since the lockdown came into effect this week, although she has had no problem finding things to do at home.

"There are six of us in our house and we are routinely organised. The biggest problem is boredom, so we have movie times and play board games. My four children have adapted quite well and every day at 3pm we are doing a fitness video on Facebook to relieve the boredom of people who are stuck indoors. We also arranged some special dancing on St Patrick's Day for the Irish community.

"The first thing I'll do when its over is go to give my mam and dad a big hug."



"The lockdown will certainly last well over the initial two weeks"

Johnny Gates
Photographer

MARBELLA. Professional photographer Johnny Gates believes the lockdown is necessary to combat the coronavirus disease and he is using the unscheduled free-time to extend his knowledge and catch up with some chores around the house.

"I think the Spanish Government was correct to enforce the state of alarm, and so I am not going out at all. I am not overly concerned with catching the virus because I'm in complete isolation. I will get to finish a lot of work around the finca and I will get to learn some new skills on the internet."

"It will be a disaster for my businesses, because the lockdown will certainly last well over the initial two weeks."



"I suppose I am concerned about contracting the coronavirus"

Martyn Wood
Promoter

FUENGIROLA. Concert promoter Martyn Wood initiated self-imposed lockdown on Friday through fear of contracting the coronavirus. He is worried that the crisis will be disastrous for the economy.

"I suppose I am concerned about contracting the virus. I think that some people are more susceptible to catch viruses than others. I have had many during my life, so there is a fair chance I may get this. I recovered from all the others, so I am assuming that, if I do contract it, I will recover."

I think the lockdown will last for more than two weeks, and think it needs to, although I hope no more than four, as that would be almost unsustainable for the economy and the public cooperation."

"Its early days yet, but the lockdown has not been difficult"

Martin Hope
Musician

FUENGIROLA. Punk rocker Martin Hope is getting used to the confinement, even though he was sceptical at first. He is using the time to chill out, although he is keen to get back on the road with his band.

"Its early days yet, but the lockdown has not been difficult. If a short-term containment of people contains an overwhelming epidemic, then so be it. Part of me feels some of the statistics are questionable, but there is obviously a problem and a fear globally."

"I have a number of overseas gigs coming up over the next few months, but I just have no idea if they are still going to go ahead. I can't wait to get back into the studio when it's over, although I'll probably make a trip to the pub first."



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IN THE FRAME

Learning from the past to build a more sustainable future

Nerja. Rafael Anderson has worked on international projects and now runs his company from the Alpujarra

JENNIE RHODES

I first met Rafael Anderson about five years ago when he was giving a talk to the Nerja Arts Society (then NAD-FAS) about Andalusian architecture. I was delighted then when I was given the opportunity to speak to the charismatic and eloquent architect about his combined passion for buildings, history and sustainability, earlier this year.

Rafael, 60, has moved a lot. He was born in Pakistan and his parents, both English, were born in India. As a teenager his family moved to Zambia for his father's job and then Rafael went on to study Architecture at Sheffield University in England.

After graduating in 1986, he followed in his father's footsteps and travelled extensively to develop his own career. The first professional call was Hong Kong, where he spent five years.

Since then he has been involved in major architectural projects in London, Copenhagen, Seoul and New Delhi, where he explains that he worked on the city's first boutique hotel.

Spanish connections

Rafael's family has a long relationship with Spain, however, and in particular Nerja, where his parents bought a house in the Capistrano area in 1972, af-

ter a Belgian friend introduced them to the town.

Rafael explains that like many Britons who lived and worked in former British colonies, when they came to retire his parents wanted to move to Europe but were not used to the UK's grey skies and cold UK climate and so opted for Spain instead.

Immediately before moving to Spain, Rafael spent several years living in London, which he admits was "never" his world. When he discovered the Alpujarra, and Órgiva, where he has lived for 14 years, he "immediately felt at home". The fact that his parents lived nearby also influenced his decision to settle here.

Rafael says that he has become "fascinated" by the history of Spain and in particular the Al Andalus era since moving here. In fact, he has built up such a deep knowledge on the subject that started giving lectures and tours to the Arts Society and other organisations

The tours came about when Rafael's friend, Chris Stewart, of former Genesis and Driving Over Lemons fame, recommended Rafael when he was unable to give a tour himself. "It was an honour to be called upon," Rafael smiles, adding that the role has given him the opportunity to broaden his investigations of



Rafael Anderson. R. ANDERSON

Andalucía's history.

He has also written a limited edition book about the Islamic legacy of Al Andalus architecture and one of his architectural projects was the restoration of a house built in 1520 in Granada's Albaicín, a UNESCO world heritage site.

He says he felt it was "important" to shed light on the architecture and history of the era as "much of it has been rubbed out since 1492"; the time of the Spanish Reconquista.

Sustainability

Despite all his other projects, Rafael's main focus continues to be architecture and in particular sustainable buildings. He and his business partner have recently set up a company in the Alpujarra which promotes the use of ancient and well as future technologies in architecture. "In

"In the Alpujarra you come face to face with history and that is what I like so much about it"

the Alpujarra you come face to face with history and that is what I like so much." He adds, "Sustainable architecture involves going back to ancient techniques and that is what the buildings of the Alpujarra offer."

Rafael has been involved in the concept of sustainable architecture in Copenhagen and has recently given a lecture to the Arts Society on his work. He explains that he started to get involved in the 1990s when Copenhagen was developing the 'Ørestad master plan' on sustainable development.

"Copenhagen was setting out on its ambition to become one of Europe's most sustainable and livable cities. Now it has already moved into the lead in developing principles of sustainability and has set an example for the rest to follow."

While he admits that Copenhagen, as one of the richest and most highly taxed cities in the world, can afford to invest in sustainable buildings and plans, Rafael firmly believes that while the rest of the world "has been muddling along" the time is right for change and that the "momentum will start to shift in the face of the global climate crisis that we are facing".

As for his own future, Rafael admits he's "not missing moving to different countries much" and the self-confessed hippie says he "feels "at home" in the mountains of Granada.



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Students combine language, culture and history in one visit

A group from the official language school in Malaga recently visited the English cemetery

SUR IN ENGLISH

MALAGA. At the 'Escuela Oficial de Idiomas' in Malaga, learning English isn't just a matter of studying in a classroom. The staff also organise cultural activities in English and it has become traditional to have a guided tour of the English Cemetery, like the one which took place earlier this month with Liz Parry (a trustee of the English Cemetery Foundation) as guide.

After a brief introduction to the Foundation itself, explaining that it was created in 2006 to halt the deterioration of the oldest Protestant cemetery in Spain and preserve it as a garden and monument to be enjoyed by future generations, Liz went on to explain the history of the cemetery. She emphasised its many connections with the industrial past of the city, and with its current identity as a cosmopolitan, hospitable and



The group outside the English cemetery. SUR

generous city, open to the world.

This was illustrated with references to the monument to victims of the Gneisenau disaster in 1900; to the tomb of Dr Joseph Noble, whose legacy to the city was a charity hospital; to the part played in Spain's struggle against oppression by Robert Boyd, and to the British Consul William Mark, whose determination to provide a decent burial place for his compatriots led to the opening in 1831 of a precinct which fast outpaced its original purpose as an Anglican cemetery and became the last

resting place of the international community of Malaga. Students were also shown the graves of the more prominent individuals buried in the cemetery, and heard anecdotes and explanations of Remembrance Day and other traditions.

The participants commented afterwards that not only had they learned a lot of 'cemetery' vocabulary and expressions not usually taught in the classroom, but they had also discovered a part of Malaga and of its history of which they had previously been unaware.

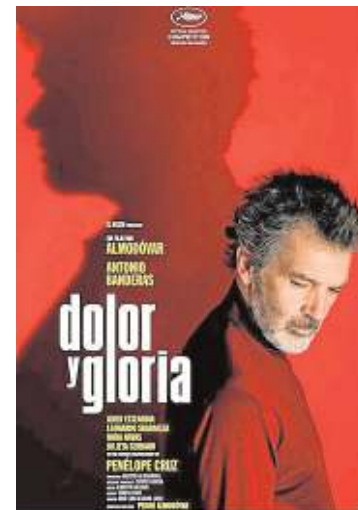
Nominations for Malaga actors

'La trinchera infinita', 'Dolor y gloria' and 'Mientras dure la guerra' have been nominated for the Ibero-American film awards

FRANCISCO GRIÑÁN

MALAGA. Last year was one of the best ever for the Spanish film industry, with Oscars and European awards, and now the nominations for the Ibero-American film awards have just been announced and include 'Dolor y gloria' by Pedro Almodóvar and 'La trinchera infinita' from Jon Garaño, Aitor Arregi and José Mari Goenaga.

Malaga-born actors Antonio Banderas, Antonio de la Torre and Belén Cuesta feature in these films, and the actress from Fuen-girola has also been nominated for her role in the Netflix series 'Paquita Salas'. The other nominations for best actors are Graciela Borges in 'El cuento de las comadrejas' and Ilse Salas for 'Las niñas bien', Ricardo Darín for 'La odisea de los giles' and Karra Elejalde for 'Mientras dure



la guerra'.

The Covid-19 crisis has affected these Platino awards like so many other events, as the ceremony was due to take place on 3 May in Riviera Maya (Mexico) but has now been postponed with no other date set. What is certain is that after his successes in the Oscars and Goyas, Almodóvar will be one of the favourites, having accumulated seven nominations for 'Dolor y gloria', one fewer than the Andalusian film 'La trinchera infinita'.

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on average €40,000 per family, but often much more.

With builders out of business, nobody could do anything to get their money back for years. But in 2015, lawyers acting for Spanish investors won an important victory when Spain's Supreme Court ruled that the developers' banks and insurance companies must repay any lost deposits they had not properly safeguarded.

The money many people thought was long lost can now be recovered - and banks even need to pay interest on the

amount. But, crucially, a legal time limit means that claims must be properly filed in the Spanish court system by October 2020. Otherwise, the chance to do so will be lost for good. And a lot of legal work must be done before that can happen. That is where the legal team at MySpanishDeposit come in.

If you lost the deposit you paid for an off-plan property which was never built or finished between 2005 and 2016, go to MySpanishDeposit.com to register now.

PET CARE
PETER HARRISON

Twenty years on

At the end of February 2000 quarantine for animals was lifted in the UK



After a century of dogs and cats from continental countries having to go into six months of quarantine before entering Britain, the regulations were considerably lifted and sensible controls applied. That date was 28 February 2000 - just over twenty years ago - and it was a day of celebration for pet owners here in Spain, where many had applied pressure over the years. Andalucía saw the strongest pressure for change, together with the British forces stationed in Germany. A public meeting held in Mijas on the subject was so well attended some two years previously that loudspeakers had to carry the message for change to the overflow audience outside. Speakers included vets, British ministers, the chairperson and representatives of the organisation Passports for Pets.

Over several years government committees had sat on the subject. One committee member told me when the meeting opened that all eleven members were of the view that quarantine worked at keeping rabies out of Britain, so why change it. On conclusion, all eleven were of the opinion that quarantine was inefficient, costly and stressful for owners and pets. Yet nothing happened and the risk of rabies increased because pet owners found ways of smuggling dogs and cats into Britain.

To test the system I took a cage with a toy kitten into an aircraft cabin and on the flight to UK pretended to feed the fake animal. No one stopped me and at Gatwick I sailed through customs with the carrier marked Live Animal. The chance of being apprehended was small. Why not have an efficient effective system with sensible controls.

Thanks mainly to pressure

from the organisation Passports for Pets, chaired by Lady Mary Fretwell, the British government lifted quarantine and followed the Swedish model, substituting sensible strict regulations allowing dogs and cats to enter Britain from a long list of approved rabies-free countries after vaccinations and other stress-free conditions. That was twenty years ago. At the time scaremongers shouted that it would mean rabies would enter Britain. Time was to prove them to be the scaremongers they were indeed. Pet owners and pets rejoiced.

Rabies does exist in certain countries and many such countries have itinerant and irresponsible vendors who smuggle puppies with false pedigree and vaccination papers into western countries, including Spain. Avoid such so-called bargains and buy only from kennels of sound reputation or rescue kennels where they have been tested. Vaccination of puppies under four months is invalid. Buying pets from a doubtful source means taking a chance of rabies entering Spain and no sane person wants that. I have seen rabies all over the world and have been bitten by a rabid dog and undergone fourteen days of painful injections in the stomach in Egypt. On an excursion across the Sinai desert I had to shoot a pack of dogs suffering from rabies. I will never forget it.

Do not take chances. Buy from a reputable source. Good reputations are hard earned, easily lost.

Now, once we get out of our own unusual quarantine here in Spain, we have to think about the future. Let's hope that Post-Brexit regulations regarding the transport of animals between the UK and the EU remain as they are today.



A dog in its carrier, all set to board a plane. SUR

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REF. B. O. N.

Some years ago my wife and I took out a mortgage with life insurance. Unfortunately, my wife died last month of cancer. The insurance company asked me for a medical report, and then refused to cover her part alleging that

the health assessment that they have does not coincide with the medical report. I do not remember having undergone any medical examination or giving any info about our health. What can I do?

When taking out a life insurance, the company usually checks the state of health and habits of the insured, as they do not normally cover existing illnesses. It is possible that the doctor established that your wife was already ill when she took out the insurance, or that she had high-risk habits that were not notified to the company. If you do not remember having had a medical examination or giving information about your state of health, it would be advisable to ask for the health assessment they refer to, as if it does not exist, the company cannot refuse cover.

REF. W. I. R.

I have asked my ex-husband to pay half the cost of school materials for our daughter, but he refuses saying that these are not extraordinary expenses. The divorce agreement established that he has to pay alimony of 200 euros for food, and half the extraordinary expenses derived from the rearing and education of our daughter. Can he refuse to pay?

If the divorce sentence establishes that the expenses derived from the education of the child are considered as extraordinary, then school materials and books have to be included since they would not be part of the 200 euros alimony. You have to sue your ex-husband and demand he pay the half the expenses you mention, providing the Court with the receipts.

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WHAT HAPPENED TODAY?

20 MARCH 1969

John Lennon and Yoko Ono wed on the Rock

The Beatle later recalled that the idea of marrying on the Rock was sold to him because it was “quiet, British and friendly”

Fifty-one years ago today, John Lennon and Yoko Ono got married in Gibraltar: it was 20 March 1969. After a ten-minute ceremony performed by registrar Cecil Wheeler at the British Consulate Office, the newlyweds headed to the airport where the now iconic images of the couple holding their marriage certificate with the Rock as the backdrop were taken. Getting married in Gibraltar wasn’t always the plan, though. For the

couple, who first met in November 1966, when Lennon was still married to wife Cynthia, “We wanted to get married on a cross-channel ferry. That was the romantic part,” Lennon said in The Beatles’ Anthology documentary. “We went to Southampton, and then we couldn’t get on because she wasn’t English, and she couldn’t get the day visa to go across.” They decided to try their luck in Paris, but were unable to tie the knot there because they hadn’t been in the country long enough. Finally, their friend Peter Brown suggested they head to Gibraltar as it was a British protectorate. The Beatle later recalled that it was sold to him as “quiet, British and friendly” and because they could go ahead at short notice.



John Lennon, left, with wife Yoko Ono. AFP

“We went there and it was beautiful,” he said in a 1980 interview. “Symbolically they called it the End of the World at one period. [...] It was like the Gateway to the World. So we liked it in the symbolic sense.” The lyrics in his song, The Ballad of John and Yoko (the Beatles’ last UK number one

single), captures the lead-up to the big day: *Finally made the plane into Paris / Honeymooning down by the Seine / Peter Brown called to say / You can make it OK / You can get married in Gibraltar near Spain.* After the ceremony, the two flew to Amsterdam and set up a “bed-in” as a call for peace in

the presidential suite of the Hilton hotel. International media outlets were invited to cover the event, which lasted seven days. In 1999, to commemorate the 30th anniversary of the wedding, Gibraltar issued postage stamps of the couple on the runway, holding their marriage certificate.

Bilingual crossword inside back page

LANGUAGE FOOTNOTE

Boda	Wedding
Matrimonio	Marriage
Novios	Bride and groom
Luna de miel	Honeymoon
Romántico	Romantic
Aterrizar	To land
Consulado	Consulate
Certificado	Certificate
Relámpago	Lightning
Tranquilo	Quiet
Británico	British
Columnas	Pillars
Avión	Plane
Ceremonia	Ceremony
Vestido	Dress
Cama	Bed
Balada	Ballad
Sello	Stamp
Música	Music

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DENISE BUSH

GARDENING

The colours of a sunset

Discovered by Captain Meriwether Lewis, famous for his role in the Lewis and Clark expedition to explore the lands to the west of the Mississippi river in the early 1800s, Lewisia has a reputation for being difficult to grow. In its natural habitat it is found

growing on rocky outcrops, and gravel slopes and this gives an indication of one of the main requirements of this plant: good drainage. Common names include cliff maids, Siskiyou lewisia and bitterroot, the latter because

its starchy root was chewed by the native Flathead indians to relieve sore throats.

Most of the 19 or so species in the genus Lewisia are deciduous. It is a member of the Montiaceae family (purslane) and has thick fleshy leaves covered in a waxy substance that helps restrict water loss.

The leaves form in rosettes about 10 cm high and it is important when watering to avoid getting the crown of the plant wet.

Lewisias are drought resistant although they will flower longer if watered occasionally through the drier months.

During the hottest part of the summer they may go dormant, springing back to life with the arrival of cooler temperatures.

The first flush of flowers appears on slender stems up to 20cm high in spring.

Each bloom can have up to nine petals each and colours vary depending on species and hybrids, the palette includes all the colours of a sunset.

The flowers are long lasting and may be followed by a second flush later in the year.

Propagation is by offsets which can be removed from the parent plant and potted up. Plants can also be produced from seed but may take two seasons to form a rosette and start flowering.



Lewisia species and close up of Lewisia bloom (insert). Wikimedia

READERS' PHOTOS



ROZ CAPLAN

Pretty and pink

A very pretty swathe of pink flowers sent in by Roz Caplan, but what are they? We think they could be Catharanthus. Can anyone confirm their identity?



LOUISE MORLEY

A garden oasis


SUR in English reader Louise Morley has sent in some pictures of her little oasis in the countryside.

PHOTOS



Calling all gardeners

We know many of our readers have lovely gardens, or enjoy growing plants on their terraces or balconies and some like to take photos of plants they see when out and about. Why not share them with others? Email

your photos to english@diariosur.es or send them to SUR in English, Avda Dr Marañón 48, 29009 Málaga, with a caption and a few words of explanation. Alternatively, you can send them to us via Facebook (suri-english) or Twitter (@SUR_English).



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Farewell to one of Malaga's favourite artists

Art. The popular painter Celia Berrocal has died, after a long creative career in which she became famous for her images of Malaga city and its local traditions

ANTONIO JAVIER LÓPEZ



The artist's career lasted for four and a half decades. **SUR**



Balconies. The artist from Malaga was famous for her traditional views of the city. **SUR**

The flower-filled balconies, views of La Coracha, narrow passageways in Lagunillas and images of El Perchel and other traditional areas of Malaga were immortalised in the paintings by Celia Berrocal, reminders of a Malaga which nowadays is a distant memory. Celia, one of the most well-known and popular artists in the city, passed away in the early hours of Friday morning and will be greatly missed.

"She had a legion of followers. Every exhibition, every catalogue, the calendar we published with her work... everything 'flew'. People adored her work," says gallery owner Eugenia Benedito about the artist's four and a half decade career.

"As many of the places she

Painted no longer exist, they are a reminder for people. Celia was an idol, and a very friendly person. When she had an exhibition, she would keep to her normal routine and paint in the mornings and then come to the gallery in the evenings and talk to everyone. That's why people loved her so much. They adored the quality of her painting, her subjects and also the fact that she was such a nice person," says Eugenia.

Celia Berrocal Villena was born in Malaga in 1942, and began studying at the School of Fine Arts in 1957. A year later she began to train with Alfonso de Torre and then returned to the School of Fine Arts in 1964 to do a course in Decoration. Julián Sesmero Ruiz, who has written a book about 20th cen-

tury artists from Malaga says that "from the start of her professional career, Celia focused her painting on subjects such as flowers, seascapes, landscapes and portraits".

She also painted scenes from Holy Week for some of the religious brotherhoods, and in 1982 she won the first prize for the poster she designed for the event.

"From her first exhibition in 1975 at the Sala del Liceo de Málaga Peña Malaguista, Celia's work was constantly on display," says Sesmero in a chapter dedicated to her in his book.

She exhibited at the Real Maestranza de Caballería de Ronda (1979), the Sociedad Económica de Amigos del País (1987) and galleries in Madrid, Barcelona and Malaga. "She was a great artist and a lovely person. We're going to miss her," he says.

Gina Foster, doyenne of the Costa's social scene, dies after brave fight against cancer

Long-time Benalmádena resident "Lady Gina" was a stalwart of the Salon Varietés and much-loved Age Care volunteer

R. H. / G. P.

BENALMÁDENA. Gina Foster, one of the founding members of the Salon Varietés theatre in Fuengirola, died on Tuesday last week in the UK. After more than 35 years on the Costa del Sol, Gina had returned to the UK for care when she became unwell with cancer two years ago.

Gina moved to the Costa del Sol from Hertfordshire, England, in 1982, when her husband Ken bought their palatial home in Rancho Domingo, near Benalmádena Pueblo. When Ken died two years later from a heart condition, Gina stayed in Spain and threw herself into different projects. Among these was a successful campaign to change the route of the new motorway, as well as the Salon Varietés theatre in Fuengirola, which she helped to found in 1985.

"Gina has played an active part in the community in many ways, always there offering to help any one who needed it; she was known



Gina Foster was well-known among the English-speaking community. **SUR**

locally as Lady Gina," said former Salon Varietés president, Linda Dianne Barnett.

Gina held numerous roles at the theatre, from president to performer, and was later president of Friends of the Theatre (FOTA), the Salon Varietés' fundraising arm. Her lavish garden parties were attended by her numerous celebrity friends, who included Mike Reid, Barbara Windsor, Frankie Howerd and Danny La Rue.

In later years she became a volunteer for Age Care Association,

coordinating coffee mornings in Benalmádena and providing company and help for elderly residents. Despite her illness, Gina returned to Spain to support FOTA's summer and winter balls.

Gina is due to be cremated in UK and her ashes returned to Spain, where the Salon Varietés Theatre will hold a memorial gathering. The FOTA summer ball, due to take place on 12 June, will be a tribute to her dedication to the theatre, with many of her friends and colleagues attending, explained Linda.

D.E.P.

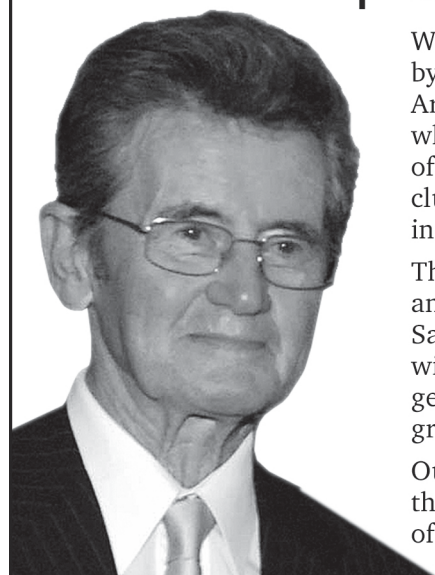


Arthur Colin Mosely

We are deeply saddened by the loss of Arthur Colin Mosely, who was the golf Director of Santa Maria Golf club since its very inception.

The Chairman, Directors and staff of Santa María Golf will never forget his generous nature and great sense of humour.

Our hearts are with the family in this time of sorrow.



"Nowruz is about the beginning of a new life"

Irina Yastrebova
Fuengirola resident from Uzbekistan

For many Costa del Sol residents 20 March is a day of celebration. This year's Nowruz - the Persian new year - will be marked by the ban on gatherings

ALEKK M. SAANDERS

MALAGA. Spring starts on two different dates, based on the meteorological or astronomical definition. The astronomical spring, associated with the vernal equinox, happens on or around 20 March. This is also the date of Nowruz, a holiday that marks not only the first day of spring but also the beginning of a new year in the Persian calendar. The celebrations are held in Iran, Afghanistan, Pakistan, India as well as in former USSR republics - Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and some regions of Russia. Every year, hundreds of Costa del Sol residents celebrate the festival. Among them Irina Yastrebova from Fuengirola. She is preparing a generous table as she used to do in her native Uzbekistan with the main dish - plov - a sort of Spanish paella.

Irina, is Nowruz a religious holiday or secular after all?

Many people celebrate Navruz as a secular holiday of joy, kind-

ness, forgiveness and warmth. Though it is a religious holiday for Zoroastrians, whose religion - Zoroastrianism - connects a lot to nature. After the Arabian conquest of Central Asia the traditions of this ancient pre-Islamic religion did not disappear. Some of them were integrated into Muslim traditions. By the way, the Moorish palaces here perfectly reflect some natural principles of Zoroastrians, which revere the main four elements of fire, water, air and land. For example, the gardens of the Alhambra of Granada form a natural architecture, based on water and vegetation with scented air. Moreover, later Zoroastrianism likely influenced even Judaism and Christianity and in some way spread in the Mediterranean.

Have you noticed any similarities of Nowruz with some Spanish traditions?

Actually, Nowruz is a family day. And the family is the most important aspect for most of Spaniards, especially Andalusians. Large families used to be common here and had a strong mother figure. And my mother who also grew up in Uzbekistan and has many children is not an exception. She is a leader of any event. In Uzbekistan it is quite normal if above 20 relatives gather together around the table. Like we do in our family. For me Andalusians are also very generous and they like to visit their



Irina with a plate of plov, known as Uzbek paella. **sar**

relatives for meals together. They say, that Nowruz is a time to share what they have with others.

That's why the Nowruz tables are always laid with plenty of food?

You are right. The table is a mirror of generosity. And it is obligatory to arrange the so-called Haft-sin, consisting of seven items starting with letter 'S' in the Persian language. By the way, each dish has unique symbolic significance. For example, vinegar symbolises patience and immortality, apple represents health and fertility, garlic is traditionally thought to avert evil. Actually all of them I find easily here in any supermarket on the Costa del Sol.

But my friends don't look for them. They just go to one of the Marbella luxury restaurants where they traditionally celebrate Nowruz with typical dishes.

The pictures show you with a big bowl of rice...

It is our favourite plov (pilaf) - Uzbekistan's signature dish. For Uzbeks, it represents hospitality. Plov consists of rice, onion, carrots and meat, which are cooked slowly. So quite often plov is compared to Spanish paella. I know, that Spanish call it "paella uzbeka". At the same time we call paella a Spanish variety of plov. Besides the rice there is one thing in common. Like a paella, a plov is often prepared in huge quantities for many people. Moreover,

I read that both Uzbek plov and Spanish paella are derived from the same Persian pilau which in turn was derived from an ancient Sanskrit dish. As for me, I prepare plov on the same day. But weeks before I start growing another symbol of the Nowruz table - sprouts from seeds of lentils, symbolising rebirth. Nowruz can be translated as a "new day". So, everything in celebrating Nowruz is about beginning of a new life, the revival of nature and the creation of closer ties with relatives, neighbours and friends. **The theme of a "new day" seems to be very topical during this coronavirus pandemic...**

Exactly. Now people need encouraging and a kind of rebirth after this mass depression with coronavirus. I know it is not easy for Andalusians and even for us foreigners to disconnect socially and avoid personal meetings with coffee and tapas. Pity, that because of Covid in my family we will not be able either to meet together at my place for Nowruz. However, it is still possible to celebrate it by working at self-improvement as Nowruz also helps people improve and be clean in all meanings of this word. Before Nowruz every person must clean his house from dirt and germs or even now... viruses. During the pandemic it is also important to keep our houses clean and first of all our hands. There is even a custom to "burn" everything negative - diseases, misfortunes, sorrows. We should forget offences. It is believed, if a person is warm and kind to their relatives, friends and neighbours this day, then the new year will be a good one. I think it would be nice that at least once a year everybody, regardless of their nationality and religion, tries to "control" their behaviour and does their best to be nice, peaceful and generous. In fact, it should be a kind of exercise to be repeated as often as possible all year round.

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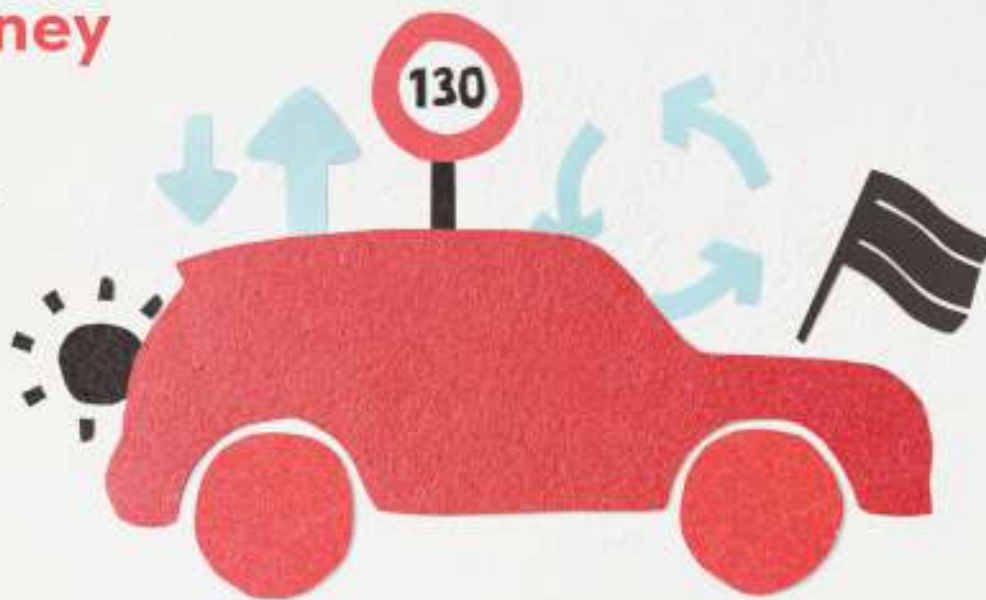
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Local cultural scene finds ways around quarantine with virtual tours and performances

Visits to the Dolmens, the Thyssen and the plays at the Echegaray theatre as well as audio tours of the new Picasso exhibition are just a click away

ANTONIO JAVIER LÓPEZ

MÁLAGA. The order to stay at home to stop the spread of Covid-19 has given us all the possibility of peeping through the curtain at Málaga's succulent cultural scene, despite the majority of the venues being closed.

The Carmen Thyssen Museum offers virtual visits to its collection and also to some of its temporary exhibitions; the Picasso Museum in Málaga has made an audio guide available, with explanations of some of the most important works of its current show *Genealogies of Art*; and the Dolmens of Antequera are also within 'click' range.

Carmen Thyssen Museum

The Carmen Thyssen Museum in Málaga offers a 360° tour of

its permanent collections and temporary exhibitions *Fortuny the Printmaker*; *Arabian Fantasy*. *Orientalist Painting in Spain (1860-1900)*; *Max Ernst, Natural History*, among other previous shows on its website (www.carmenthysen-malaga.org/visitas-virtuales).

The Thyssen museum also offers a virtual tour of its premises in the city's Calle Compañía, which occupy the impressive Villalón mansion.

The tour takes in the Sala Noble as well as the courtyard and the terraces, helping the viewer prepare for the upcoming exhibition *Masks. Metamorphosis of Modern Identity*, which was due to open on 23 March but will now be delayed until the health crisis is over.

Museo Picasso Málaga

The Museo Picasso Málaga (www.museopicasso-malaga.org) is displaying the impressive exhibition *Genealogies of Art* with an explanatory audio guide in various languages (selected from a drop down menu).



The Menga Dolmen, Antequera. **SUR**

The Sea at l'Estaque (1878-1879) by Paul Cézanne; *Three Figures Under a Tree* (1907-08) by Pablo Ruiz Picasso; *Black Square* (1915) by Kazimir Malevich; and the *Landscape with Two Poplars* (1912) by Vasili Kandinsky; reveal their secrets through the audio notes provided by the museum.

Antequera dolmens

The megalithic constructions that make up the dolmen site in Antequera, Menga, Viera and El Romeral, can also be visited without leaving the confines of your home, thanks to the website Google Arts & Culture (art-sandculture.google.com/).

This site also has virtual tours of the urban art that can be seen in the area around the Málaga CAC museum, which forms part of the MAUS programme; as well as a visit to some of the more emblematic works held in the Carmen Thyssen Museum.

Pompidou and Russian Museum

Both the Pompidou and the Russian Museum have videos uploaded on the web. The Pompidou (www.centrepompidou-malaga.eu/) concentrates on the exhibition by artist Philip Starck while the Russian Museum (<https://www.coleccionmuse-oruso.es/>) offers virtual guided tours and other activities.

Factoría Echegaray

Local channel Canal Málaga (www.canalmalaga.es/factoria-echegaray) proposes to convert the sofa into front row theatre stalls with online recordings of several Spanish theatre productions performed at the Echegaray theatre.



The performance of La Isla del Aire at Factoría Echegaray. **CANAL MÁLAGA**



The Picasso Museum offers a virtual tour on its website. **SUR**

La Térmica

Writers such as Michel Houellebecq, Antonio Escohotado, Laura Freixas and Fernando Aramburu; filmmaker John Waters; and the widow of writer Borges,

María Kodama, are among the speakers in more than 200 talks and lectures (in Spanish) organised by La Térmica cultural centre and available on its website. www.latermicamalaga.com/



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Concerts, talks and classes online keep confined residents busy at home

The current health crisis has encouraged many clubs, associations and cultural events to look to the internet to continue their business

DENISE BUSH

MALAGA. It may not be a new phenomenon but online cultural events and activities have suddenly seen a surge in interest.

Everyday clubs and groups, bands, academies and museums are turning to the internet to keep their members, fans and the general public up to date with their activities.

Here in Andalucía, for example, Costa Women, a networking group of almost 10,000 women of around 127 nationalities, connect daily through e-meetings. They have chats on various sub-

jects such as 'Productivity and Happiness and 'It's the right time to work out your Ikigai!' The e-meetings are for members only. Visit costawomen.com for more information.

Lectures and classes

For documentaries and lectures the TED app for your phone, also available online, has a huge selection of fascinating talks of ten minutes or less, all free.

Another site with access to thousands of documentaries on everything from science and history to culture and lifestyle and which can be viewed on TV, phone, tablet or lap top is www.curiositystream.com. It is not free however as there is an annual subscription.

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tography and classical mythology as well as access to movies, lectures, audio and e-books click on www.openculture.com

Yoga

Yoga has also transferred easily to the web and viewers can subscribe to follow classes from their home. Classes are offered at www.competayoga.com with live Vinyasa and Yin yoga as well as free, 20-minute pilates workouts on their Facebook page Cómpetayoga. Another yoga tutorial online can also be found at thenutritionhealer.com which is run by Sonja Breuer, Ayurveda consult-

ant and founder of The Nutrition Healer. Her classes are held every Friday morning at 10am.

Music

For relaxing music to sweep away the stress, talented Malaga musician Miguel Molero has uploaded a few videos, with the promise of more, of him performing some of his own compilations.

Singer Alejandro Sanz performed a free, live concert for the #quédateencasa movement on 15 March which can be viewed on Youtube #LaGiraSeQuedaEnCasa.

Other well known musicians are performing via social media,

such as Coldplay's frontman Chris Martin, Keith Urban and John Legend, who have all uploaded videos on Instagram (#SocialDistancingSessions) to kick off 'Together at Home', a virtual music series to unite people around the world during the coronavirus pandemic.

What are you doing?

Help us fill the What To Do section in SUR in English during the coronavirus crisis. If you've moved your cultural or fundraising activities online, let us know about it: english@diariosur.es



Following instructions online is an alternative to classes for lovers of yoga. SUR



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Cheesecake from Kava in Marbella, national winner of Best Cheesecake in 2019. **sur**

Cheesecake: from Romans to New York

Salty cheese has been combined with sweet flavours for thousands of years to make a food packed with energy

**ESPERANZA
PELÁEZ**

Bearing in mind that cheese has been around for more than 8,000 years and that its first function was to extend the life of a food as valuable as milk, it is not surprising that cheesecake, that dessert that today has become a planetary obsession, has been around for a lot longer than its modern versions

allow us to believe.

The secret of our continuing to like it so much lies in the fact that it brings together in a single bite the three flavours that we are biologically predisposed to find pleasant: sweet, salty and umami, all of which promise essential nutrients such as sugars, sodium and protein, with the added lactic acid of

cheese, which helps to awaken and add nuance to the others.

The fact is that the forerunners of what we now consider a dessert were actually energy packed lunches reserved for athletes in Classical Greece and were linked to religious festivals in Rome according to the philologist Charo Marcoin in her blog 'De re coquina-



▲ Sweet, sticky
almojábanas

ria' (<http://derecoquinaria-sagunt.blogspot.com/>)

In Rome, the sweet-salty bread was called 'libum', and in the recipe written by Cato the Elder, which is still perfectly feasible today, flour or semolina was kneaded with crumbled cheese and an egg and then the bread was cooked in earthenware pots on a bed of laurel leaves. The addition of honey provided sweetness.

Similar to libum were almojábanas, the first cheesecake documented in Al-Andalus at the beginning of the thirteenth century by Murcia resident Abu I-Hasan. Still typical in Aragonese towns like Albarracín (Teruel) or Caspe (Zaragoza), the recipe also includes flour and eggs, and is dough fried or baked and then dipped in buttermilk (to make them softer) and honey or syrup.

The sweet was made all over Al Andalus, although the recipe eventually fell into oblivion and chef Charo Carmona had a hard time reviving it to put on the menu of her restaurant Arte de Cozina (Antequera). The almojábanas appear in the Tesoro de la Lengua Castellana by Sebastián de Covarrubias, the first Castilian dictionary published in 1611.

Royal chef for Felipe II, III and IV, Francisco Martínez Montañón,

offers two recipes in his book Arte de cozina, the top recipe book of the Spanish Siglo de Oro published for the first time in the same year.

Almojábanas made their way to the Americas with the Spanish conquistadores where the original recipe became adapted. Instead of wheat flour, corn or cassava flour was used and the little cakes were deep fried or baked.

Another sweet cake related to the almojábanas is the Arab 'kannafah' (pronounced kunafah or kinafah), with powerful contrasts of sweet, salty and acidic, whose origins is probably in Palestine and can be found from Turkey to Egypt. It consists of a cake composed of a layer of kataifi pasta noodles or semolina, another of fresh salted cheese and a third of noodles or semolina and bathed in orange syrup; it is usually sold on the street, freshly made and hot.

New York Cheesecake

Other masterful creations in terms of cheesy desserts are the Sicilian 'cassata', sweetened cottage cheese on a sponge base with a marzipan dome, and the 'cannoli', both of Arab heritage. It was the German Jews living in New York who nationalised a homemade dessert that was originally made with quark cheese in central and eastern Europe. The original recipe for the New York Cheesecake, the most famous cheesecake in the modern world, was created by Arnold Reuben, owner of Reuben's Restaurant. His innovation was to replace the cottage cheese used by other bakers with a cream cheese.

By the time Reuben's cake won a gold medal at the World Fair in 1929, the 'Philadelphia Cream' cheese accidentally invented by William Lawrence when he was trying to reproduce the French Neufchâtel had become so popular that the Kraft firm had bought the brand. Since then, it has been the most widely used cheese for cakes, although in Central Europe they have remained faithful to quark, in Italy to cottage cheese, and in today's creative storm, many confectioners are turning to special cheeses to add a personal touch to the result.

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RECIPE

Traditional cheesecake

Cheesecake bases vary but the most common is usually made with crushed digestive or ginger biscuits. Other alternatives include a sweet pastry crust (pâte sucrée) or even a light layer of sponge. Some cheesecakes don't have any base at all.

The cheese filling is also variable, low fat alternatives exist such as quark which makes a delicious cheesecake which is also low in calories but remember to substitute the cream for low fat yoghurt instead.



THE BISCUIT BASE

Ingredients
150g digestive biscuits crushed; 50g melted butter; 50g demerara sugar.

Method
Mix the crushed biscuits (do this by placing the whole biscuits in a bag and gently crushing them with a rolling pin), the melted butter and the demerara sugar in a mixing bowl until well combined.

Tip them onto the base of a loose-bottomed springform cake tin and use the back of a spoon to press the biscuit mixture into a smooth and even layer over the bottom. Put in the

fridge to set.

THE TOPPING

Ingredients
60g butter or margarine; 220g caster sugar; 500g quark or curd cheese or a mixture of both; 40g plain flour, 6 eggs separated, 200ml cream, finely grated rind and juice of two lemons.

Method
In a large bowl beat together the sugar, egg yolks, cheese, flour, margarine or butter, lemon rind and juice and smooth. Stir in the cream. Whisk the egg whites until stiff and fold in with a metal spoon being careful to incorporate as much air as possible into the mixture. Pour the mixture over the biscuit base in the tin and place it in an oven heated to 160°C (325°F) for around an hour and a half to two hours. The mixture should be set, it may wobble a little but a skewer pushed in to the middle should come out clean.

Remove the cheesecake from the oven and run a knife around the outside edge of the cheesecake to release it from the sides of the tin. Leave it to cool. As it cools it may sink slightly in the centre but this is normal. Once cool place in the fridge until thoroughly chilled then remove the tin. The top of the cheesecake can be dusted with icing sugar and decorated with strips of lemon peel or piled with fresh fruit such as raspberries and strawberries for serving.

A drink a day



ANDREW J. LINN

When there was a cholera epidemic in the Scottish city of Inverness in 1832, there were 172 deaths in 11 weeks. A modern day microbiologist from Aberdeen University wondered why some people lived and others died. Janet Guthrie was baffled – until she found an old poster urging citizens to drink ‘fermented and spirituous liquors’. Was it possible that consuming alcohol may save lives? We now know that alcohol may kill the bacteria in the gut or the bloodstream. Back then the proof lay in the fact that sailing ships bound for distant shores provisioned with water from the local river, which, although invariably contaminated, would be drunk with gin or beer without any ill effects. Columbus’s ship was half beer by volume, and the pilgrims landed at Plymouth Rock because they had run out of beer. Henry the VIII made sure his ships carried more beer than food, and each ship was supplied with enough to allow each man a gallon a day, but even then it was sometimes not enough. Sailors, and maybe peasants, appear to have consumed alcohol, in part, to ward off disease.

In her laboratory Guthrie added Dry London Gin to flasks of cholera and water (although other researchers had typically used wine for similar experiments.) All concentrations of alcohol killed cholera in between one to 26 hours. A study in France in the 1900s found that those who consumed wine ran less risk of illness, and other studies have shown that tequila can kill salmonella and E. coli. Once alcohol enters the body it can be assumed its effects on microbes are conclusive. For the current crisis though, warm or room-temperature drinks are best.

WINE OF THE WEEK

Más B Manzanos
There is so much cheap Rioja on the market that as a general rule the price is the best indicator of quality. But the exception proves the rule and this admirable Tempranillo and Garnacha blend can be found locally on offer for around six euros. Very enjoyable.



How to deal with psychological effects of the lockdown

Coronavirus. The isolation, different routine and constant worry can have a huge emotional impact. Neuropsychologist Álvaro Bilbao has some advice on how to deal with this unprecedented experience of enforced confinement

ROSSEL APARICIO

We have unexpected free time at home at present, but it doesn't actually feel like a good thing. Isolation, a different routine and the concern that everyone is feeling in a situation that nobody has experienced before will, if it has not already, have a huge emotional impact on people. Even for those who normally enjoy being at home, enforced isolation can be a bit of a struggle, and adults are more vulnerable than children because they are the ones who have to deal with the psychological effect of



It's normal to feel anxiety in an unknown situation. **SUR**

the lockdown and have to organise everything, including meals and entertainment.

"Recent studies have shown that in Wuhan, where the pandemic began in December, two weeks after the lockdown began 42.6 per cent of 18,000 people surveyed were displaying signs of anxiety and in another survey of 14,000 people, 16.3 per

cent presented symptoms of depression," warns psychologist Álvaro Bilbao.

He has some useful advice on identifying psychological effects of the quarantine and how to overcome them. For a start, he says, don't be surprised if you feel nervous or tearful.

"Nobody should be scared about this. When adults lose control of a situation, it is natural for them to feel anxious. What is important is to carry on and not lose direction," he says.

The reasons

In Álvaro Bilbao's opinion, three factors lie behind the possible psychological effects of isolation: firstly, the uncertainty cre-

"When adults lose control of a situation, it is natural for them to feel anxious. Don't be surprised if you feel tearful"

HOW TO COPE

► **Stay in touch.** Experts recommend communicating on WhatsApp and holding regular videocalls with relatives and friends. It's also a good idea to talk to your partner or somebody about how you're feeling. "Expressing how we feel helps us to cope and feel less under pressure," they say.

► **Establish a routine.** Having a plan for each day helps us feel more secure. It doesn't have to be regimented, but it is a good idea to decide what time to get up, go to bed, do homework, leisure activities etc. However, be realistic and flexible as well.

► **Set yourself objectives.** Setting ourselves small tasks will help to give us a sense of accomplishment when we have done them. Tidy a cupboard, cook something or read a chapter of a book, for example. Don't make the tasks too difficult.

► **Don't overdose on information.** Stay informed, but don't be glued to your mobile phone or TV news all day. Don't share anything which isn't from official sources because it could be incorrect and cause unnecessary concern.

► **Humour helps.** "Laughing gets rid of tension," says Dr Bilbao. Watch comedy series, tell jokes, or enjoy some of the funny memes on social media.

► **Get some exercise.** This is as necessary as it is difficult due to not being allowed to do it outdoors. Work out an exercise routine that you can do at home and is suitable for you, and do it for a while every day.

► **Keep an eye on those who live alone.** "Friends and relatives who live alone are more vulnerable to the psychological effects of the lockdown. We will feel more useful if we ring them for a chat and they will know we care," says Álvaro Bilbao.

► **Try to keep morale high.** This is more important than it seems. We can keep our morale high by doing something that pleases us or that we enjoy every day. It might be watching a film, playing a board game, baking some biscuits or a treasure hunt around the house with the children, for example.

► **Stay positive.** It is really important to maintain a positive attitude in this situation and to try not to feel miserable about it. "This doesn't mean we have to laugh all the time, but we should remind ourselves that it is only temporary, it will pass and it is best to face up to it by staying cheerful," says Dr Bilbao.



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The premature baby whose mother had Covid-19 tests negative for the virus

ated by an unprecedented experience, about what will happen with the virus situation in an entire country; secondly, the enforced confinement itself, bearing in mind that human beings survive in groups and have an emotional need for family and friends; and finally, the social stigma.

"You don't have to test positive to suffer this. The fear of being stigmatised is going to appear as soon as we discover that a family member has the virus, or if we cough in a public place. Fear of being stigmatised is deep-rooted in our DNA because, as we have just seen, we can't survive without other people," says Bilbao.

He concludes that many varied symptoms can appear during the lockdown, in addition to stress or anxiety: a feeling of melancholy, apathy, disturbed sleep, irritability, a feeling that everything is strange, low morale, loss of appetite or quite the opposite - a need to raid the fridge at all hours.

"Adults are more vulnerable to anxiety because of our need to control things. And in this situation we feel precisely that we are not in control so that affects our emotional security," he says.

As the days go by our mental balance can be "broken" and we may suddenly find ourselves having panic attacks, crying or feeling that we can't breathe.

"All this is absolutely normal at times like this. Our brain finds it hard to deal with the changes in lifestyle, the uncertainty and the isolation," he says.

A Malaga hospital saw the first coronavirus birth in Spain last Sunday. A baby girl was born prematurely by caesarian section to a woman who had Covid-19. The baby tested negative for the virus and, despite only weighing 1.2 kilos, doctors were confident

ALBERTO GÓMEZ

Medical professionals in Malaga faced a new challenge last weekend; to deliver the baby of a woman infected by Covid-19, the first situation of its kind in Spain.

The 33-year-old mother, who works as a nursing auxiliary at a health centre in Malaga, was initially isolated on the eighth floor of the Materno hospital, after showing symptoms and testing positive for Covid-19. She was then moved to intensive care, when she began to feel worse.

As her condition was deteriorating, doctors decided to carry out a caesarian birth to alleviate the pressure the baby was putting on her lungs. This also meant she no longer needed to use her oxygen for the baby girl, who was born 27 weeks and five days into the pregnancy, weighing 1.2 kilos.

The staff involved in the operation had to use personal protective equipment, including hazmat suits, which had never been needed before for a caesarian section. This was a completely unknown scenario.

The virus has developed so re-



Members of the team who carried out the operation, the first of its type, last Sunday. :: SUR

cently that there are still doubts about how it can affect pregnant women who catch it and their babies, although the specialists insist that it is essential to keep calm, as there does not appear to be a high risk of Covid-19 being passed to babies from their mothers.

The case of the woman with the virus who gave birth at the Materno was exceptional because of the circumstances. After going to the hospital with respiratory problems, she was tested for Covid-19 but was then sent back home. When the result proved positive, she was immediately admitted; by then she had severe breathing difficulties. These led

to pneumonia, and doctors decided they had no choice but to carry out the operation.

The baby girl was tested for coronavirus when she was born, and when the result came through it was negative. She is currently in isolation in an incubator in the Intensive Monitoring Unit in the

Scientists are still unsure about how the virus can affect pregnant women and their babies, but there have been few cases

Neonatal department at the Materno. She will be tested again in a few days, say sources at the hospital, to make absolutely sure that she has not developed the virus.

After the birth the mother was described as being in a "worrying" condition and was moved to the Intensive Care Unit at the Regional Hospital. Earlier this week it was reported that she was responding well to the treatments and her oxygen levels were improving.

Her daughter is still in a stable condition, and the doctors are confident she will survive. Her mother's coronavirus has not been able to beat her.



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Exercises older people can do at home

Indoor routines. Two experts explain that it is important to do at least 30 minutes' activity a day when confined indoors for any length of time

MARINA RIVAS



EXAMPLE OF ROUTINE 1 Eugenia Ferreyra Trainer



1. Balance

This works on the muscles for stability. Stand with the back straight and your hands on your hips. Lift one leg with the knee bent, and then open your arms. Keep in that position for a few seconds.

2. Abdominals

Lie on your back and lift one leg to an angle of 90°. Lower it, and repeat with the other.

3. Squats

Holding onto a stable object, lower the hips but don't let the knees extend beyond the feet.

4. Arm push-ups

The further the feet are from the wall (this depends on each person), the more it works the muscles. Support your arms on a wall and then lean your chest towards it, bending your arms and keeping your back straight.

5. Back

Sitting erect and unsupported, raise a pole upwards, keeping your arms straight.

EXAMPLE OF ROUTINE 2 Ángel Antequera Physiotherapist



1. Walk around your home

For cardiac exercise, walk up and down a passageway for several minutes, trying to lift the knees and touching them with the opposite arm.

2. Balance

Lift a stick over your head with your arms stretched, taking a step each time you do it.

3. Squat

Bend your knees into a squat (you can use a chair for support). Lifting a weight is optional.

4. Deadweight

Like the last exercise, this is also for strength. Bend forward, back straight, holding a weight (you can choose what) with both hands.

5. Mobility

Start by standing erect, holding a brush handle (for example) vertically with one hand above the other. Stretch forwards as far as you can with your arms straight, leaning the stick away from you as you do so.

In these long days of being confined at home, our elderly relatives need more attention than ever. It is important for all of us to maintain a daily routine while we are stuck indoors, but especially so for them because they often suffer pains and other health problems which become inevitable with the passing of the years. It is very important that they take exercise. With this in mind, SUR has asked two experts to design a basic routine of five exercises adapted for elderly people, focusing on balance, strength and mobility.

The first expert is 25-year-old Ángel Antequera, from Nerja. He graduated in Physiotherapy from Malaga University, has a Masters in Manual Therapy with a neuro-

orthopaedic-clinical approach from Valencia University, and is a clinical physiotherapist for spinal problems and patients with pain. He owns the Clínica de Fisioterapia Antequera in Nerja.

The second is Eugenia Ferreyra, who is 49, was born in Argentina but has been in Malaga for 15 years. She qualified in Physical Education at La Plata university, trained in rehabilitation and functional training, among others, and currently works for the Real Club Mediterráneo teaching pilates, rehabilitation and hypopressive abdominal exercises and is an athletics monitor at the British School of Malaga. Ángel is also an athlete at Club Nerja, and Eugenia at the CAIM.

They are both accustomed to working with elderly patients. Ángel says the aim of these exercises is to improve cardio-respiratory and muscular functions, bone health, and to prevent depression and cognitive deterioration.

Both professionals say these exercise routines should be done every day for at least 20 to 30 minutes. Also, and this applies not only to elderly people but also anyone with a more sedentary lifestyle or who works from home, they should walk around the house or do mobility exercises or stretches every 45 minutes.

Ángel and Eugenia both recommend starting an exercise routine with cardio work. This can include walking up and down

stairs or walking down passageways with an 'exaggerated' movement of legs and arms, and walking on the spot, lifting the knees high.

The work on balance should come next, either using the body alone or starting to introduce other elements such as brush handles or walking sticks.

Vary the routines

There are endless exercises that can be done, but the experts say that during each session people should work on the arms, legs and abdomen. For every area they are focusing on they can do three series of between ten and 20 repetitions, according to their ability. Ángel and Eugenia also insist that

it is important for people to realise their limitations in each exercise and, if necessary, someone can help them.

It is also important for people to vary the exercise routines every day, not do the same ones. This avoids putting too much strain on muscles and tendons and causing injury. It also means people are less likely to get bored with exercising, as this can be demotivating.

Weights can be incorporated into many of these exercises, ranging from lightweight sticks to bottles or flasks, but it is important to work up to this gradually. Common sense needs to be used, as well as the body, for a perfect fitness routine.



QUARANTINED SPORTS STARS IN PICTURES



Malaga captain Adrián with his wife and children.



Karateka Damián Quintero at his Madrid home.



Unicaja basketball player Adam Waczynski with his son.



Malaga's Keidi Bare trained in his garden.



Padel player Álex Ruiz, with a weight.



Karateka María Torres exercises at home.



Malaga's Armando Sadiku does some stretching.



Argentinian handball player Rocío Campigli.

Playing at home this week

The lockdown has forced the area's elite sportsmen and women to show self-discipline and improvise in order to stay fit

BORJA GUTIÉRREZ



Last weekend was the first without competitive action for athletes up and down the country due to the cancellation of fixtures and competitions because of the coronavirus outbreak. It has meant a very drastic change to their routines as they are forced to adapt to their new surroundings and prepare a new home training routine.

Many players, whether to cure their boredom or reassure fans

that they will return to action in top condition, have taken to social media to share their new regimes with many setting up their own private gym in the living room, on the terrace or in the garden.

Two Malaga CF players, Keidi Bare and Armando Sadiku, were among the first to share their alternative activities while their captain, Adrián, said he would be using the time at home to get ahead with his studies for his

coaching badges.

The Malaga squad will be brought equipment to their homes, from weights or treadmills to an exercise bike.

Other local sports stars shared images as they spent time with their children. One was Unicaja basketball player Adam Waczynski, who posed doing push-ups at home with his son on his back.

Although we are no closer to knowing when competitive sport can return, coaching staff are looking for this situation to have as little impact as possible on their teams. There will be no lack of discipline despite the circumstances.

Karateka María Torres didn't need telling that. She hasn't stopped her daily planking nor weight training. In the absence of dumbbells, she lifted water bottles. Rincón Fertilidad's handball player Rocío Campigli also used household items to improvise, allowing her to train at home.

Meanwhile, Damián Quintero cleared a space in the basement at his Madrid home to practise his katas, while padel player Álex Ruiz used his trophy room as a makeshift gym.

The lockdown is certainly putting elite sportspeople's imagination to the test.



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Davidovich: "All we can do is train whichever way we can and await news"

The up-and-coming Malaga tennis player is worried about the effect of this stoppage on the rankings and the remainder of the calendar

PEDRO LUIS ALONSO



MALAGA. A real mess. That's how the ATP Tour is looking as a result of the global coronavirus crisis. Alejandro Davidovich, currently 94th in the ranking, will be deprived of the possibility of competing during a stretch of the season that best suited his interests, with attractive clay court events.

After the Marbella Challenger (initially scheduled to start on 30 March), Davidovich was all set to compete in seven tournaments back to back - Marrakech (an ATP 250), Monte Carlo (Masters 1,000), Godó (ATP 500), Estoril (ATP 250), Madrid and Rome (both Masters 1000) and Geneva (ATP 250). This, all before the second Grand Slam of the year, Roland Garros, from 24 May to 7 June.

The ATP Tour initially suspended the season for six weeks, until the week of 20 April, when the Godó would take place in



Davidovich on the court where he would usually train. **JOSELE**

Barcelona and an ATP250 in Hungary; now both have been postponed.

"It's been tough. We can't leave the house. I'm trying to train here or go to the supermarket for a walk, as that's all we can do," the tennis player from Rincón de la Victoria told SUR.

The player is concerned about what will happen to the rankings - his way to enter future tournaments - while he is unable to compete for points for at least six weeks. "They've not said anything

yet. We are a little alarmed. Tennis is based on defending what you did in the last year; if the next tournaments are suspended, it is no longer based about defending. For example, I have to defend 102 points at Estoril, and I don't know if that week the points will be frozen or postponed for another week of the calendar and that's when you defend them... It's all a bit vague."

At the moment, Davidovich's main concern is not to lose his form or rhythm in this, his first

season in which he is competing exclusively on the ATP Tour, having started in the top 100.

Tournaments on home turf

Another blow to Davidovich is that he will miss two major tournaments to be played in his home country.

"I've been looking forward to playing in Marbella [the Challenger at the Puente Romano Tennis Club, where he was semi-finalist in 2019] or in the Godó [tournament organised by his friend David Ferrer], at home, because since I have been out of the country for two months and was excited to play in Spain again. We'll see what decision they make and we have to accept it."

No one is quite sure when the tennis action will return. "Some say Roland Garros will still happen, others say we'll start again at Wimbledon [29 June to 12 July]. No decision has been taken and there is nothing else to do but wait and train however you can," he said.

In any case, Davidovich's season could have done without this extra complication. The 20-year-old has had a mixed time as he has tried adapting to elite tennis. After qualifying for the Australian Open, the clay tour of South America (Buenos Aires, Rio de Janeiro and Santiago de Chile) didn't go well.

IN BRIEF

GOLF

No new date yet for Andalucía Masters

SUR. The Estrella Damm Andalucía Masters, hosted by the Sergio García Foundation, scheduled to take place from 30 April to 3 May at Real Golf Club Valderrama has been postponed, organisers have announced.

Discussions are ongoing with all parties looking into the possibility of rescheduling the tournament at a later date.

Javier Reviriego, the General Manager of Real Club Valderrama, said: "We look forward to hosting players and fans when we put this exceptional situation behind us."

TENNIS

Federation suspends matches until 5 April

SUR. The Marbella Challenger tennis tournament has been postponed due to the coronavirus crisis.

While it has not been officially postponed, the Spanish Federation has announced that all national and international competitions in all categories were cancelled until 5 April.

The ATP, organisers of the Marbella event, subsequently announced that all events on the international professional circuit were suspended for six weeks.

New November date fixed for postponed Malaga Half Marathon

A record number of people had signed up to take part this Sunday and questions remain over registration for the new date

P. L. ALONSO

MALAGA. Málaga Sport, organisers of the Malaga Half Marathon, has announced a new date for the thirtieth edition of the event - Sunday 8 November.

In the statement released announcing the new date, the organisers added: "Now is the time to be careful and follow the recommendations of the health authorities. When this storm calms, and it will, we will return to the streets with our shoes, and run!"

It remains to be seen how organisers will handle the registration of the around 7,500 people



The postponement affects 7,500 people. **SALVADOR SALAS**

who had signed up to take part this Sunday, given that some people won't be able to or won't want to participate on the new date.

Sunday's race was due to welcome a record number of participants,

with places filled a month and half in advance.

The new date will be much closer to the Zurich Malaga Marathon on 13 December (although it was initially announced for 20 December).


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Who will be in charge of Malaga CF once the judicial administrator leaves?

The court has this week ordered that the ownership of the club passes back to NAS Spain 2000, led by the BlueBay hotel group

ANTONIO GÓNGORA



MÁLAGA. Although the general circumstances caused by the coronavirus crisis have led to a total halt in the world of football, the future of Malaga CF is still at stake. On Monday there was an important development: the court in Malaga ordered the provisional execution of the sentence of the so-called BlueBay case - that is to say that the property of the club passes again to NAS Spain 2000.

This company, which will now own all the shares that Sheikh Abdullah Al-Thani bought when he first arrived in 2010 (96.9 per cent), is jointly owned by Al-Thani and the hotel group BlueBay, with the former holding 51 per cent and the latter 49 per cent, but also control of the company and therefore the club.

This means that, in principle, the hotel group will take over once the judicial administration, current in place, is over.

For the time being, though, BlueBay's involvement in Malaga CF would be limited, only able to attend the club's shareholder



Lawyer José Carlos Aguilera and BlueBay president Jamal Satli Iglesias leaving the city hall. **SUR**

ers meetings.

No right to appeal

The order does not provide for the possibility of an appeal from the Al-Thani family, but the defendants can file their opposition within five working days, although the filing of the brief will not interrupt the execution of the sentence agreed on Monday.

As a result, judge Ramón Jiménez

León has asked the Superior Sports Council to transfer the ownership of Malaga's shares from NAS Football to NAS Spain 2000. This change should also appear in the register of shareholders of Malaga CF itself.

In a statement, BlueBay stated that it had full confidence in the judicial system and considered that this decision will also benefit Malaga. "This new resolution

will help create the conditions to be able to provide solutions to the difficult situation that the club is going through," the statement read.

"At BlueBay we believe in our chances of turning around the current state of affairs, as we successfully achieved in our previous stage in the management of Malaga, in which we were able to implement rigorous plans that were rational and committed to the objectives

and needs of the club."

The hotel group would have control of NAS Spain 2000, but the sole administrator of this company remains Moayad Shatat (although the former vice-president of Malaga had already resigned from his post when he resigned from the club).

Work pending

Experts consulted by SUR say that before any substantial change can occur, the club's administrator, José María Muñoz, will have to stay in his role for at least six months. During this time and before leaving, he will have to have resolved the various issues that have led the club to its current precarious financial position.

Muñoz must work to rebalance the books so that La Liga's financial restrictions aren't breached and the side can continue to compete in the division next season.

He will also have to handle the consequences of the coronavirus crisis on the club - a new crisis which will surely accelerate the need for new outside investors (several proposals have already arrived).

He, with the approval of the judge investigating the case brought forward by the Association of Minority Shareholders (APA), will also have to facilitate any handover and pertinent changes in the boards of directors both in NAS Spain 2000 and in Malaga CF.

None of this takes into account any possible action from the Al-Thani family who are loath to lose control of the club but are under investigation for several alleged crimes, including money laundering.

Plenty of work to do.

Ex-Malaga coach Joaquín Peiró dies, aged 84

The coach, who had a successful playing career with Atlético Madrid and in Italy, took the side from Segunda to Europe

DARYL FINCH

MÁLAGA. Joaquín Peiró, one of the most outstanding Spanish footballers of his generation and a charismatic coach who made a name for himself at Malaga, died on Monday at the age of 84.

Peiró coached the Malaga first

team for five seasons from 1998 to 2003, taking over during one of the lowest points in the club's history.

Following promotion back to Segunda at the end of the 1997-98 campaign, Peiró led the side to the top flight by winning the division in his first season in charge.

Under his leadership, the side subsequently won the 2002 UEFA Intertoto Cup (beating Villarreal 2-1 on aggregate) and reached the quarter-finals of the UEFA Cup the following year

(knocked out by Portuguese side Boavista on penalties).

They went on to seal a club record seven consecutive seasons in the top flight.

Playing career

Born in Madrid on 29 January 1936, Peiró progressed through the Atlético Madrid youth system before making his debut for the first team in 1954.

He won the 1961-62 European Cup Winners' Cup, scoring in both the final proper and the replay.

After a long stint with the Colchoneros (95 goals in 166 games over eight seasons), the attacking midfielder continued his professional career for a decade more on Italian soil, playing for Torino, Inter Milan and Roma.

He was one of the standout



Peiró on the SUR terrace, overlooking La Rosaleda stadium. **S. SALAS**

players of the period and represented Spain at two World Cups.

As a coach, Peiró managed the Atlético reserve team, Granada,

Figuera, Atlético's first team, Murcia, Badajoz, Malaga and, finally, he ended his managerial career with Real Murcia.

IN BRIEF

INVESTIGATION

More arrests made over leaked Víctor video

J. C. / Á. F. The investigation into the leaked sexually explicit video of former Malaga coach Víctor Sánchez del Amo has led to nine arrests in the last few weeks.

All of these have been in con-

nection with sharing the video on social media (Whatsapp, Twitter, Telegram etc) and not with the attempted extortion of 20,000 euros in order to prevent the broadcast of the video.

Police hope to follow the chain of distribution to the original digital source. From there, they can track down the criminals behind the attempted extortion.



Víctor Sánchez del Amo. S. SALAS

CONTRACT

Winger Hicham signs new deal until 2022

A. G. Moroccan winger Hicham has signed a new contract to stay with Malaga until the end of the 2021/22 season. The 22-year-old's present deal was set to expire at the end of the year and the club have moved to tie him down for a further two campaigns. It has not been specified if he has signed a professional or youth contract.

COMMUNITY

Fan groups offer helping hand to the elderly

B. G. With the football postponed for the foreseeable future, Malaga's supporters groups are coming together to offer help to elderly people in need in the community. Organised by the Frente Bokerón (reached via social media), they are offering to help get in supplies for those who are isolated by the coronavirus lockdown.

Cubillo: "The league has to be completed; even if it's in August"

The Marbella coach doesn't believe league action will resume until at least May or June

JULIO RODRÍGUEZ

MARBELLA. Marbella's push for promotion has been postponed by the coronavirus outbreak, with players forced to train at home while being monitored remotely by the club's coaching staff.

Leading these efforts is head coach David García Cubillo who has remained in the town, separated by the lockdown from his wife (in Madrid) and children (in Badajoz) but is "calm" about the situation and is keeping himself "busy, working".

"I'm keeping the same routine as always and am making the most of the extra time to come up with new training routines, study tactics and our upcoming opponents," he said.

Asked when he thought the



David Cubillo on the sideline. J. R.

league would return, he dismissed suggestions of an April restart: "It will be more like May or June and we'll have a whole lot of games at once, playing on the Wednesday then the Sunday," he said.

"We will have a long break but the league has to be completed, even if it's in August."



A LOOK AT LA LIGA
ROB PALMER

Commentator, Sky Sports

The masterplan

Football's big cheeses are working on a return to action, but no one can know when this is all going to blow over



Wouldn't it be wonderful if we were all together on the football terraces instead of staring in isolation into the uncertain distance from the terraces of our homes?

UEFA came up with a plan last week for when the world comes out of the tunnel and football can resume. It's incredibly ambitious as nobody can determine what on earth is going to happen next.

The European championships have been put off until the summer of 2021 clearing the diary for summer 2020.

The grand plan is to get the domestic leagues resumed so that they can be completed by the end of June with the Champions League and Europa League finals being played in the latter days of the month. It's an optimistic strategy and let's hope that it can be instigated.

It would make sense for La Liga to follow the example of the Premier League decision makers who have decided they will ensure the season does reach a conclusion and play won't resume until at least 30 April 30. There is an argument that the contracts of some players end on 30 June, however they have plenty of warning now to thrash out deals with that in mind and it will only affect a minority or unwanted or overly demanding players.

Look on the bright side; it may mean an end to those pointless pre-season tours. Teams could finish in June or July, have a couple of weeks turnaround and get straight back at it again. With the winter break and this enforced layoff, they don't need further absence or fitness training in the summer.



Euro 2020 has been officially postponed until summer 2021. EFE

Right now, La Liga season is parked at round 27 with no real idea when round 28 will commence. Footballers, like everyone else, are observing the lockdown. Some clubs, like Valencia and Espanyol, have reported that several of their players have the Covid-19 virus; others, like Celta, have refused the suggestion that footballers should be tested.

I suspect football matches will be played, at least initially, behind closed doors and beamed into homes. This could spark the television transformation whereby most matches will be available via a streaming-type service. There was a strong suggestion that this was the case before the seriousness of the situation was fully realised.

There is no substitute for the matchday experience - a caña

and bocadillo in tin foil in Spain, pie and pint in the UK or hotdog and soda in the USA - but we may have to find a compromise.

In the UK Championship, all midweek matches are available online, though Sky has made them available via the satellite box.

Hopefully when the virus has peaked, the footballers, who are among the fittest and healthiest in society will be the first back to work and they can help break the monotony which has already kicked in. Looking at social media, most of them have been keeping active by juggling toilet rolls around the house so they haven't lost total sharpness.

As we seek normality the footballers can see the return to the football pitch as a public service and we can stock up with sunflower seeds and cold beer.

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THE STARS




Aquarius
January 21 - February 19
The fact is that you are a bright individual who finds some people boring. However, try to be tactful when dealing with old friends..




Pisces
February 20th - March 20th
Life is as confusing for you as it is for others. Sometimes, especially this week, you can't pinpoint what you want.




Aries
March 21st - April 20th
A good week for talking to those in authority. Don't be put off by lots of paperwork on a project. Take your time and just plough through.




Taurus
April 21st - May 21st
Midweek something that you find out about a friend leaves you feeling a chill of disappointment. Are you right to question your instincts? Go to the source.




Gemini
May 22nd - June 21st
Show your interest in what a loved one is doing. You may neglect someone and not feel the anger from them. Ignore them, though, at your peril.




Cancer
June 22nd - July 23rd
Has one relationship in your life been a bit one-sided? Maybe taking someone close for granted has caused bad feelings? Well, you will never know if you don't ask!




Leo
July 24th - August 23rd
A certain kind of mild standoffishness seems to be going on around you. Do you think you know why? You could be wrong.




Virgo
August 24th - September 23rd
Someone's attitude toward you may make you sense that you have done something wrong. Before you get into that, however, find out what they expect from you in the longer term.




Libra
September 24th - October 23rd
Someone who you admire turns out not to have all the qualities that you had hoped. The question is, are you willing to accept someone who is not perfect?



Scorpio
October 24th - November 22nd
Have you been exhausting yourself? This is good in as much as it gives you time to make any changes to plans. It also gives the chance to get to know someone better.



Sagittarius
November 23rd - December 21st
Those who have not seen you for some time can be helpful for advice. However, make sure that you give them all the facts, good and bad. Don't dress anything up but yourself!

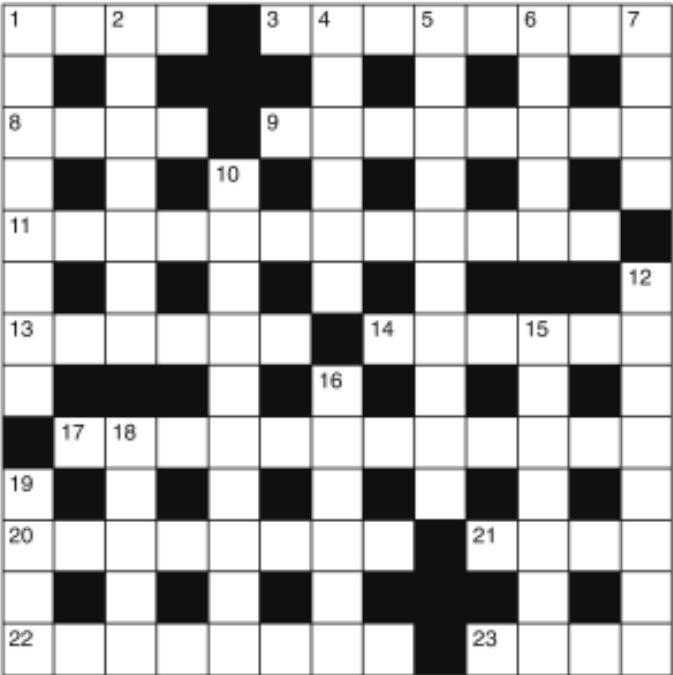


Capricorn
December 22nd - January 20th
Consider starting something from the beginning if it does not seem to be working. This can be especially true of health issues. Second opinions seem to be the order of the week!

THE SEVEN DIFFERENCES



CRYPTIC CROSSWORD N° 11401



Across

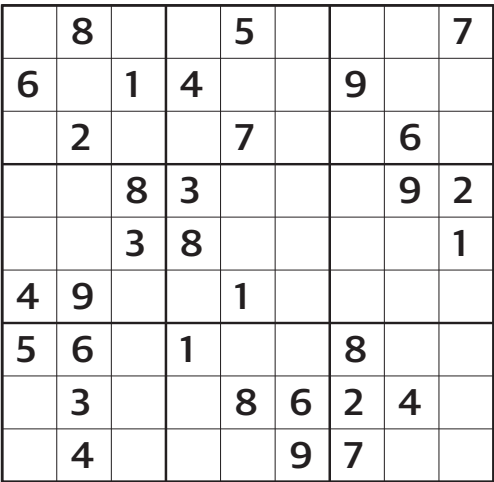
- 1 Music associated with the Stones? (4)
- 3 Effect of drinking for George the first in his house (8)
- 8 Bet on throwing a ten (4)
- 9 Given a tag like a boy taking in a girl (8)
- 11 Perhaps corn is marred by a folk entertainer (6,6)
- 13 Some most enchanting smell (6)
- 14 Be important as an affair (6)
- 17 Postman? (3,2,7)
- 20 Currently outrageous (8)
- 21 Rage about the equipment (4)
- 22 Access payment (5,3)
- 23 Light bucket, say (4)

Down

- 1 Coming last is perhaps most rare (8)
- 2 Clique with somewhere to sleep on the lake (7)
- 4 Prizes for showing conflict in commercials (6)
- 5 Envious at social event for conservationists (5,5)
- 6 Worth of a film category in the valley (5)
- 7 Travelled the street, say (4)
- 10 His job is put on record (4,6)
- 12 Save some jam (8)
- 15 She gets heaters out (7)
- 16 Leg can be fixed with a brief look (6)
- 18 Concerning a seaman who is not at home (5)
- 19 Lies about the eyot (4)

SUDOKU BY HANZO

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



THE WORDPUZZLER

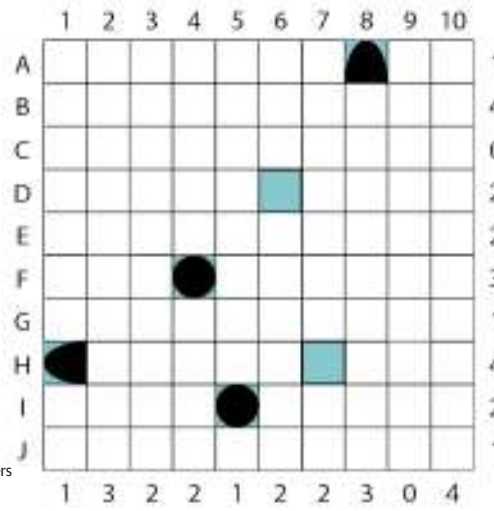
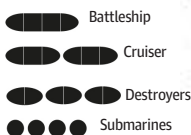


Can you identify the words that contain 'per' from the clues listed below?

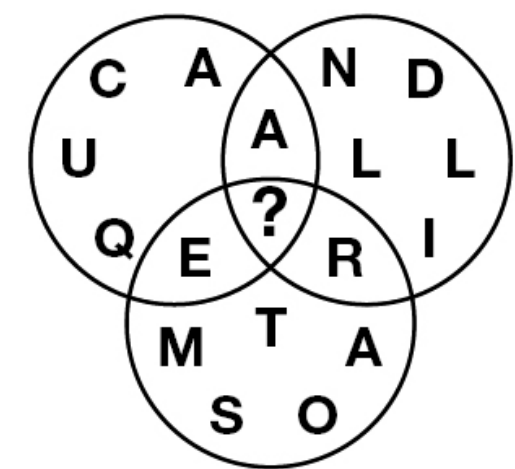
1. Ruler
2. Saucy
3. Smile coyly
4. Hair-style
5. Smart
6. Wonderful
7. Presidential Candidate
8. Writing material
9. Fairy
10. Shoe part

BATTLESHIPS

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



CIRCLEGRAM



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

LANGUAGE CROSSWORD FILL IN THE SPANISH WORD

Across

1) Legendary (10)

5) Persecution (11)

12) Cream (4)

13) I laughed (3)

14) Dawn (4)

15) Romantic (m) (9)

16) Salt (3)

18) God (4)

19) This (4)

20) Map (4)

21) To land (9)

22) Music (6)

24) Uncle (3)

25) Goddess (5)

27) Leather (4)

30) Employees (9)

33) With (3)

34) Consulate (9)

37) The (f) (2)

38) Street (5)

40) Marriage (10)

41) Royal (4)

44) Evocative (8)

45) Ceremony (9)

46) Rings (4)

48) Estuary (3)

49) Arches (5)

51) Crossed (m.pl) (8)

52) Symbolically (14)

53) Dress (7)

Down

1) Honeymoon (4,2,4) (10)

2) Trickle (5)

3) Deformed (f) (9)

4) Lightning (9)

6) Europeans (8)

7) Six (4)

8) Shawl (4)

9) Covered (f) (8)

10) Bride and groom (6)

11) British (m) (9)

17) Plane (5)

23) He blows (5)

26) Here (4)

28) Proclaimed (m.pl) (11)

29) Exchange (11)

31) Beetle (10)

32) I sleep (6)

33) Pillars (8)

34) To crash (6)

35) Playing cards (6)

36) Chess (7)

39) Wars (7)

42) Wedding (4)

43) Chord (6)

46) Asthma (4)

47) Eleven (4)

50) I fell (3)

ANSWERS

Quiz answers

to as a brinicle.
hollow stalactite, or icicle, referred
surrounding water. This creates a
a lower freezing point than the
extremely cold and salty water with
creating a downward flow of dense,
salt brine is expelled from the ice,
Of interest: As seawater freezes
Answer: A sea icicle
the SS) Jaguar.
(and because of the connotations of
Cars Ltd and then after the war,
After Walmesley left it became SS
Swallow Sidecar Company in 1922.
Walmesley and William Lyons started
Of interest: Two friends, William
Answer: Jaguar

Language Crossword

ACROSS

1. JAGUAR

2. JAGUAR

3. JAGUAR

4. JAGUAR

5. JAGUAR

6. JAGUAR

7. JAGUAR

8. JAGUAR

9. JAGUAR

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47. JAGUAR

48. JAGUAR

49. JAGUAR

50. JAGUAR

51. JAGUAR

52. JAGUAR

53. JAGUAR

DOWN

1. JAGUAR

2. JAGUAR

3. JAGUAR

4. JAGUAR

5. JAGUAR

6. JAGUAR

7. JAGUAR

8. JAGUAR

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52. JAGUAR

53. JAGUAR

Cryptic Crossword

Solution: Across: 1 Rock; 3 Hangover; 8 Anti; 9 Labelled; 11 Manta; 12 Manta; 13 Manta; 14 Manta; 17 Manta; 18 Manta; 20 Shocking; 21 Green; 22 Entry fee; 23 Pale; Down: 1 Room; 2 Corner; 4 Awaras; 5 Green; 6 Party; 8 Value; 7 Road; 10 Dice; 11 About; 15 Threw; 16

Clues: 18 About; 19 15th

Wordpuzzler solution

1. Emperor

2. Pert

3. Simper

4. Perm

5. Dapper

6. Super

7. Perot

8. Paper

9. Pert

10. Upper

HASIMPEUIT

IMPEERPPPO

SPEIRIMOPPER

PERDAPPERB

ORLOPERRUP

SIMPEREISE

LAGAROMPERR

ASUPERERO

SEVESPORIT

TERMPETERT

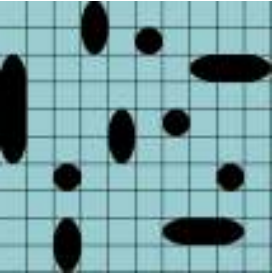
Sudoku solution

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

Circlegram

The letter represented by the
question mark is M. Macaque,
mandrill, marmoset, all types
of monkey

Battleships



WHERE IS THIS?

A tower of violins and war

Last week:
Nerja

A large modern sculpture adorns this
roundabout on Calle Puente Viejo in
Nerja.



THE SUR IN ENGLISH CORNER

It's business as usual!

Borders may be closed, move-
ment restricted and we've all
been forced into socially distanc-
ing ourselves but that's not go-
ing to stop SUR in English from
doing what we do best, keeping
our readers up to date with news
and events across the region. The
coronavirus is affecting all of us
in some way, shape or form and
is already showing signs of bring-
ing communities to-
gether in surprising
ways. If you have a
story to tell that will

help lift people's spirits, whether
it be a whole street rising in song
from their balconies or a simple
act of kindness to an elderly
neighbour or friend, why not
write in and share it with us and
other readers? Distribution points
may be reduced while the crisis
continues (we're working to over-
come that) but the paper will still
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PHOTO FOCUS



Healthcare workers back the #StayatHome campaign. **SUR**



Youngsters have been making artwork with reassuring slogans. **SUR**



Baritone Carlos Álvarez sang from his balcony. **SUR**



Applause from windows has become a nightly occurrence. **SUR**

Quarantine brings out the community spirit

The nationwide lockdown may be restricting physical contact between fellow citizens, but the events of this week have shown that community spirit is still strong. The first community response came in the form of applause for health service workers which has since become a regular occurrence, every

night at 8pm. In what first originated from a Whatsapp message, everyone has been encouraged to go to their windows and balconies to show their appreciation for their invaluable work.

In return, workers displayed the words 'Gracias Málaga' on the windows of the Regional Hospital, while backing the #StayatH-

ome campaign.

Elsewhere, children have been producing artwork with slogans such as "Everything will be fine" that are being posted on social media. Social media has also turned into a platform for people to offer their help either with home schooling, going out to get supplies for the more vulner-

able in society, or with any other problems (from no Wi-Fi to broken TVs) people have been encountering.

Others have set up online classes for their fellow citizens to join in, while some communities have participated in communal exercise classes from their terraces or sing-alongs to popular

songs. One notable face was that of Malaga baritone Carlos Álvarez who took to his balcony to perform two songs of unity.

Elsewhere, in Júzcar, known as the smurf village, locals celebrated their patron saint, San José, from their balconies on Thursday, recreating the sounds of the procession.

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