



HEALTH CRISIS

Reported cases of coronavirus on the Costa break through the 2,000 barrier

Number of Covid-19 patients in Spain continues to rise amid mixed signals over whether the peak has arrived

The number of reported cases of coronavirus continued to grow this week, although the daily increase is now well below its peak.

After a fall in the rate of new cases for several days, this figure

was growing again by midweek.

One minister suggested life could start to get back to normal from 26 April but health officials said the country was still in the “tough part” of the pandemic. **P4-8**

i To keep up to date with latest on the coronavirus pandemic over Easter visit our website, www.surinenglish.com, and follow us on Facebook and Twitter



FROM SPORTS HALL TO HOSPITAL WARD

An extra 165 beds have been set up in record time at the Carranque sports complex near the Hospital Regional in Malaga city **P4**

The Andalusian president and the mayor of Malaga joined other officials at the site on Tuesday. **SUR**

Junta offers help to the self-employed

Regional government plans to pay up to 300 euros to 'autónomos' who cannot claim other State relief

The Junta de Andalucía has said that it will pay out 300 euros to up to an estimated 140,000 local self-employed who won't be covered by central government aid during the coronavirus crisis.

The payment is designed to

cover the April social security baseline quota. New 'autónomos' paying 60 euros will get that amount reimbursed instead.

The move is expected to cost the regional authority 40 million euros. **P11**

MUCH MORE INSIDE

What are your rights if your flight has been cancelled?

Our guide to what to do if travel plans have been affected **P10**

Meeting on online video apps keeps Costa social life moving

Everything from weddings to book clubs have gone virtual **P14**

Holy Week brotherhoods swap images for food parcels

Members are showing their charitable side this Easter **P7**

Keep your pets clean and wipe their paws after a walk

Animals can't pass on Covid-19 but it can stick to fur **P11**

Drama in the restaurant sector: 80,000 people with no work and 270m-euro losses



The normally crowded Pedregalejo promenade in Malaga, with all its restaurants and bars closed. **ÑITO SALAS**

The absence of tourists and obligatory social distancing measures will mean the recovery from the coronavirus crisis will be slower in this sector

JUAN SOTO



MALAGA. Juan Manuel Buri has just had to temporarily lay off 150 employees. The current state of alarm caught him by surprise, as it did almost everybody, with storerooms full of supplies and a large staff preparing for the start of the forthcoming peak season for the hotel and restaurant sector.

Buri, one of the owners of Casa Lola, a chain of five restaurants between Malaga and Marbella, is aware that nothing will be the same when this health crisis is over, especially in his business.

The absence of tourists and the need for social distancing measures which will have to be implemented before normality returns, are going to make recovery especially difficult for a sector which is already predicting losses of millions of euros on the Costa del Sol.

Beyond the uncertainty of not knowing when they can reopen, the drama for the restaurant sector can be summed up by the cold, hard numbers: business owners estimate about 270 million euros in losses and 80,000 people are

currently without work in the province of Malaga. In fact the bar and restaurant sector accounts for about 30 per cent of all the ERTes (the scheme which allows employers to temporarily lay off staff) registered in Andalucía.

According to the most optimistic calculations by the restaurant association in Malaga province, bars and restaurants will be the last to recover from the coronavirus crisis and it will be at least six months before they see their premises and outside terraces full again.

Juan Manuel Buri believes that Spain and the other countries affected are going to follow the same steps as China, where normal activity has still not resumed despite the restrictions starting at the beginning of the year. He explains that his sister-in-law lives in Hong Kong and restaurants there have had to restrict the number of customers by 50 per cent and are not permitted to seat more than four people at a table. "2020 is already lost. I would settle for not losing more money for the rest of the year," he says.

For Javier Frutos, president of the Mahos association, the real problem is not knowing when or how activity will resume. Like the vast majority of professionals in this sector, he knows turnover is going to be badly affected and warns that numerous companies are going to suffer badly.

"Some companies aren't going to get through this, especially small businesses, those with a large staff or that have to pay high rents," he says.

This businessman, who is also a partner in several businesses in Malaga city centre - Mesón Cantarranas, Taberna El Mentidero, La Abacería and the Y Dice Matías pizzeria - believes that businesses will manage for the first few months after lockdown thanks to the ICO credits for entrepreneurs, but he warns that if the government doesn't waive taxes many

Business owners expect this summer to be written off and they estimate that it will take at least six months for the sector to start to recover

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THE SECTOR, IN FIGURES

270

million euros in losses will be suffered by the restaurant sector in the province, according to calculations by the Mahos association.

80% of workers in the sector

About 80,000 people work in bars and restaurants in Malaga province, which is around 80% of the sector. The hotels employ about 17,000 personas.



30%

of the ERTES (Expedientes de Regulación de Empleo Temporal) registered in Andalucía are for employees of bars and restaurants.

Clients try to help businesses by buying drinks in advance

The special link that is often created between bars and restaurants and their clients has led to different projects being started in order to help one of the sectors which is most affected by this health crisis. As an example there are adoptaunbar.com (adopt a bar) and the #SalvemosNuestrosRestau-

rantes movement, initiatives that aim to ease the economic losses faced by the sector.

The first of these is a website where clients are invited to pay for their beers and other drinks in advance to help those who run the establishments. The people behind it explain that the aim is to put the businesses in contact with their clients so they can buy their drinks now and consume them when the business reopens. It will mean that "the

bars will have the cash to be able to carry on when the crisis is over".

The other project was set up by the platform El Tenedor (The Fork) and it works in a similar fashion: The client buys a voucher for between 10 and 250 euros and the business receives that money to help it pay its employees and the bills until it reopens. Once the restaurant is open again, the client can enjoy the meal they have bought.

will have to close down.

"If they only delay payment of taxes and people then have to repay the loans, their staff and the taxes, they are going to create a situation that many won't be able to cope with," he says.

Another business owner affected by the lack of tourists on the Costa del Sol is Thomas Weller, a Canadian businessman with seven restaurants in Mijas, including Aroma Café & Secret Garden, Tapintxos and Latitud 36, among others.

He explains that the area normally relies on Asian tourism for much of the year, so the coronavirus alert has meant they practically stopped working at the start of 2020.

"The Chinese New Year is a very important time for us and this

year we have lost it completely," he says.

He also believes this summer will have to be written off and admits he would be pleased to start working again in September or October.

"If we recover 50 per cent of Chinese tourists for next year, it will be great news," he says. "This is going to be like a wheel, and the speed at which we recover will depend on what we all contribute between us: businesses, employees, owners of premises and the government."

The 'chiringuito' beach restaurants are also reliant on tourism and they are extremely worried by this crisis. The president of the association of beach businesses in Malaga, Manuel Villafaina, says this is a profound cri-

sis for the sector, because "even though a business is closed, it still generates expenses".

Like the others, he believes this year is lost and that the only solution will be to apply for loans.

"Next year, we will have to start from scratch," he says.

For Pablo Gonzalo, who runs El Pimpi, one of Malaga's iconic bars for tourists, the immediate future is going to mean attracting local people and tourists from other parts of Spain.

Before the crisis began, around 50 per cent of the clients in this city centre establishment were from outside Malaga, so he believes it is essential to adapt to the circumstances.

"We business owners have to press the 're-set' button and start the battle from zero," he says.

Crisis expected to see 25 per cent of hotels on the Costa del Sol shut down for good

PILAR MARTÍNEZ

MALAGA. Some 25 per cent of hotels in Malaga province won't reopen as a result of the coronavirus crisis. This is the view of the president of the Costa del Sol Hoteliers' Association (Aehcos), Luis Callejón Suñé.

Without the expected income from Easter and the summer, a large majority of business-owners in the tourist accommodation sector fear they won't be able to operate at all in the last quarter of the year.

"The sooner we become aware of the gravity of the situation, the sooner we can take action and get out of it," he insists.

In order to combat the expected losses, on Tuesday the Costa's tourism sector as a whole (hotels, restaurants, beach bars, travel agencies and rental companies) reached a unanimous agreement to start working on a product that will revolutionise the destination and will be a key part in its recovery.

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Extra hospital beds for Costa ready at Carranque in record time

The new centre with space for nearly 200 patients was opened as a slowdown in infection rate was also freeing up existing capacity

IVÁN GELIBTER



MALAGA. Almost 200 temporary hospital beds for Malaga and the Costa del Sol, ready to be used in record time. The regional Health ministry unveiled its extra Carranque I hospital facility this week, put together in a matter of days in part thanks to support and donations from private firms.

The new medical centre is located in 1,500 square metres of the sports complex of the same name just across the road from the Hospital Regional in Malaga city. It will be used as needed if cases increase, and has 165 normal beds for now, as well as 10 intensive care spaces. The size can be increased to 400 beds as required.

Opening the site on Tuesday was Juanma Moreno, regional president, along with Malaga's mayor, Francisco de la Torre, and other public officials.

Moreno thanked those who had helped get it ready so quickly, saying it was "palpable proof" of the



A basketball net and seating stand watches over the extra beds in the sports pavilion. SUR



There are ten intensive care beds in the new centre. SUR



Holy brotherhoods have offered decoration. S. SALAS

ability of the Junta to "anticipate and plan", faced with coronavirus.

He added, "Last week we activated Plan 9,000, even though we haven't reached that number of affected and we are going to go one step further with a second con-

tingency plan for 15,000 affected."

A total of 7,750 extra normal beds and 1,030 intensive care beds will be made available across Andalucía, he explained.

The head of the regional health service this week cautiously ex-

plained that so far the evolution of coronavirus in Andalucía hadn't filled all spare hospital capacity. Jesús Aguirre said on Monday that there was 59 per cent of normal hospital capacity and 33 per cent of intensive care capacity

available to take any upsurge in cases.

A total of 131,146 fast coronavirus test kits were sent by central government to Andalucía this week and the region hopes to reach 20,000 tests a day shortly.

Andalusian health service criticised for blaming Madrid for its ban on staff speaking out

ALBERTO GÓMEZ

MALAGA. The Andalusian health service was criticised this week for writing to its staff to tell them not to talk publicly about their treatment of coronavirus patients because of a central government order.

Up to now, the source of much public information on the evolution of the crisis in Spain, including criticism, has come from the real-time accounts of healthcare workers.

The regional bosses, controlled by the conservative PP party, appeared to use the excuse of an order by PSOE-controlled central government to gag health workers. Under the state of alarm, Madrid has taken control from the regions of health-data gathering, which has caused tension between the two levels of government.

The letter asked staff to "keep secret" information about their duties or face possible criminal charges. But the PSOE said that the government order had been misinterpreted and warned the PP not to play politics with the crisis.

Fewer cases reported since peak but the "tough phase" is not over

Data on Wednesday showed Malaga and the Costa had had 2,006 reported cases in the crisis so far with 137 intensive care admissions

SUR

MALAGA. In the early part of this week, the number of new cases and deaths in Spain linked to coronavirus were showing daily reductions.

Despite the daily increases creeping up again on Wednesday, (8 April), there was still an optimistic sense that Spain was past the peak rate of increase and the curve was flattening. However, government health chiefs stressed

that the country was still in the "tough phase" of the pandemic and urged people not to relax the lockdown.

On Wednesday, data showed that in Malaga province, including the Costa del Sol, 2,006 Covid-19 cases had been recorded to date, resulting in 1,130 hospital and 137 intensive care admissions. While the 73 new cases reported on Wednesday was an increase on the previ-

Madrid and Catalonia were the worst affected regions with 42,450 and 29,647 cases respectively since the outbreak by Wednesday

ous day, the discharge of many patients is taking some pressure off hospital capacity. 140 people have died locally, say official statistics.

By Wednesday, across all the eight provinces of Andalucía, there had been 8,997 reported cases and 605 notified deaths. Madrid and Catalonia were still the worst affected regions with 42,450 and 29,647 cases respectively since the outbreak began.

Across all Spain, the total cases reported was 146,690 by Wednesday, a daily increase of 6,180. This was slightly up on Tuesday's figure of 5,478 new cases but a long way down on the peak reported daily infection rate of 9,222 on 30 March. Nationally, 48,021 of the reported cases had recovered on Wednesday, data showed.

Concern over method of calculating official death figures

Government follows a European standard as doctors certify many unaccounted deaths as suspected Covid-19 cases

SUR

MADRID / MALAGA. There were growing reports this week from health workers and undertakers that the number of deaths reported as due to coronavirus was significantly less than reality. Opposition parties called on the government to explain the inconsistencies.

Health minister, Salvador Illa said, "We are guided by systems laid out that have to be followed so that everyone has standard data. All European countries have to communicate cases con-

firmed by laboratory and that is what the Government of Spain is doing." Journalists took the minister's comments to mean that if a test was not carried out, the death was not counted.

The government has ordered burial registries to carry out an urgent recheck of their data, but many staff are not working and death certificates are lacking cause-of-death information.

Much criticism revolved around the failure to record the cause of death in old people's homes. Reports on Wednesday said that 4,750 deaths had been recorded in Madrid's homes since the crisis but only 781 definitely attributed to Covid-19.

In Malaga, doctors have been certifying at least ten deaths a day suspected of being due to the virus but not confirmed.

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"At our age you're not afraid of dying; luckily we have had a good life together"

A couple from Antequera who have been married for 60 years are recovering from coronavirus after eight days in hospital

ANTONIO J. GUERRERO

ANTEQUERA. Wedding vows include the words 'in sickness and in health' and that still applies to Francisca Valverde Guerrero, 84, and Rafael de la Linde Pérez, 88, who have survived coronavirus at the hospital in Antequera and are now at home recovering. What

was it like, being ill together? "More affectionate than ever; we have been married for 60 years and we have been through a lot together," says Francisca.

They were born in 1932 and 1936 and two weeks ago they were taken by ambulance and admitted to the hospital, where they were put into the same room. Francisca says she is very grateful for the way they were treated in hospital. She says there is always hope and she wishes the TV wouldn't spend all day talking about coronavirus and deaths and would give positive news instead.



Francisca Valverde Guerrero and Rafael de la Linde Pérez, recovering at home from Covid-19. **SUR**

There is a great deal of talk about this virus, but what was it like? "We were ill at home for four days. I had a temperature of 39, and my husband's was 38.5. We rang our children and an ambulance came," explains Francisca.

Like many people, they had breathing problems when they arrived and "after doing some tests they confirmed we had it, and put us in a room together. We were there for eight days," she says. They were days with fe-

ver, feeling ill and pains, but the hospital staff were lovely. "I hope they live for many years to come, but when it is their turn they will go straight to heaven because they are such good people," says Francisca.



"Things will be different in future, and we will change them ourselves"

He suspects he caught the virus from a client who had just arrived from Madrid; his love of painting helped him pass his six days in hospital

H. BARBOTTA

MARBELLA. Businessman Miguel Gómez Molina considers himself a fortunate person, although the way he believes he contracted the illness would seem to contradict that. On 14 March, the day he decided to close his jewellery shop in Puerto Banús, one of the last customers to come in had just arrived in Marbella from Madrid. On that day numerous people travelled from Madrid to spend the coronavi-

rus lockdown in the town. Miguel is almost 100 per cent sure that is how he caught it.

Two days later the symptoms began. "On the Sunday my temperature was up and I had a cough and I thought it was a touch of flu, but the fever got worse, coming and going, and my muscles ached like I had been beaten up," he says. "After eight days, I got up in the morning and nearly collapsed. I couldn't keep any food down, and my wife took me to the Quirón Hospital in Marbella".

There, doctors carried out tests and admitted him. Two days later he was diagnosed with lateral pneumonia due to Covid-19. He wasn't intubated but was given oxygen to increase the level in his lungs.



Miguel Gómez, in his studio at home. **SUR**

"You feel awful at first, helpless because your body wants to fight the virus but can't, and you feel it is consuming you."

After four or five days, the tests began to give better results.

Although he tried not to spend too much time looking at the news, he did read a paper and listened to the radio every day.

Miguel loves painting and he found art was a form of escape.

"Luckily my wife brought me my watercolours and I spent a lot of time painting and listening to music," he says. He tried to use painting as a way of forgetting the virus, but seeing that the nursing staff rarely came in and left his meals outside his door, aroused his worst fears. "There comes a time when you start to feel well again and you really just want to go home," he says.

Although he agrees with the decision to go out onto balconies every evening and applaud health workers, he warns that in future there will have to be a reflection on the situation. "If there had been more tests available, I'm sure a lot of people would not have been infected," he says.

He believes this crisis will result in profound changes. "All the paradigms will have to change and this is something we will make happen ourselves. Nobody who hasn't been through this can imagine how much it cheers you up to receive a phone call from someone you love, or a message. I appreciate every word, and every emoji," he says.



The staff didn't stop all day or night. "Do you want a coffee, do you want me to take you to the bathroom? If you hadn't eaten in the evening, they would offer you something hot even in the middle of the night," she says. "You feel awful, because you're so ill. I wasn't hungry, I didn't want to do anything, but the kindness helps you fight the illness," she says. "They are all wonderful. They did everything for us. A blood test every day to see how we were doing. And an antibiotic, and I'm allergic to it but had to have it because of the virus. I had never felt so ill, but without it I might not have recovered."

They have oxygen at home, and use it for a while during the day and then during the night. "Our GP rings every day, to see if we're all right, and if we have symptoms again we're to let him know," says Francisca.

Had they been afraid? "No. At our age you're not afraid of dying. You have had a good life and if you have to go, well, that's all there is to it," she says.

Semana Santa sees food parcels in the streets instead of religious images

With all public celebrations called off, the organisers of the traditional Holy Week processions turn their attention to helping others

SUR

MALAGA. Occasionally rain has caused the cancellation - or interruption - of one of Andalucía's Holy Week processions, causing tears of disappointment among participants.

In Malaga we have to go back 84 years to 1936, however, to find the last time that not a single procession left its church.

This year, faced with the cancellation of the entire week of public celebrations due to the coronavirus lockdown, the brotherhoods that organise the proces-



Food is delivered to the needy thanks to a brotherhood's initiative. **SUR**

sions have turned their energies to the immediate cause. Examples of donations to hospitals and work in the community can be found across the region.

'Semana Santa Solidaria' is the

name of the programme launched by the Malaga brotherhoods (cofradías), which immediately offered their premises, financial resources and volunteers to help with the coronavirus crisis.

"We started with a blood donation campaign, which was successful; we've given financial help to Hermanitas de los Pobres and Cáritas; we've set up a project with Bomberos sin Fronteras to distribute masks; and we have volunteers who are working to distribute medication to families who can't go out to collect it," said Pablo Atencia, the president of the brotherhoods' umbrella organisation, the Agrupación de Cofradías.

"We have approved a fund of 26,000 euros which will be increased," he added.

Food initiative

One Malaga brotherhood that has gone a step further to help families hit by the coronavirus crisis is the Cofradía de Jesús de Medinaceli, which has invested its annual budget of 10,000 euros in charity work.

From the bar belonging to one of the members, a small team of volunteers manages the distribution of food among local people in need, in collaboration with the Bancosol foodbank and the council.

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Lorry drivers have been working non-stop, many of them giving up their Easter holidays, to bring much-needed supplies

IGNACIO LILLO

MALAGA. Across logistics and distribution centres during this period, especially for food and medical equipment, the responsibility weighs heavily. Families and the sick depend on them to ensure that their homes and hospitals are stocked up during this crisis. Officially regarded as essential workers, many transporters are giving up their Easter holidays - with the government's permission - to en-

sure supplies get through. And it doesn't come without its difficulties; until recently they had nowhere to stop and rest.

"I won't stop until everything is back to normal; no matter how many months it takes," says Juan Manuel Pedrosa, 33, who followed his father into the profession. "It's a bit overwhelming, we're giving it our all, but no matter how many trucks go out, it's never enough. We're working night and day, always respecting the minimum daily rest of nine hours," he says.

He also points out that the government has relaxed regulations regarding other waiting times.

"Many weekends I haven't stopped. I keep working hard, I've been crazy for a few days," he ad-



David Lapeira, a lorry driver from Vélez-Málaga. **SALVADOR SALAS**

mits, but he doesn't blame the people who are keeping him so busy: "It's normal that supermarket sales increase because you have to do everything at home; you can't go out to eat at the weekend anymore."

When he enters a logistics warehouse he protects himself with a mask and gloves, "although we self-employed have special

blood, we never get sick", he jokes.

Responsibility

Claudio Samuel Pasolea also feels the weight of responsibility during this time. This truck driver, of Romanian origin, has been living in Madrid for almost half his life. "I load up there and drop off in Malaga with a stop at the company's office in Bailén," he says.

He always drives at night to take fruit and vegetables to the supermarkets. "Some weekends I've been making extra trips because they needed trucks. People need to go shopping and you have to help; it's not for the money, 60 or 100 euros more won't make you rich, but I see I'm helping," he says.

The worst part, however, is that some petrol stations won't allow them inside to use the toilets or a place to have a coffee. But, in response, the Ministry of Transport has since created a georeferenced map of rest areas for transporters during the state of alarm.

Miguel Pertierra, 49, drives a 40-tonne trailer across the country, from Oviedo to Malaga. "We have to do our part," he says. The first days were difficult because the service areas completely denied access, but now he can find more facilities for shopping, eating and using the showers and toilets. "We can't eat cold meat all day," he jokes.

Like these men, today once more hundreds of truck drivers are driving on Malaga's roads to ensure that no one goes without this Easter.



Lockdown to last until at least 26 April, followed by gradual easing of restrictions, says minister

The government wants opposition parties to agree to wide-ranging cross-party pacts to ease the economic crisis

SUR

MADRID. The national government confirmed the extension of the state of alarm in Spain until 26 April this week, although it said that it will probably be extended once again after that date.

However, in a television interview on Wednesday, minister for Finance and government spokesperson, María Jesús Montero, issued a reassuring message that she expected that the public could begin to recover "normal life" after 26 April, although "returning to streets and squares" would be in a staggered way following "clear instructions" from the government.

She added that the only current

certainty was the state of alarm until 26 April. This fact was restressed by Health ministry officials later in the day who were annoyed by Montero's comments. They said Spain was still firmly in the "tough phase" of the pandemic.

The extension had been announced by the prime minister, Pedro Sánchez last weekend. He also announced that the extra measures banning all non-essential work for two weeks would end on 9 April as planned, allowing workers in sectors such as construction back to work.

Montero said that return to normal life from the end of the month would be gradual, and it still wasn't clear how to achieve this.

She added that Health ministry officials needed to study test data over the next fortnight to agree the best way to wind up the lockdown. The testing study will cover over 60,000 people in different regions of the country, "starting with sen-

ior citizens' homes, those seeking medical attention as well as a random sample of others".

Meanwhile, the government is preparing its way out of the economic crisis. Montero expressed her disappointment at the EU's failure to agree a common rescue package. "We need help from other countries, that's why Europe was constructed," she said.

Ministers are also pushing opposition parties to agree a unified approach after lockdown in historic cross-party pacts similar to those reached after the end of Franco's dictatorship. So far, parties on the right have been reluctant to agree to the move.

Symptom-free patients could be sent to hotels to recover

Costa del Sol hoteliers have identified at least 3,000 suitable beds for asymptomatic cases of coronavirus

SUR

MADRID / MALAGA. The ministry for Health is drawing up plans to isolate people carrying coronavirus, including those not showing symptoms, once it improves its testing capacity.

Regional governments have been asked to prepare a list of buildings where asymptomatic cases can be confined.

The use of hotels or sports complexes, referred to as Noah's arks, is planned to be

voluntary, for those who cannot stay at home because of the risk of infecting others. However it hasn't been ruled out making it compulsory in some cases.

The Balearic Islands have offered to be a case study for rolling out this end-of-lockdown measure due to its relatively low Covid-19 case rate.

On the Costa del Sol, hoteliers said they could make available at least 3,000 beds. But they stressed that only hotels properly prepared medically could be used.

There was criticism locally that none of the five government-owned Paradors in the province of Malaga had been offered as an option to take patients during the crisis.

Parish priest takes to the roof to bless his village

A parish priest in an Extremadura village took to the roof this week to bless the village and use prayer to protect it from the coronavirus. Arroyo de la Luz is one of the villages most affected by Covid-19 in this inland region. "I have blessed the four points of the compass," explained Juan Manuel García, who perched on the terracotta tiles in his full regalia for the 20 minute service.



MARTA MUÑOZ

Hopes increasingly rest on testing plan to get life back to normal

The ministry of Health believes more than 90 per cent of those with Covid-19 in Spain have not been recorded. These include people who are not showing symptoms and the real figures could run into millions.

This week the ministry set out details of its controlled testing plan of 62,400 people,

which will start next week and last three weeks. The tests will also show to what extent a "collective immunity" to the virus may have built up.

It has acquired five million 15-minute tests and is working on more of the more accurate but slower PCR tests.

It was also suggested that people may have to wear a face mask in the street as the virus stays in the air longer than thought.

Millions of masks are currently being made in Spain.

THE EURO ZONE MARK NAYLER

A new approach



It might be perceived as backtracking in this column. In my defence, though, everyone is working things out as they go when it comes to this pandemic, even (or "especially") governments. So you'll forgive me, I hope, when I slightly modify the line that I took here a couple of weeks ago.

Then, I argued that the EU needs to step in and help Spain deal with the economic

consequences of the Covid-19 pandemic, in part by offering an aid package to bolster the €200 billion already pledged by the Spanish government. I stand by that: clearly, some kind of assistance will be necessary for Spain, especially as Pedro Sánchez has extended lockdown to 26 April, thus worsening the economic situation. Despite an impressive GDP performance since 2013, the country's economy is still

fragile and will be rendered even more vulnerable by restrictions imposed to try and slow Covid-19's advance (with questionable efficacy).

As well as repeating its call for the EU to establish a "war-time economy" and to implement a "Marshall Plan", Spain's Socialist government is now also talking about introducing Universal Basic Income (UBI) to help households deal with unemployment, after the jobless rate soared last month. If implemented, UBI would be added to the costly welfare policies contained within Sánchez's proposed budget for 2020, to the €200-billion emergency package and to the stringent fiscal demands that have been issued by Brussels for the next few

years.

We have to ask: how is Spain going to afford all of this? Are there secret coffers underneath Moncloa, packed with cash that's somehow been diverted from politicians' pockets? Is there a "Rainy Day" fund that has miraculously avoided being plundered by grasping hands?

As we enter the fifth week of living indoors, it would be a relief to see the Spanish government looking at ways to get the economy running normally again, not just working out how much and what kind of assistance it will need from Brussels.

Emergency measures are precisely that: policies designed to deal with the short-term impact of a crisis, often

put together hastily and with insufficient information. By definition, they cannot replace long-term strategies designed to prevent or recover from recession. To cope with the current pandemic and its aftermath, both are required, especially for a country as economically vulnerable as Spain.

If Spain is to avoid another economic crisis, life needs to return to some kind of normality as quickly as possible. But all we see at the moment is an improvising government repeatedly extending lockdown - the end-dates of which are starting to mean as little as Brexit deadlines did - and talking of throwing vast amounts of money (that it doesn't have) at the problem. Clearly, a new approach is required.

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What rights do passengers have if flights are affected by the coronavirus crisis?

The Agencia de Seguridad Aérea answers the most frequent questions asked, following the numerous cancellations by airlines

PILAR MARTÍNEZ



MALAGA. There is no data about the number of claims yet, but travel agents say there are thousands. Many countries banned flights from Spain and numerous airlines have opted to ground their planes, even as far ahead as June, because so few people are travelling.

This has left many families with the problem that they had bought tickets for flights which have been cancelled, and it raises several questions because the European Commission has interpreted Regulation 261/2004, which applies if a flight is cancelled or delayed, or you are denied boarding, in a different way for the Covid-19 situation.

These are some of the most frequent questions asked by travellers, with answers from the Agencia de Seguridad Aérea (AESA).

What are my rights as an airline passenger?

If the company cancels a flight, it has to offer you three options: a refund; an alternative flight as soon as possible; or a flight on another date which is convenient to the passenger. This applies to return flights purchased as part of the same booking, so if the outward flight is cancelled and the passenger opts for a refund, that will also apply to the return flight. If they were booked separately, there will only be a refund for the flight which has been cancelled.

Do I have the right to food, accommodation and transfers if they cancel my flight?

Passengers have this right if their flight is cancelled. The airline has to provide them with enough food and drink for the time they have to wait, and accommodation and transport to the airport if they are forced to spend one or more nights waiting.

The airlines are also obliged to assist passengers who are disabled or have reduced mobility. However, this no longer applies

if you choose a refund or a flight on an alternative date. In other words, this right only applies while you are waiting for a flight to your final destination.

Apart from a refund, do I have the right to compensation?

When a flight is cancelled due to extraordinary circumstances that the company could not avoid, it is not obliged to pay financial compensation.

This is the current situation with the Covid-19 crisis, because these are considered extraordinary circumstances. In the same way, there is no financial compensation in the case of flights cancelled as a result of prohibitions or restrictions put in place by the authorities, those suspended because they are expected to be empty or are cancelled in order to protect the health of the crew.

This consideration also applies to return flights. AESA warns that in addition to these cases, some other circumstances related with Covid-19 may also be considered extraordinary.

What should I do if the airline doesn't comply with my rights?

The first thing is to present the company with a claim. If it doesn't respond within a month, or the response is not satisfactory, you can claim free of charge to the Agencia Estatal de Seguridad Aérea (AESA) or take the matter to court if you consider that your rights have been contravened.

AESA has also expanded its communications centre and you can ring them on 91 396 82 10 from Mondays to

Fridays between 8.30am and 2.30pm.

How long do I have to present a claim if I can't contact the company?

AESA explains that as this is such an exceptional situation, the airlines' customer service departments are extremely busy, on the phone and via email. You don't have to claim at the same time the flight is cancelled. In Spain, these contracts are valid for five years, so you can claim at any time during that period.

The Agencia Estatal de Seguridad Aérea has a claim form to present to the companies and a list of their customer service departments, and these can be found at: <https://bit.ly/3dFaxM3>. In addition to these tools, passengers also have the right to go to court to claim their rights at any time.

What should I do if they have cancelled the outward flight but not the return one?

If the flights were booked together and the outward flight is cancelled, the company has to offer a choice between: a refund for both flights (outward and return), an alternative outward flight as soon as possible, or an outward flight on another date which is convenient to the

passenger.

If it is the return flight that is cancelled, the airline only has to provide the three options above for that flight, as the European Commission explains in the Guide to Passengers' Rights which it has published for incidents related to Covid-19.

What if the airline only offers a voucher after cancelling the flight?

A passenger who is only offered a voucher has the right to request a cash refund from the airline. If they fail to provide this, you can claim to AESA free of charge, or take the airline to court.

The voucher would only be valid if the company had offered the option of a cash refund, but the passenger had freely chosen a voucher.

If the airline says the voucher has to be redeemed within one year, the passenger has to decide whether or not to accept it.

Does the airline have to assist you if it has cancelled your flight and you are out of the country?

If the company has cancelled the flight, it has to offer and provide the passenger with

sufficient food and drink, and accommodation and transport between the accommodation and the airport if they have to stay for one or more nights until the alternative flight it has offered. This right only applies for passengers who have chosen the option of another flight as soon as possible, and while they are waiting for it.

If you choose a refund or transport on a date convenient to the passenger, the airline is no longer obliged to provide food, drink and accommodation.

However, bear in mind that if the passenger is in a country outside the EU and the airline with which they have a ticket is from a non-EU country, the rights referred to above do not apply. In that case, you should consult the regulations of the country in question.

How long can an airline take to give a refund if the passenger has requested one?

The airline has seven days after the passenger claims to refund the cost of the ticket, as indicated in Regulation (EC) 261/2004.

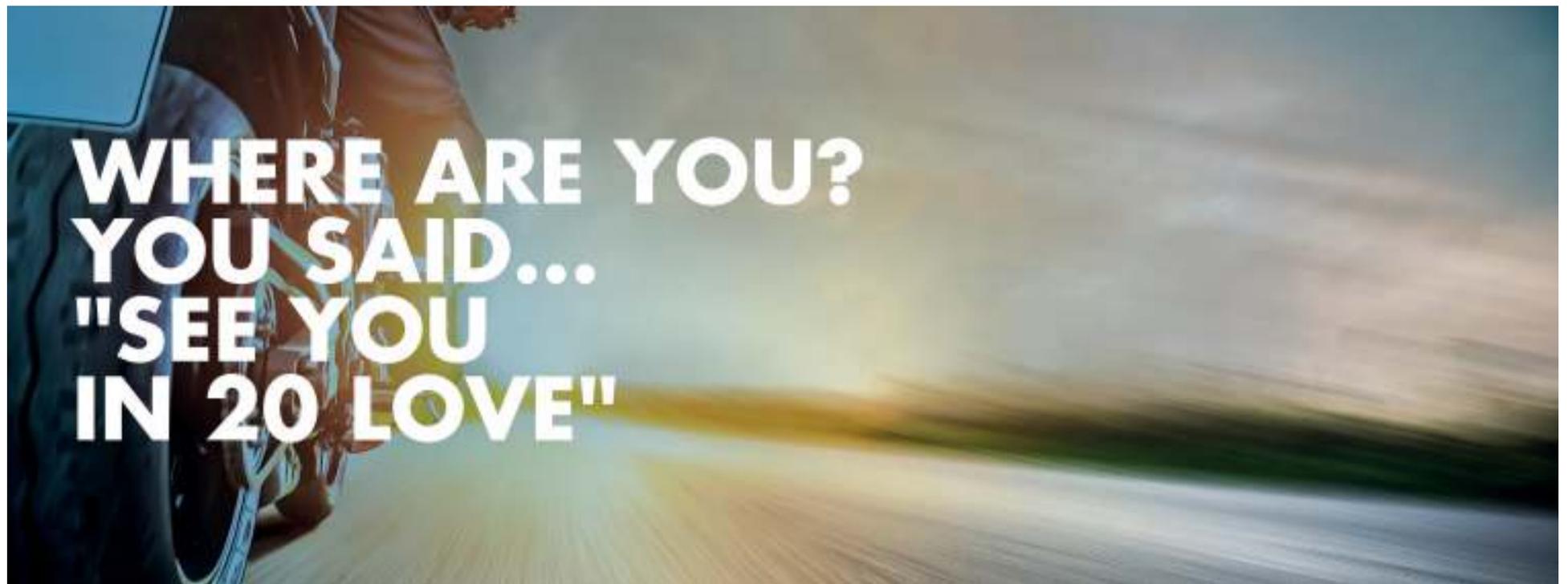
What should I do if the airline hasn't refunded the money in the time stipulated?

Claims for damages, or in this case interest for delayed payment, can be made directly to the law courts.

If more than a month has passed since you made the claim and the airline hasn't responded, or the response has not been satisfactory, you can claim to the Agencia de Seguridad Aérea or take the matter to court.



ILLUSTRATION: MIKEL CASAL



Andalucía to pay 300 euros to self-employed with no other crisis benefits

The move is designed to cover the April social security base payment and should help around 140,000 regional 'autónomos'

SUR

SEVILLE. The Junta de Andalucía regional government is to approve an emergency measure for registered self-employed (autónomos) during the coronavirus crisis.

The regional authorities will make a one-off payment of 300 euros to those self-employed in Andalucía, including Malaga province and the Costa del Sol, who have not been able to bene-

fit from the emergency measures for autónomos announced by central government in the last few weeks.

The Junta has set aside 40 million euros to pay for the initiative, which is expected to benefit around 140,000 self-employed workers in the Andalucía region.

The payment covers roughly the minimum monthly social security quota for autónomos (newly self-employed on the special reduced rate of 60 euros a month will only get that amount).

Signed statement and proof

Although the measure was only announced on Wednesday (8 April) and full details were yet to be explained, it is expected that presenting a signed declaration

and proof of payment of the April social security quota will suffice. Essential workers not affected by the state of alarm cannot apply.

The region of Andalucía has 538,000 self-employed but many of these are expected to benefit from other central government measures instead, where their activities have been the most affected by the economic shutdown.

Among central government measures announced for those worst hit is the possibility to claim an unemployment benefit during the state of alarm if activity has been suspended or income has fallen by 75 per cent because of the crisis.

Autónomos are also able to delay May to July monthly social security quota payments.

Vets recommend cleaning pets' paws to reduce virus risk

IGNACIO LILLO

MALAGA. The tiger infected with the coronavirus in a New York zoo is not the first case of an animal catching Covid-19. There have been cases of a few dogs and cats but the message from veterinarians is very clear: there is no evidence that pets can transmit it; all cases have been the other way around (from human to animal).

However, the Official College of Veterinarians of Malaga recommends, as a precautionary measure, to clean pets' tails and legs, especially paws, with soap and water, or at least with wet wipes, after taking them out.

In addition, after touching them you should always wash your hands and not put them in your eyes, nose or mouth. Those



Dogs can only be taken out for their daily necessities. SUR

in a high-risk category should also reduce their contact with animals if they go out for walks.

This is because, although pets cannot transmit the virus, it can still land on an animal's skin or on its hair, in the same way in can on objects, lift buttons or shoes.

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Raft of measures announced to counter economic fallout in Marbella

MARBELLA

Mayor Ángeles Muñoz has outlined the largest public investment and tax reduction plan in the town's history

HÉCTOR BARBOTA

MARBELLA. The council in Marbella has announced the largest public investment and tax reduction plan in its history in a bid to tackle the economic crisis triggered by the coronavirus pandemic.

Mayor Ángeles Muñoz announced last Friday a battery of measures which, she said, would involve allocating 130 million euros to economic recovery. She also called on central government

to lift the ban on local councils spending their accumulated surplus, which in the case of Marbella amounts to 70 million euros.

Muñoz highlighted the unemployment data released last Thursday, with an increase of 17.3 per cent (to 14,200), in addition to an imminent "unprecedented crisis". That is why the council will allocate 60 million euros to municipal investments and ten million euros to employment and training.

Small firms and self-employed

In addition, the council is working on an ambitious plan to maintain employment and the survival of small firms and the self-employed. This involves 25 measures that will require 130 million euros of municipal funds. One

measure will be the application of the "zero activity, zero tax" principle.

There will also be direct subsidies for firms that retain the same number of workers as prior to the crisis, a scheme to which two million euros has been allocated.

Construction

Meanwhile, since the state of alarm was decreed on 14 March, Marbella council has received 616 urban development files, of which 386 are building licences. This is a similar number to those that were put in place last January, before the coronavirus pandemic broke out.

On Monday, the council approved nine of these licenses, which will see an investment of 1.7 million euros.

All residents in Marbella care homes to be tested for Covid-19

A donation from an anonymous businessman will see all care home residents and staff receive tests

HÉCTOR BARBOTA

MARBELLA. Marbella town hall will carry out coronavirus testing in all five of the town's care homes, all of which are private, where there are 361 users and 304 workers.

Though no cases have been detected during the pandemic so far, care for the elderly has been



One of the homes. JOSELE

among the highest priorities for the council, which closed its day centres (with 7,800 users) even before the state of alarm was de-

clared and this week carried out its second round of disinfection in its care homes.

This latest initiative, which got under way on Wednesday, is being financed by a businessman from the town, who didn't want his identity to be revealed, and will be carried out by Helicópteros Sanitarios, a private hospital through which the tests have been acquired.

Some 1,500 tests are available and are also being made available to users of and workers at Aspandem, the Marbella association which works with people with disabilities.

The town hall has also purchased a further 1,500 tests out of its own budget with which front-line municipal employees will be voluntarily tested from Monday.

HERE AND THERE



National Police officers at the scene of the fire in Estepona. sur

MARBELLA

Police responding to house fire discover marijuana grow house

SUR. A 27-year-old British man was arrested on Sunday after Local Police and firefighters responding to a house fire in Estepona discovered an apparent indoor marijuana plantation.

The officers found that a marijuana grow house was appar-

ently being assembled in the basement after they spotted a large number of electrical transformers, lamps, heat bulbs, smoke extractors, plant pots, and other items needed for this type of indoor cultivation.

Further investigations carried out by the National Police found that the home was illegally hooked onto the public power grid. It was for this alleged offence that the British man was arrested.

MOLLINA

Police identify men who filmed themselves drink driving without seatbelt

J. C. / Á. F. Two men, who posted a video of themselves drinking from a beer bottle while driving, have been identified by police.

The video, filmed in Mollina on 25 March, also showed that the men were not wearing a seatbelt and that they were hurling insults at the Guardia Civil and Civil Protection volunteers.

The Guardia Civil have initiated legal proceedings against the pair whose vehicle was also found to be uninsured at the time of the video.

ESTEPONA

Bird feeders put up to prevent starvation during lockdown

C. MÁRQUEZ. Estepona town hall has put up bird feeders around the town to ensure that the area's blackbirds, sparrows and finches in particular don't die of starvation during the lockdown.

With the late arrival of spring and the insects they rely on, paired with the fall in waste food left around by humans, these birds have been struggling.

These feeders, placed in trees so rodents can't get to them, are being filled with birdseed and millet.

ANALYSIS

PETER SANDERSON

On the rebound

The recent state of alarm declared by the government has ramifications for all sections of society which are being affected to different degrees. The travel industry, including the airlines, hotels and cruise companies, is one of the sectors most affected. It is also having an impact on industrial and manufacturing companies at both ends of the spectrum with them being unable to source raw materials and parts, while at the same time sales markets are shrinking fast. As a

consequence, companies are laying off employees resulting in the spectre of mass unemployment.

The effect of all this on the economy is obvious. Reduced industrial activity means falling sales, which results in decreasing profitability. This in turn is reflected in the share prices of these companies as investors begin to offload shares with there being more sellers than buyers. Markets end up in a race to the bottom as it becomes a self-perpetuating phenomenon.

We have seen this in the performance of the financial markets during the last few weeks. Both the UK FTSE 100 and the American Dow Jones Index have shed one third of the value of their quoted securities. Talk is of a financial crisis and the probability that the economies of countries will enter into recession as economic activity contracts. This however is not a financial crisis but rather a global health one that has served as a catalyst for markets to implode.

How soon will the financial markets recover from this downturn? If history is anything to go by the answer is relatively quickly. Investors were terrified in October 1987 when the FTSE 100 Index fell by 11% on Black Monday and another 12% the next day. Nevertheless share values soon recovered. There was a

similar scenario in 2000 when overvalued technology companies brought an abrupt end to the so-called technology and digital revolution. The FTSE 100 fell more than 40% at the time however it took less than two years for the market to get back to where it was before. Similarly the global financial crisis of September 2008 was set off by the sub-prime mortgage crisis in the United States which resulted in the bankruptcy of the US investment bank Lehman Brothers and UK banks struggling having overstretched themselves. Royal Bank of Scotland overpaid to acquire the Dutch bank ABN Amro while Lloyds Bank was persuaded by the government to rescue the bank HBOS. Both RBS and Lloyds ended up being bailed out by the government. Despite this global financial cri-

sis, it took the markets little more than a year to recover.

The current coronavirus pandemic is very much a global health crisis which has precipitated a collapse in the world's financial markets. Whereas the previous crises only affected the world of finance and its institutions, the current situation affects everyone. The lockdown and its consequent restrictions on movement mean that the sense of relief and freedom when life finally returns to normal will in all probability serve to give a huge impetus to the economy as people go out and spend on restaurants, travel, holidays and all the things that they have been unable to do during the lockdown. As a result the recovery is likely to be much quicker than the reaction to the earlier crises.

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Above, some of Periana's foreign residents met up via Zoom last Friday, and right, the online wedding. **CHLOE GAVIN/SUR**

From book clubs to weddings, events go online in the crisis

Groups of friends as well as colleagues who are used to meeting up in person regularly have turned to technology to keep in touch

JENNIE RHODES



MALAGA. Most foreign residents in the province are well versed at using video calls to speak to loved ones back home. However, a month ago it would probably never have occurred to anyone to 'attend' a church service, their monthly book club or even speak to their neighbours online.

Determined not to lose touch with those who only live in the village or even down the road, platforms such as Skype, Zoom and WhatsApp have become lifelines for us in recent weeks.

Lux Mundi is continuing to provide assistance via phone and email

The two Lux Mundi centres; Torre del Mar and Fuengirola, haven't stopped helping service users and local charities since the lockdown began. Four volunteers including President Gloria Uribes have been working from home to respond to calls and emails from people who need help with shopping,

Around 20 foreign residents in Periana have started to get together via Zoom every Friday evening in time for the applause; some bring a glass to raise as well. Organiser Chloe Gavin told SUR in English that people who have homes in the village but are currently in the UK have joined in as well, and last Friday, the mayor, Rafael Torrubia, participated. Chloe also hopes to get some of the Spanish residents involved in the coming weeks.

Barbara Crouter, also in Periana, said that she is making sure her book club still meet and they are planning to organise their first online meeting via Facebook messenger later this month. "We've already sent in our reviews for the latest book via email, but it's not the same. Getting the reviews by email made us realise how important the discussion and banter is to us," she reflected.

Churches across the province have also adapted to reach out to their congregations through the use of modern technology.

advice, emergencies and interpretation.

The volunteers have also set up WhatsApp groups for each centre. Gloria explained that many of their users live alone or in the campo, so the groups help people to "reduce stress and not feel alone".

The two centres have also been translating essential information such as telephone numbers and supermarket opening times as well as continuing to donate to charities.

The Chaplain of the Anglican Church of Nerja and Almuñécar, Nigel Thomas, explained to SUR in English that the Chaplaincy holds services via Zoom every Sunday at midday and on Wednesday mornings at 9.30. "We will keep to this timetable until the end of the coronavirus epidemic, when we can return once again to our usual time and place of services," he said.

Wedding

Friends and family of Santiago Ordóñez de la Torre and Lourdes Aguilera Ruiz organised a surprise Zoom wedding for the couple when the real celebration, which was due to take place in Antequera last Saturday, had to be postponed.

They had organised a message from the priest and prepared other videos. They told the couple to put on their wedding outfits and prepare the rings. While the real wedding will have to wait until a later date, the couple said Saturday's celebration "was very emotional".

Nerja councillors, like many others in Spain, have also been holding town hall meetings online in order to keep things running during the lockdown.

The 2020 budget, which was approved provisionally in February, was scheduled to be passed during a video conference on Wednesday. Councillor for electronic administration and new technologies, Javier López, said councillors hoped to stream this and other meetings for residents "especially during the state of alarm".

Antonio J. Guerrero and Eugenio Cabezas contributed to this article.

HERE AND THERE



One of the letters is given to a patient. **SUR**

PERIANA

Pupils write letters to patients and medics

A. PELÁEZ. Students at IES Alta Axarquía secondary school in Periana have started writing letters to coronavirus patients and health professionals at the Axarquía hospital in Torre del Mar.

The project, called 'One Letter, One Hug' started as a non-obligatory homework assignment set by Spanish language teacher Rosa María Rodríguez Muñoz. So far 25 letters have been printed and given to patients and 22 have gone to health care professionals, in an effort to raise their spirits during the Covid-19 pandemic.

AXARQUÍA

Police tighten controls during Holy Week

E. C. Town halls along the Axarquía coast have intensified controls on vehicles during Holy Week after a number of residents in towns including Torrox and Nerja reported seeing neighbours in their holiday homes. Anyone caught failing to comply with the lockdown could face up to a 30,000 euro fine or an 18-month prison sentence.

NERJA

Cofradía donates money to help Covid-19 crisis

E. C. Nerja's Nazareno Easter Week brotherhood (Cofradía), which would normally process through the town's streets on Maundy Thursday and Good Friday, has donated 3,000 euros to the local branch of the Catholic charity Cáritas, to buy food for vulnerable families affected by the coronavirus crisis. The food will be distributed by the town hall's social services department.

NERJA

Opposition to Maro golf course plans grows

E. C. A platform set up to oppose plans to build a golf course, luxury homes and hotels on land near Maro has collected 1,200 signatures since Nerja Town Hall announced it was reinitiating the project at the end of March. 2,300 people have now signed the petition which is on the 'Otra Nerja y Maro es posible' (Another Nerja and Maro is possible) website. The town hall will not take action during the coronavirus crisis.



Part of the proposed site. **E. C.**

TORRE DEL MAR

Hospital sets up phone prescription service

E. C. The Axarquía hospital in Torre del Mar has set up a telephone prescription service which operates from its on-site chemist's. The 1,200 patients who normally pick up prescriptions for chronic illnesses including AIDS, hepatitis, rheumatoid arthritis etc, are being contacted by phone and prescriptions will be delivered to patients' homes so that they don't have to go to the hospital to collect them.

MOTRIL

Pupils stranded in Italy make it home to Motril

R. A. Twelve pupils from La Zafra secondary school in Motril were reunited with their families on Tuesday after a 12-hour journey from Arezzo in Tuscany, Italy, where they had been as part of the Erasmus programme since January. The group finally managed to get on a flight from Rome to Madrid on Monday. After being checked for Covid-19 symptoms, they boarded a private bus which brought them home.

Gibraltarian generosity comes to the fore to fight coronavirus

From donations of money for the GHA and hot food for frontline workers to making hand sanitiser instead of gin, the community is united

DEBBIE BARTLETT

GIBRALTAR. As in other countries, the people of Gibraltar are in lockdown and have to stay at home unless essential. However, this does not mean they are remaining passive in the fight to stop the Covid-19 virus.

Health minister Paul Balban announced this week that the Gibraltar Health Authority had received over one million pounds in donations from individuals, companies and associations to enable it to continue its vital work and invest in necessary equipment. This was not a government initiative - in fact, at the start of the crisis they

reassured the community that they were able to fund the measures that were necessary - but people began asking how they could make a contribution and so a process was set up. The minister said he had "no words" to describe their generosity.

Also on the subject of money, it appears that staff at Morrisons will benefit from a UK scheme to give them a larger bonus than usual, which in many cases will total over £1,000, in thanks for their efforts during the crisis. The money will be paid in quarterly stages over a year, and also applies to staff who are off sick or in self-isolation.

Others are playing their part on a different front, helping to ensure supplies of equipment. One local company, Spirit of the Rock, is normally known for its gin which is sold to bars and restaurants under the brand name Campion, but for a few weeks now it has been producing hand sanitiser instead,

IN BRIEF



The planting is part of the Green Gibraltar initiative. **SUR**

ENVIRONMENT

Gibraltar is getting greener with new trees

D.B. Different areas of Gibraltar have benefited from new trees and plants recently as part of the government's Green Gibraltar initiative. The most recent additions are

two Tipuana trees along Rosia Road promenade and almond trees, oleanders and rosemary in a newly-created recreation area near St Jago's, together with more rosemary and Virginia creeper to create a 'green wall'. The Department of the Environment welcomes suggestions about new areas which could benefit from plants or trees.

CORONAVIRUS

Messages to the Queen and Boris Johnson

D.B. The chief minister of Gibraltar, Fabian Picardo, sent a message to the Queen after her televised message on Sunday evening, saying her speech had been gratefully received "as we too rally together and brave this storm to protect our loved ones". He has now also sent a message of support to UK prime minister Boris Johnson who is in hospital with coronavirus.

PORT

Another cruise ship calls in for fuel and supplies

D.B. Cruise liners are banned from Gibraltar at present, with the only exception being those carrying no passengers that make a technical call for fuel and supplies. The latest ship to do so was the Star Flyer, which came on Wednesday. As usual, the crew were not allowed to disembark and shore-based staff did not go on board.



Paul Balban (right): "No words to describe the generosity." **SUR**

in the same way as similar distilleries in the UK.

On the medical side of dealing with the coronavirus a Gibraltarian doctor, Nick Cortes, is part of a team in the UK which has developed new tests for the virus which can give results in five minutes, instead of up to a day.

Gibraltar's Director of Health, Sohail Bhatti, has welcomed the news, as it will speed up the testing process considerably, and says the GHA is now waiting for antibody tests which will enable the authorities to find out whether somebody has had the virus.

This week the results came through of a swab test which had been taken from a local man in his fifties, who was taken ill and died. At the time it was feared that he was the first person in Gibraltar to die from the disease, but the tests proved negative and it was confirmed that he had died from cardiac arrest.

The figures in Gibraltar have been encouraging all week, but the government insists that it is too soon to assume that the illness has peaked.

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QUARANTINE STORIES

Inspiration from indoors

"I'm doing what I can and working with a dedicated volunteer team"

Sue Wilson
Bremain in Spain

JENNIE RHODES

ALCOSSEBRE. Bremain in Spain Chair Sue Wilson admits that so far the lockdown has "been rather different" from what she expected.

"I had visions of feeling isolated and bored, with too much time on my hands. I started to make a mental list of tasks - work on my Spanish, wash the curtains, tidy the garden. Yet I haven't managed to cross off a single one," she admits.

Instead she says she's been busy with Bremain in Spain and turning the focus to helping Brits in Spain through the coronavirus crisis. "I'm doing what I can, by keeping busy, by devouring information and by working with a dedicated team of volunteers," she explains.

One thing that hasn't changed is the monthly 'date night' she and her husband have. They still dress up, albeit for dining at home at the moment. "I consider myself lucky to have a nice home, a garden and a supportive husband who I enjoy staying in with," she says.



"I think the human race as a whole will come out of this better"

Carlos White
Team leader

TONY BRYANT

BENALMÁDENA. Carlos White is optimistic and believes that the lockdown will create a better community spirit, as well as being beneficial to the planet. He is, however, concerned at the way the UK is handling the crisis.

"My fear during the lockdown is that people with mental health issues are having to stay inside. However, my main worry is that some people in the UK have not been forced to abide to a strict lockdown like the one in Spain, so this could unnecessarily prolong the bad times there.

"On a positive note, it looks like Spain is past the worst of it, and we will come out of it sooner rather than later if everybody doesn't slack with the rules.

"I think the human race as a whole will come out of this better, with a cleaner air, and maybe we will have got to know our neighbours more by offering help, and therefore creating a better community spirit by learning to appreciate fellow human beings," he says.



"I am looking forward to going back to my church"

Pauline Hulme
A Touch of Class

TONY BRYANT

CALAHONDA. Choreographer Pauline Hulme is using the lockdown time to work on new routines for the amateur theatrical group she runs, but she is missing human contact and longs to see her friends.

"I take each day as it comes. I'm spending a lot more time talking to my children, which is great. I have been working on choreography for A Touch of Class and I dance whilst doing chores; it's great fun. I have also been cooking and baking as I've never had much time for this before. The advantage of the lockdown is being forced to relax and take time out. I have been sitting on my balcony taking in the beauty around me.

"My biggest fear is having to go shopping. I don't want to bring any infection home to my husband David, who has dementia," she says, adding, "The first thing I'll do when this is over is meet up with friends. I am really missing human contact. To feel a hand in mine, to give and receive hugs. I am looking forward to going back to my church."

well they're handling not being able to go out.

With two more weeks to go (at least) some are finding different ways of filling their time, from volunteer work to cooking,

even choreography and enjoying a greater community spirit with their neighbours.

If staying at home is filling you with inspiration, write to us at surinenglish.su@diariosur.es



"It would be stupid to say that I haven't got any fears"

Judy Filmer
Retiree

TONY BRYANT

MIJAS. Retiree Judy Filmer claims that the lockdown is not disrupting her daily routine too much. She also feels that Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez is doing a good job of reassuring the public.

"I'm fortunate enough to live with my husband and my 93-year-old mother in a house with a garden, so it's a fairly simple thing to self-isolate. We are lucky enough to have enough room to give each other space during the day to focus on individual hobbies or chores. Spring cleaning has come early to our house and all those jobs which I have been putting off are finally getting done. It's rather nice to know that everything doesn't have to be done to a timetable, because there is always tomorrow.

"It would be stupid to say I haven't got any fears, but they do not preoccupy me. It would be a concern if the food supply chain broke down in the future, but Pedro Sánchez, together with our local mayors, inspire a great deal of faith," she says.



"Our local shop has been brilliant and we never saw panic-buying"

Tamara Essex
Retired consultant

J. RHODES

COLMENAR. Tamara Essex admits that lockdown "hasn't been too bad" for her. "I can be as sociable or as private as I choose. I live in a small cul-de-sac and each morning we women stand on our doorsteps and shout to each other for half an hour." They 'meet up' again at 8pm to join in the evening applause.

Tamara has been able to do Zumba from her house thanks to a neighbour and has been "cooking more than usual", including the typical Spanish Easter treat, torrijas.

The internet has provided a vital link with friends back in the UK and a group chat on the patio every few days with Malaga friends.

Tamara also praises the local shop and the "brilliant" way they way they have provided customers with gloves and made sure distances are kept. "We never saw any panic-buying and although there's not as much choice as in the bigger supermarkets, we can get everything we need here in the village in some form or another."

Caring community surprises diamond anniversary couple

Robert and Isabel Douglas opened their door to find neighbours had put up balloons and banners to celebrate their special day

TONY BRYANT

FUENGIROLA. The residents of Calle Nardos in Fuengirola had an extra special reason to cheer and applaud from their gardens and balconies last week, because the oldest residents in the street were celebrating their 60th wedding anniversary.

The neighbours all participate in the nightly hand-clapping session in honour of health workers and the emergency services who are working around the clock during the coronavirus crisis, but on this occasion, they decided to include the anniversary couple, who have lived in the street for more than 20 years.

Scottish nationals Robert and Isabel Douglas appeared at their

front door to find that their neighbours had made cards, put up balloons and banners, and were applauding them to the sound of The Three Tenors. The caring community also sent a special message to the couple over a loudspeaker, saying, "All of your friends and neighbours wish you both a very happy diamond anniversary."

Resident Nessie Lang-Wood said, "It was very emotional for them, and for all of us too. Everyone managed to write cards and signs in English so that they could read them. Our street WhatsApp group spread the word about the anniversary and each neighbour took it upon themselves to do something."

Close-knit community

Nessie's husband, Martyn Wood, uses a powerful PA system to play music after the nightly ovation has finished and he has now been asked to take requests for other celebrations that occur during the lockdown.



Robert and Isabel on their doorstep last week. SUR



A young neighbour with his card. SUR

"I now have messages from the buildings at both ends of our street asking for me to play music for birthday celebrations. We are becoming a very close-knit neighbourhood. Our street has many nationalities, including Spanish, English, Scottish, Canadian and Dutch," Martyn explained.

A big round of applause greets Marbella patient and colleague as she leaves the ICU

SUR

MARBELLA. Wednesday was a day of celebration for workers at the Quironsalud hospital in Marbella. Hospital porter Maricruz Gómez, who had been in the ICU for more than two weeks, left intensive care after overcoming the critical stage of the Covid-19 infection.

The first to leave

Maricruz, 54, had been in the ICU since 24 March. She is the first Covid-19 patient to leave the hospital's intensive care unit as well as being the first healthcare worker. This double circumstance led to her departure and transfer onto a ward being greeted by a warm ovation from her colleagues.

Maricruz is just one of many patients across Spain with coronavirus who, on leaving the intensive care units, have been warmly applauded and congratulated on taking their first steps towards recovery.

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LETTERS
TO THE EDITORWhere are the car ferry
passengers?

The UK Government's travel information is very much focused on flights and if people are stranded in hotels then I fully agree with the priority status. However, there must be others in the same situation as my wife and I am, in that we need to get back to the UK by car ferry.

Back in March when the first round of ferries were cancelled we were informed by Brittany Ferries that there would be rescue passenger ferries that would only pick up returning families to the UK.

I booked a ferry that they were advertising to sail on 15 April 2020. In mid-March this ferry was cancelled, no explanation was given by Brittany Ferries just an email some five days after the cancellations were made to confirm this was the case and that I should book another crossing.

I have booked another crossing scheduled for 29 April. Now I see that online information, true or false, is now circulating that this crossing will also be cancelled. Brittany Ferries cannot be contacted nor will the HM government travel information services give any information in this regard.

I am in my late 60s, fortunately in good health but, my wife is in her mid-70s, she has COPD and runs out of medication in mid-May 2020. I also have a small dog that needs to comply with the Pet Passport Scheme and luckily I have an excellent veterinary service provider near to my apartment who is able to do this once we know that the ferry will definitely be available to take us from Santander to Plymouth.

Surely we can't be the only people in this position; there must be others in this region and I wonder how are they planning on getting back to the UK. I have explored the tunnel option but this is not an option for our case.

So, I ask the question, where are the car ferry passengers and what can we do to raise this issue as a matter of urgency?

M. D. BERRILL

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THE MUSIC MAKER
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A very poor eggsample

Scrambled eggs, cornflakes, uncomfortable silences and creaky stairs. That's about the sum total of my childhood recollections of bed and breakfast establishments in the UK in the 1970s. Unless you count a very odd man in Kent who owned one of these bizarre places and insisted on treating all guests to an evening 'musical' performance, playing the drums with headphones on - presumably to block out the din - in his front parlour or whatever it was they called that superfluous room down south. Daily forty-five-minute drum solo with your holiday, anyone? Mmmm, yes please.

Anyway, in a fug of nostalgia, I've been carried back to those heady days recently, largely as a result of my culinary limitations, which have come to light in brutal fashion as a direct result of this pesky lockdown

business.

It turns out that I was wasting my time for years devouring bowls of gazpachuelo and boquerones and chicken wings and all the other delights available in local Malaga bars for far less cost and bother than preparing them at home would entail. What I should have been doing was practising for this important moment in history, when a man is forced to look himself in the mirror and ask the vital questions - e.g. "What the hell am I going to cook?"

Unfortunately, a lack of foresight - and indeed, will - on my part means that my fate now depends largely, and somewhat precariously, on scrambled eggs and cornflakes. Hence the seventies B & B throwback thing. How on earth people can claim they enjoy cooking will remain a mystery to me for all eternity.

"It's relaxing," they protest in rather too loud a voice as you

look on, incredulously, at the pile of barely used utensils and plates piling up in the sink and at the preparation surface, or whatever they call it, increasingly resembling the wreck of the Hesperus. Relaxing, indeed.

I do have fruit, which save for peeling, requires a limited skill set. And tins of meatballs and Asturian fabada and some other cans of things that I didn't bother reading the label of, before tossing them perfunctorily into my egg-and-cornflake-crammed basket in the supermarket.

It might have been my imagination, but I'm sure the check-out girl offered me a glance of pity from behind her homemade mask as I paid for my purchases at the till.

She needn't worry, though - simply not having a bloke knocking seven bells out of a cheap drum kit each evening, makes every day a very good day indeed.

IDÍGORAS



SUR in English

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THE BOTTOM LINE
ÁNGEL ESCALERA

Dear masks



In the all-out war the entire world has embarked upon against coronavirus, we're learning something new every day. The better we know the enemy, more chance we have to defeat it.

So little was known about Covid-19 that people have been hitting out blindly all over the place; and we have learned from their mistakes.

There will be plenty of time, when the waters settle and this health crisis, of a

kind that hasn't been seen in a hundred years, is over to analyse the mistakes that have been made. And there have been a lot.

Now our priority has to be to defeat the virus, reduce the numbers of new infections as soon as possible and, above all, prevent as many deaths as possible. Confinement is starting to take effect. Thank goodness, because if after being more than three weeks locked away, the

spread of coronavirus had not been curbed, it would have been a failure of epic proportions.

People have realised that it's lives that are at risk, and excepting some irresponsible individuals, and there are always some, they have stayed at home.

Once the quarantine, marked by the state of alarm, is less strict, we will still have to take maximum care to prevent infection.

Being imprisoned at home for six weeks, at the least, will have been little use if then we fly into the streets believing that there is no longer any risk, when really we will still be a long way off being able to say that we have defeated this coronavirus.

One of the measures that the government appears to be thinking of approving for the next stage when we start to

go out again is to make everyone wear a mask.

There can be no objections to that but will there be enough masks for the 47 million inhabitants of Spain?

Masks are single-use. So they would have to make a tremendous number of them to make sure there were enough to go round.

Can this be done?

And another thing. Will the government give out masks free of charge or will we have to pay for them?

I'm asking because the price they are asking for the few available now is quite expensive (almost eight euros for a mask that can only be used once).

A lot of people cannot afford this, especially as they will have to buy a lot each to make sure that they have enough replacements.

'All I ever wanted was to act'

Itziar Fay Actress

Successful local actress Itziar Fay talks to SUR in English as she sits out the coronavirus crisis at home in Marbella

ASH BOLTON

MARBELLA. It may have halted the filming of a new TV series in the north of Spain last month, but the coronavirus hasn't stopped one of its leading actresses from living her life.

Itziar Fay is set to star in the English language series *Glow and Darkness* alongside former Bond girls Jane Seymour and Denise Richards.

But with filming in Peñaranda (Burgos) now at a standstill, the 26-year-old actress has been seeing out the quarantine with her parents and brother at her family home in Marbella.

Itziar, who was born in Madrid to a British father and a Spanish mother, grew up in Marbella from the age of two, before attending the international school Aloha College.

At 14 she went to Ampleforth College in North Yorkshire to study for her A-levels, where her passion for acting began to take root.

After studying at the London Academy of Music and Dramatic Art and graduating with a degree in Communications from the University of Leeds, Itziar went on to further her acting career in London, New York and Madrid, before landing a part in *Glow and Darkness*, which depicts the life of Saint Francis of Assisi.

In the series Itziar plays Berengaria of Navarre, who is set to

marry Richard the Lionheart.

So while waiting for the filming to start again, Itziar spoke to SUR in English about how she is keeping herself busy during the lockdown.

"I think one of the most important things is to keep our minds healthy," she said.

"I try to do a normal workout routine during the week and break it on the weekend. During the week I train everyday at home. I am also learning new exciting cooking recipes, as I try to eat a balanced healthy diet. And of course, I have lots of script studying for *Glow and Darkness*. During the weekend we do family movie marathon nights."

As for what she is missing the most during the lockdown, Itziar, who is fluent in Spanish, English and French, said: "I miss going for a run outside in the park or hanging around with my friends, I miss seeing people around, I miss a normal day at work on set or even just going for a coffee. I think we will value everything more when we are allowed back to normal life. In any case I try to be as positive as possible in these unexpected and difficult times."

Apart from acting, music is also one of Itziar's passions - she writes her own music on the piano and has also worked as a part time DJ at several clubs in Madrid.

She said: "I play the piano every day at home and each day a different song comes out. There are so many different feelings we are all going through at this moment that it is easier to be more connected and inspired."

In fact, Itziar said that she listens to music "24/7" and the song she's been playing constantly re-



Itziar Fay has wanted to be on stage since she was a young girl. SUR



Itziar, 2nd left, on the set with Jane Seymour and other actors. SUR

cently is *Heal the World* by Michael Jackson and Lionel Richie. "I think that song is very related to what's happening right now," she said.

"Music is very important in moments like the present one for the soul."

But music is not the only thing that's helping Itziar get through the lockdown. She explained: "Thanks to technology we are able to have a quarantine full of entertainment with all the artists, actors and musicians worldwide doing live concerts on social media, interviews, and, of course, with all the online platforms we are able to have new movies and TV series. For example *Money Heist* has premiered on Netflix. I'm super excited to watch it!"

Having lived in a number of big cities while pursuing her acting career, such as Madrid, New York and London, Itziar still has a soft spot for the south of Spain - especially Marbella.

"I guess the good weather, the food, the people and the ferias are also among my favourite things from the south of Spain," she explained.

As for Itziar's plans for the future, she aims to throw herself into her acting career.

She said: "Since I was a young girl when I started my LAMDA [London Academy of Music and Dramatic Arts] examinations, I realised all I ever wanted was to act. Every time I saw a movie I was dreaming of how I would play that role, or I would watch it over and over again to see how the actors were playing specific moments or circumstances."

"I've always had a huge imagination and I was always fantasising and dreaming of movies and theatre plays. Of course my plan is to carry on acting - I will never abandon it. It is a very difficult career but it's also a very exciting and beautiful one if you are lucky. I am so grateful to be able to be working as an actress right now. And of course my dream is to carry on acting as long as possible."

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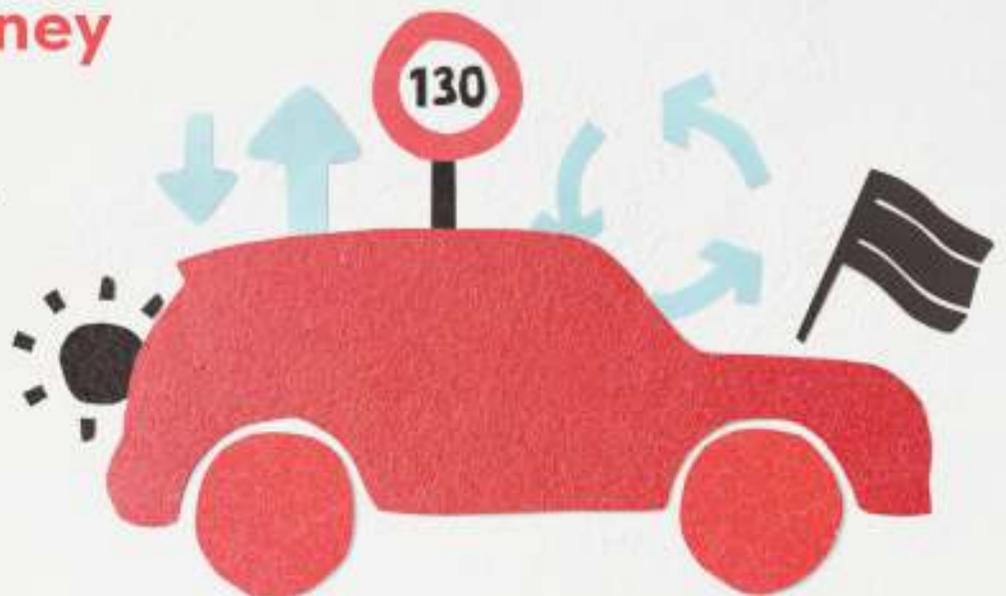
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IN THE FRAME

A lifelong devotion to the performing arts and the needy

Cath John. The president of the Welsh Society is lauded for her amazing vocal talents and for her ability to bolster support for worthy causes

TONY BRYANT

Multitalented Welsh national Cath John has earned a reputation as being one of the most popular and considerate expats in Benalmádena. As well as being known to many as the face behind the bar of one of the oldest Welsh pubs in Benalmádena, Cath is also involved with a popular local theatre group, and is lauded for her incredible vocal talent, which she uses to raise funds for worthy causes.

The 48-year-old entertainer has many strings to her bow and when she is not occupied with any of the previously mentioned activities, she concentrates on her duties as president of the Costa del Sol Welsh Society.

The Welsh Society was founded in 2011 by a small group of expat musicians and entertainers who came together with the goal of raising funds for local and national charities, while also promoting all things Welsh.

So far, the organisation has raised over 15,000 euros for different charities: these have included the Positively Pink and Positively Blue cancer charities; the Ty Olwen Hospice in Swansea; Downs Syn-

drome associations in Spain and in Wales; and the premature baby unit in Malaga. More recently, Cath has been involved in a series of fundraising events to support the family of a local expat who is suffering from motor neuron disease.

"The Welsh Society was formed to promote our culture here on the coast. We hold different functions, like St David's Day, to raise funds for our chosen charity. We like to choose charities that are close to our hearts, and these have included some very personal causes," Cath tells SUR in English.

Cath was born in Bettws, Bridgend (South Wales), in 1972 and studied at the Bryntirion Comprehensive School. Her father owned a butcher's shop in Bridgend, and so Cath went to Cardiff College for two years in order to study butchery. She worked in the family business for seven years, before heading to Spain with her parents and younger sister in order to start a new life in the sun.

Passion for entertainment

Cath acquired a passion for the performing arts at an early age. Her mother was a member of Porthcawl Operatic Society, and it was not long before Cath



Cath John, singer and supporter of worthy causes. SUR



Cath fronts The Soul Sisters, a tribute to soul and Motown. SUR

made her debut on stage.

"I always had an interest in music and theatre. My first time on stage was in Fiddler on the Roof. Although I was fascinated by it, there was not very much opportunity to do anything else in Bettws at the time," the bubbly singer explains.

Cath arrived in Benalmádena

Cath has many strings to her bow, but she is best known on the coast as the 'voice from The Valleys' because of her incredible vocal talent

in 1995. Her family bought a cabaret bar, which they called CJs, and it was here that Cath would embrace her love of singing.

After a few months, Cath met Ian, the man she married in 1999. After several years of trying for a family, Cath fell pregnant with her first child in 2004. The following year saw the birth of her twins, and in 2007, the couple's fourth child was born.

"All of my children love music, but only two of them are interested in doing it for a living. Ben, one of the twins, wants to be an actor. Bobby, my eldest, wants to be a singer, dancer and actor. He currently performs with the Jersey Boys," the proud mother says.

Cath's children have had the perfect coach to help them follow their dreams into the world of showbiz. All of them have been involved with the Banana Studio Theatrical Group, a group founded by Cath and her sister Hannah. The company teaches youngsters between the age of four and 21 dancing, acting, singing and performance skills, working towards offering live shows at local events and charity functions.

"With four children interested in music, it was going to be expensive to enroll them in local drama and dancing schools, so we decided to form our own club," Cath explains.

Voice from The Valleys

Known as 'the voice from The Valleys' because of her powerful vocal quality, Cath has become a popular entertainer on the coast. She also fronts the Soul Sisters, a tribute to soul and Motown.

"The Soul Sisters consist of some of the older girls from the Banana Studio group. I am very proud of the girls. Even if they don't become professional performers, they will have had a great experience," Cath concludes.

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REF. R. U. G.

We rent out a property we own but the tenants stopped paying the rent three months ago, alleging that a tap is dripping and a kitchen drawer doesn't shut properly. We called the insurance company to send someone to repair everything, but they

say they have tried several times to contact the tenants, but they don't answer. Now, we don't want to send anyone until the tenants pay the back rent. What can we do? The tenants cannot stop paying the rent just because a tap is dripping or a drawer is damaged. On the other hand, the landlords are obliged to repair what is damaged as soon as they know about it. If you have taken the proper steps to carry out the repairs and you can prove it, then you could claim the payment of the rents owed, by suing the tenants in Court.

REF. A. R. T.

My cat sometimes sneaks on to my neighbour's terrace, and the last time he hit him with a broom, causing my cat to fall from the fourth floor! I

had to spend a lot of money in vet's bills to save the cat's life. A neighbour saw how my next-door neighbour hit the cat with the broom, and he is willing to testify, but the other denies everything. Can I sue my neighbour? The fact that your cat is on another person's terrace is not a reason to push him off from the fourth floor. Therefore, you can sue your neighbour at Court for the vet's bills that you incurred. If the claimed amount is lower than 2,000€ you can go to Court without a lawyer and bailiff. In the document instituting proceedings you must indicate that you have a witness, and if possible, prove the causal link between the shove and the injuries. Later, the judge will pass sentence taking into account how the injuries were produced.

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The baby donkey is called Saracen after the brand of horse feed. **SUR**

The new arrival at the ARCH rescue centre puts a smile on faces

Early morning staff were surprised to find that one of the rescue donkeys had given birth overnight

The little black foal has been named Saracen after the sponsor Saracen Horse Feeds.

The birth brought a welcome spark of optimism at the centre; ARCH receives no government funding and relies heavily on income from its charity shop in Alhaurín el Grande which, like all retail businesses at the moment, is closed indefinitely.

Information about the charity can be found on their website (www.horserescuespain.org).

SUR IN ENGLISH

coin. Staff at the Andalusian Rescue Centre for Horses (ARCH) were given a lovely surprise last weekend when one of the centre's rescue donkeys gave birth overnight.

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DENISE BUSH



GARDENING

Virginia bluebell

Mertensia Virginia is a herbaceous perennial native to eastern parts of North America. It is a compact plant found growing in damp woodland and flood plains. Common names include Virginia bluebell, Virginia cowslip, lungwort, oysterleaf and Roarioke bells.

The genus Mertensia has around 40 species and is in the

Boraginaceae family, which includes comfrey and forget-me-nots.

Virginia bluebells are spring flowering, from March until early May. The emerging oval-shaped leaves are deep purple but quickly turn grey-green. They are foli-
lowed
by

somewhat fragile, branching stems up to 45cm tall with loose terminal cluster (cymes) of pink buds. As they open, the pink buds turn into sky-blue tubular flowers consisting of five petals fused together and with

white stamens around two centimetres long. The p e n d u l o u s blooms are delicately scented

and attract b u m b l e bees and b u t t e r f l i e s, as well as h u m - m i n g - b i r d moths.

A f t e r flowering, w r i n k l e d fruits appear, each containing four seeds. The plant then dies back and goes dormant during the summer and winter.

An ideal situation in which to grow the Virginia bluebell would be in partial or full shade. Although it needs moisture during spring, when dormant it needs very little water.

Propagation is usually by seed although it may be several years before the Virginia bluebell flowers. It can also be propagated by division but, as it has a very long tap root, it does not like to be disturbed. Left to its own devices it will eventually form a small clump, self-seeding itself in the immediate area.

Mertensia virginica is sometimes listed as Mertensia pulmonarioides. The genus name honours Franz Karl Mertens, 1764-1831, a professor of botany at Bremen.



Mertensia virginica and close-up of bloom (insert). Wikimedia / Flickr

READERS' PHOTOS



Rosalind Caplan

A natural accident

This lovely colour combination was an accident of nature as Rosalind Caplan, who sent in the photo says: "I love the colours of the Penstemon and nasturtiums together, [they] just seeded themselves there."



Ann Pennington

Graceful wisteria

April is wisteria month and it appears that several SUR in English readers have this glorious climber in flower in their gardens at the moment, including Ann Pennington who sent in this photo.

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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WHERE YOU COME FIRST



WHAT HAPPENED TODAY?

10 APRIL 1908

Birth of Malaga singer Miguel de Molina

The controversial singer and actor began working as a cleaner in a brothel and went on to become one of Spain's most celebrated 'copla' singers

Born in Malaga on 10 April 1908, Miguel Frías de Molina, artistically known as Miguel de Molina, was a Spanish 'copla' singer and actor who made his name in the 'tablaos' (flamenco clubs) and theatres of Madrid during the early 1930s. His big break came in 1933, when he participated in a production of *El Testamento Gitano* alongside Soledad Miralles, a Gypsy dancer who, at that time, was enjoying an intense career on both sides of

the Atlantic. However, his career in Spain would come to a grinding halt during the Spanish Civil War, and he was eventually forced into exile in Buenos Aires in 1942.

Miguel de Molina was raised by his mother and four aunts, and from an early age he began to develop homosexual orientation. During his teenage years, Molina moved to Algeciras and began working as a cleaner in a brothel, and later, as a PR for a flamenco tablao. It was at this time that he realised his own artistic potential. The young singer possessed a unique personality and a voice that was perfectly suited to the Spanish 'copla' songs. Molina headed to Madrid, where he gained a reputation for popularising songs such as *La Bien*



Molina had a unique personality and a voice suited to copla. **SUR**

Pagá and *Ojos Verdes*, the latter being one of the most famous Spanish coplas.

At the outbreak of the Civil War, the controversial singer showed an allegiance to the Republicans, which made him a target of the regime. Following his arrest, the singer was im-

prisoned because of his association with the Loyalists, and for his homosexual tendencies, which he openly flouted. On his release from custody, Molina headed to Argentina, where he became a success of the stage and screen, although his homosexuality would eventually see

LANGUAGE FOOTNOTE

Cantante	Singer
Cantar	To sing
Artista	Artist
Malagueño	Of Malaga
Biografía	Biography
Teatro	Theatre
Producción	Production
Bailaor	Flamenco dancer
Tablao	Flamenco club
Burdel	Brothel
Limpiador	Cleaner
Exilio	Exile
Detenido	Arrested
Éxito	Success
Adolescente	Teenager
Madre	Mother
Vestuario	Wardrobe
Carrera	Career
Escenario	Stage

him banished from the country. He set up home in Mexico, but returned to Argentina after a pardon from Eva Perón, and continued to enjoy a successful career there until he retired in 1960.

Miguel de Molina never returned to live in Spain. He died in Buenos Aires in 1993.

1 Bilingual crossword inside back page



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Málaga is famous for its Semana Santa religious celebrations. This year its streets are silent. Silence is usual on Good Friday when the last procession of the day passes by. The owner of the Glass and Crystal Museum, Gonzalo Fernández-Prieto, has broken his silence. For the first time he reveals what usually happens on Good Friday behind the doors of his historical house.

-Gonzalo, I think that for many foreigners it will be useful first of all to clarify what is special with this silent procession...

-Let's say, mourning and rigour are typical of the Friday before Easter Sunday in any Christian church - whether Catholic, Protestant or Orthodox. On this day they commemorate the crucifixion of Jesus and his death at Calvary. The celebrations of the previous days give way to silence on the death of Christ. All of the cofradías (brotherhoods) fall silent at this time, which reaches its climax when the Sepulcro (sepulchre) is carried through the streets of the city. On the same evening, some time before the Sepulcro, one can see the smallest and most moving procession in Malaga. For me this is the most emotional moment of Easter. Especially when the Virgen de los Servitas leaves her temple, all lights in the vicinity are turned off and silence floods the neighbourhood. This silence is broken only by the prayers of her devotees and the drums that accompany her.

-Is it correct, that Los Servitas is not actually a brotherhood?

-You're right. Los Servitas is not a brotherhood but a religious order, founded during the Middle Ages in Florence. From the very beginning it was very popular among the Catholic nobility everywhere in Europe. In Malaga, the order was established in the seventeenth century - I think in 1695. Then in 1739, the Count of Buenavista sponsored the establishment of the Order of the Servitas in the crypt of the Church of San Felipe Neri.

-This Church is just in front of your museum, isn't it?

- Yes, that's correct. The building that houses the museum was always closely connected with the Church of San Felipe Neri because it was built by the Cassini family who also provided the materials for the construction of the church in the early eighteenth century. Since I bought the house 20 years ago, I've tried to maintain those ties both with the church and the neighbourhood. For example, the funds donated by visitors to our Lladro Christmas nativity scene go entirely to the church of San Felipe Neri. Then, during Easter we hold two musical events from our main balcony that overlooks the church. On Palm Sunday a soprano and a mezzosoprano sing the Cru-



Image of one of the museum's Good Friday Funeral Dinners. SUR

Silent Friday in silent Malaga

Gonzalo Fernández-Prieto, the owner of the Malaga Glass and Crystal Museum, talks about his Good Friday traditions, interrupted this year by coronavirus

ALEKK M. SAANDERS

cifixion of Vivaldi to the image of the Salutation brotherhood, and on the evening of Good Friday the Stabat Mater by Sances is sung by a countertenor or a soprano to the image of the Servitas.

-Is it only a kind of tribute to local tradition or are you religious?

- It's a tribute to the local history and an old tradition of the Catholic branch of our old Spanish family that has always followed the customs. One of them is to give a Funeral Dinner on Good Friday. That evening many members of our family and friends from many parts of Europe come to have dinner at the museum. It is beautiful to share with them that special moment. But the number of the guests is limited. Just 28. There's always a queue to take part in this event with the dinner. It's a pity that this Friday we can't gather together.

-According to the rumour in the city, you have a strict dress code to enter...

- Yes! It's not a party, but a State Funeral Dinner. That is why gentlemen must wear dark suits and ladies must wear the mantilla; a

black lace veil worn high on the back of the head. By the way, the long black mantillas, of light transparent lace, relate to an earlier era when it was not permissible to go to church bare headed. Even now, ladies meeting the Pope must cover their head with a mantilla as a sign of respect. Spanish queens have the right to wear white mantillas at the Vatican.

-Have any queens or personalities close to the Royal family been among the guests?

- I can only say that we have received very important persons that definitely prefer privacy. That's why we hardly ever take photos during the dinner. And the doors are closed. We hardly ever draw attention to the dinner in a public medium. I actually have never spoken about this topic to any mass media. Your newspaper is the first one.

-Can you at least reveal the secret of the menu?

-There's no secret to the special menu. It is a funeral dinner, so we have only two courses. Always the same. We keep on following our



▲ Fernández-Prieto. This year the museum owner will be applauding health workers from his balcony, rather than watching processions. SUR

family tradition which respects Roman Catholic customs to not eat warm-blooded animals on Fridays. So fish is the common meal of choice. Saumon en croûte (salmon in puff pastry) is the main dish on the table. This is an excellent blend of salmon, spinach, creamy herb sauce and puff pastry. Pavlova is on the table for dessert, as usual. After dinner we all gather on our balconies to see the start of the Servitas procession. It's at this moment that we have the Stabat Mater sung in tribute.

This year due to the Covid-19 war there will, unfortunately, be no dinner or processions. The silence of the day will be broken up at eight o'clock in the evening as many people in Spain applaud in honour of those who are selflessly working hard to protect us in hospitals, pharmacies, supermarkets and on the streets of our towns and cities. Professor Ian Phillips, Steven Sprague and I will join them, as we have every evening since the start of this crisis, from the balcony of the museum.

Easter and Covid-19

REV. ADRIAN LOW



Life is risky. If you didn't know that in February, you must know that by now. Touch nothing! Go nowhere. Money, health, jobs and businesses all in the risk register. People are putting off seeing the doctor about something just in case they catch the virus.

So why create life at all? It would have been safer for God not to have bothered. Total up the pain of Covid-19 bereavement and it is immense. Some would blame God for it all as if he purposely created this killer. No he didn't, but the wonder of evolution, of life itself, has massive risks associated with it including, as we have discovered, Covid-19.

Evolution of life goes hand in hand with risk but, despite that, God ultimately chose to evolve life, because, just like vast majority of us, God loves life so very much, and the risk was worth taking.

Getting that message over, in a time of pain, like this one, is difficult, but God's not immune to pain, ours or his. God in Jesus Christ planned that walk into Jerusalem 2000 years ago, knowing that he would die a most dreadful death. But why bother?

Well... God is love. I can think of no other way God could have shown a complete willingness to put us first. We applaud the health workers because they are putting their lives on the line. Some, like Florence Nightingale, give all they are and all they have that others might live. It is the most selfless loving of all that God does at Easter. Action above all words, that we might know at the heart of creation is love... and life.

Which is why Easter is also about resurrection, for life does not end here, ever. Thousands of Covid-19 relatives may never say their goodbyes - it's too risky - but when a handful and then hundreds see Jesus fully alive from 40 hours after crucifixion, there is a profound hope of immense proportions at the end of this tunnel. As Queen Elizabeth said on Sunday, echoing Vera Lynn: we'll meet again. And in all the bleak brokenness of isolation, sickness and bereavement, Easter agrees. Life will win because God bothers, loves and suffers. Life wins now, and beyond death. Jesus made it so.

OPERA AND DANCE

Nightly Opera Stream

THE METROPOLITAN OPERA. Every night, 7.30pm EDT (12.30am Spain). Free.

While the MET is closed due to the epidemic it will be screening presentations from the Live In HD series of cinema transmissions. Each transmission will remain available on www.metopera.org for 23 hours.

10 April. Gounod's Romeo and Juliette. Starring Diana Damrau, Vittorio Grigolo, Elliot Madore, and Mikhail Petrenko, conducted by Gianandrea Noseda. From 21 January 2017.

11 April. Donizetti's Don Pasquale. Starring Anna Netrebko, Matthew Polenzani, Mariusz Kwiecien, and John Del Carlo, conducted by James Levine. From 13 November 2010.

12 April. Mozart's Cosi fan tutti. Starring Amanda Majeski, Serena Malfi, Kelli O'Hara, Ben Bliss, Adam Plachetka, and Christopher Maltman, conducted by David Robertson. From 31 March 2018.



Iris Nieto Dúo, balcony concert.

Ballet

BALLET MALANDAIN DE BIARRITZ. The prestigious Ballet Malandain is now on YouTube with short extracts of choreography from some classical and modern ballets.

The ballet company's most recent success was Marie Antoinette with music by composer Hadyn and Gluck and which a 14 minute fragment is now available on Vimeo. Find Ballet

Malandain de Biarritz on YouTube and Vimeo.

World Ballet Day

THE BOLSHOI BALLET. The World Ballet Day filmed live from Moscow can be seen on YouTube.

The Bolshoi Ballet are shown in the video during rehearsals with interviews with some of the teachers and dancers translated into English.

There are many other videos of other performances available

Full length productions

THE ROYAL OPERA HOUSE. The ROH has announced a programme of full-length productions which will be broadcast over Facebook and YouTube. 7pm GMT (8pm Spain).

The programme includes both ballet and opera and the schedule can be found on facebook.com/royaloperahouse or <https://www.youtube.com/user/RoyalOperaHouse>

17 April. The Metamorphosis. A contemporary piece by Arthur Pita, created on Royal Ballet Principal Dancer, Edward Watson. It is based on the novella by Franz Kafka, about how one family reacts when their son wakes up, transformed into a monstrous insect.

Dance

RIVERDANCE PERFORMANCES

Schools across Ireland took part in a Riverdance special which has been posted on Facebook.

Over 600 dancers took part in the performance which took place in Croke Park, Dublin before the quarantine. Just type Riverdance in the search box in Facebook.

MUSEUM TOURS

Musée de la Musique

PHILHARMONIE DE PARIS. Virtual tours of the extensive collection of instruments and artifacts that form part of the collection held by the Paris Philharmonic.

The collection is divided into various categories such as keyboard, string and wind as well as percussion, electronic and other instruments. There are also art works including portraits

of Stradivari and Fender and an archive containing documents and bills signed by Beethoven etc. The site allows previous exhibitions such as that of Charlie Chaplin to be viewed. www.collectionsdu-musee.philharmoniedeparis.fr

Palace tour

LE CHATEAU VERSAILLES. A virtual tour of how the Versailles palace evolved.

The Versailles palace started life as a hunting lodge and was converted into a sumptuous chateau under Louis XIII, XIV, XV and finally Louis XVI. The video shows the gradual changes made to the buildings under each monarch. In French. <http://www.chateauversailles.fr/decouvrir>

Collection and Louvre Palace

LOUVRE. Visit the museum's rooms and galleries and discover how the palace was built and for whom.

The Louvre is famous world wide as an art gallery but few know it was originally built as a fortress complete with a moat and drawbridge. Now it houses an amazing selection of art as well as Egyptian antiquities. <https://www.louvre.fr/>

CONCERTS AND MUSIC

Recordings of live concerts

THE PARIS PHILHARMONIC. The orchestra has released several of its past performances.

The web page <https://live.philharmoniedeparis.fr/concert> has a selection of eight concerts which can be watched online including The Tenth Symphony by Pierre Henry and Beethoven.

A concert in confinement

FRENCH NATIONAL ORCHESTRA.

Each musician has recorded their part of the concert from home. The orchestra play Ravel's Bolero. It was put together, with each musician playing their instrument from home, as a special concert for people to enjoy during the enforced quarantine. It can be found on YouTube ONF Ravel.



Riverdance. FACEBOOK

Balcony Concert

IRIS NIETO. Singer and oboe player Iris Nieto is performing live on Instagram.

Today, Friday 10 April, at 10pm, Iris Nieto Acoustic Covers Duet (Iris Nieto, vocals and oboe, Tomás Nieto, guitar) will be performing from the balcony of a property on Bda. Parque M^a Luisa, Malaga, live on Instagram @irisoboe

Brass band concert 'In the living room'

THE BRIGHOUSE AND RASTRICK BRASS BAND. From the West Ridings of Yorkshire, this band was formed in 1881.

The band play the 'Floral Dance from their own living rooms. Video is also on their Facebook page. www.brighthouseandrastrick.com/the-brighthouse-and-rastrick-band-present-a-concert-in-the-living-room/

Online concert listing

CONCIERTOS EN CASA. A new website listing concerts online around the world.

The website lists the concerts, where and when they are being streamed and information on the performers. If you subscribe, information is sent straight to your email address. <https://www.conciertosencasa.com/>

Fellini Soño con Picasso

SOUNDTRACKS OF THE PICASSO/FELLINI EXHIBITION. The Museo Picasso de Málaga held a Fellini /Picasso exhibition in 2018.

Drawings, documents, films and photographs belonging to the Italian film director Federico Fellini were displayed alongside some of Picasso's works and accompanied by the music composed by Nino Rota, can be listened to on the museum website: <https://www.museopicasso-malaga.org/>

You will need to register with Spotify.

EXHIBITIONS

Contemporary Art

MUSEO DE ARTE CONTEMPORÁNEO DE BOGOTÁ.

The Contemporary Art Museum in Bogotá has a virtual tour of its installations.

Using videos and images, the museum takes the virtual visitor through the different galleries of exhibitions examining the works of Colombian-French artist Chanoir and Joemz among others. <http://www.mac.org.co/>

Heritage art

GOOGLE ARTS & CULTURE.

Some of the world's most famous museums and galleries on the planet can now be visited without leaving home.

Clicking on the arrows you can move around in the pictures looking at the rooms from different angles and getting up close to the art works. The choice of places to visit is too many to list here. <https://artsandculture.google.com/>

Art and culture at home

TWITTER. A huge range of art is available on Twitter.

Public administrations, galleries, companies and private artists are using twitter to stream their art collections. #laculturaentucasa

Art explained

MUSEO DEL PRADO.

Each day, the Prado museum is uploading a video.

One of its many works of art is chosen each day for an in depth study. The museum also offers free (90€ with certification) online courses. Currently the courses available are El Bosco and Velázquez en el Museo del Prado. <https://www.museodelprado.es/>

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EXHIBITIONS

Multimedia visits

MUSEO REINA SOFIA. The museum has several websites where its art works can be viewed.

A large number of videos and audios (in Spanish) of tours around the museum and particular collections can be found online with Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Vimeo and YouTube. <https://www.museoreina-sofia.es/>

Glass exhibition

MUSEO DEL VIDRIO Y CRISTAL DE MÁLAGA. The museum has an amazing collection of beautiful glass objects which you can now see online. The museum is now posting photos of its stunning collection on Facebook. Galle, Lalique, Baccarat, Art Nouveau, Art Deco, car mascots, studio glass, ancient and contemporary designs can all be seen.



Glass museum. MÁLAGA

Picasso En Casa

MUSEO PICASSO MÁLAGA. The Picasso Museum is presenting its main exhibition online with an audioguide in English.

The exhibition Genealogías del Arte, o la Historia del Arte Como Arte Visual includes works by Picasso, Cézanne, Kandinsky and Malevich. It is accompanied by a narrative in Spanish or English and the virtual visitor can also listen to a selection of 30s jazz. The museum web page also has information on past exhibitions such as Warhol. <https://masdearte.com/especiales/picassoencasa/>

Bacon, Freud and London School

MUSEO PICASSO MÁLAGA. Three years ago the Picasso Museum united the works of Francis Bacon, Lucian Freud and members of the London School in an exhibition.

The video explores the connection between the artists and the works. Audio guide is in English. www.museopicassomalaga.org/exposiciones-temporales/bacon-freud-y-la-escuela-de-londres

Latest exhibitions online

MUSEO CARMEN THYSSEN MÁLAGA. The museum has recorded 360° videos of some of its most recent exhibitions.

Virtual visits of exhibitions such as Fortuny Grabador and Fantasía Árabe, Henri Matisse, Jazz and Sorolla are available as well as a look at the permanent collection at www.carmen-thysenmalaga.org/visitas-virtuales

Torremolinos sends culture into homes to relieve boredom and promote local artists

A new online show will present theatre productions, flamenco and dance shows, exhibitions, yoga and origami classes

TONY BRYANT

TORREMOLINOS. The cultural department of Torremolinos town hall has launched a programme of cultural activities that people can enjoy at home during the lockdown. Under the banner of Cultura en Casa (culture at home), the council, along with the help of local associations, theatre companies, artists, musicians and professionals from the art world, have designed a special cultural agenda that will be broadcast through #TorremolinosEsCultura each night from 8pm.

The programme, which began this week, will include recordings of theatre productions, flamenco and dance shows and exhibitions that have taken place in the town. It will also include talks, presentations and documentaries delivered from the homes of specialists, like Maribel Moreno, art monitor at the Pablo



Theatre productions are included in the online programme. SUR

Ruiz Picasso Cultural Centre. Several local celebrities will take part, including flamenco dancer Manuel Roldán and young up-and-coming director, actor and screenwriter Fran Campos.

The programme will also include yoga and keep fit classes, and origami workshops for children.

Councillor for Culture David

Tejeiro explained that the new platform has been designed to "help people overcome the boredom of the lockdown" while boosting the work of local artists through social networks.

Local artists of any discipline who wish to participate can do so by contacting promocioncultural@ayto-torremolinos.es.

Painting by painting

MUSEO DE MÁLAGA. The museum's web page gives a detailed description of each work of art.

Each unique piece of art has a story which is explained. Open the web page www.museosdeandalucia.es/web/museodemalaga and click on Obras Singulares.

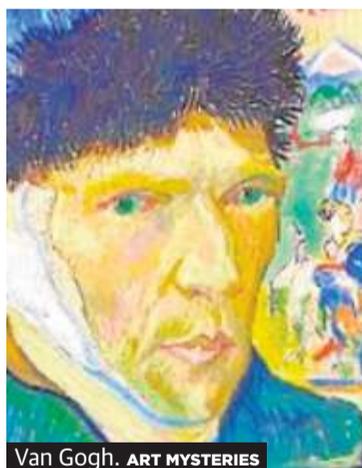
LECTURES / DOCUMENTARIES

Diamonstein-Spielvogel Lecture Series

THE NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART.

The series gives distinguished artists an opportunity to discuss the evolution of their work in their own words. The lectures available include artist Alex Katz talking to the senior curator and head of modern art at the National Gallery, Harry Cooper, Zoe Leonard talking to Lynne Cooke, senior curator, special projects in modern art at the gallery and Thomas Struth talking to Philip Brookman, consulting curator, department of photographs, as well as many other artists. <https://www.nga.gov/>

The National Gallery also has several mini lectures on each of the Old Masters on YouTube.



Van Gogh. ART MYSTERIES

Television documentary

ART MYSTERIES. The BBC recorded 4 episodes, each lasting half an hour. The first episode of Art Mysteries presented by Waldemar Januszczak is available on iPlayer until 16 April. Discover the secret meanings hidden in the paintings of Van Gogh, Gauguin, Cezanne and Seurat. BBC Art Mysteries

CHARITY

Online quiz

ADANA. The Animal charity ADANA is

trying to raise funds with a virtual quiz.

Register for a whole week of brain training by visiting <https://www.virtualquizevents.co.uk> and once registered, you can search for the ADANA quizzes from the Available Quiz events section. First prize is 10% of the money raised and second prize is 6% of the money raised. You can sign up for each individual event that you would like to attend and pay by credit card if you don't want enter your bank details. Games start at 7pm GMT or 8PM CET.

Statue quiz

AXARQUÍA ANIMAL RESCUE.

Match the title to the statue for charity.

Los Perros have numbered and named twenty-two garden statues and all competitors have to do is match the name to the statue. Entry is a donation to the animal charity and the prize for the winner is lunch or supper for up to four people at Los Perros near Comares (obviously after the current Covid-19 health scare is over).

www.comares.webs.com/statue competition

Sports competition

FESTIVAL DEPORTIVO SOLIDARIO.

Exercise at home for a good cause.

The competition starts on 12 April, 10am on Facebook. Each person decides which activity they wish to do, indoor running, static cycling, skip or do squats. Competitors need to sign up on the website www.dor-salchip.es and make a donation (minimum 2€) which will go to Bomberos Sin Fronteras which at the moment is making and distributing facial protection screens across Spain. As there is no fixed time or distance, each person can decide when his or her event ends.

THEATRE

Theatre productions online

NATIONAL THEATRE AT HOME.

Watch the best of British theatre every Thursday.

The much loved National Theatre will be live streaming on YouTube every Thursday at 7pm British time (8pm Spain) starting with the online premiere of the comedy One Man, Two Guvnors featuring a Tony Award winning performance by James Corden. Each performance will be available to view for seven days.

<https://www.nationaltheatre.org.uk/>

16 April. Treasure Island.

23 April. Twelfth Night.

RELIGIOUS SERVICES

Anglican church service

COSTA DEL SOL WEST CHAPLAINCY. Services available online from the website

www.costachurch.com.

Sunday morning services available at 10am every Sunday on YouTube

Costa Del Sol West Chaplaincy. Pre-service prayers are at 9.45am <https://zoom.us/j/968525376>

Sundays, Tuesdays and Thursdays, Tea at Five Live (5pm-6pm on Zoom). Wednesday night prayer Compline: link is on the website.

Good Friday Litany at 3pm is also on the website.

Semana Santa

ANGLICAN CHURCH OF ST

BARNABÁS. The Spanish Reformed Episcopal Church will be transmitting on Facebook.

The Facebook page www.facebook.com/stbarnabastorre/ will be posting services at 2pm on Good Friday and at 11am on Easter Sunday. The Anglican Church at Los Boliches can be contacted for updates and information on Facebook: www.facebook.com/costadelsolchurch/

Sunday and Wednesday Services

ANGLICAN CHAPLAINCY OF NERJA AND ALMUÑÉCAR Regular services on Zoom app.

Every Sunday at midday and on Wednesday mornings at 9.30am. People wishing to access the service E-mail details to Fr Nigel Thomas (Chaplain): cofenerja@gmail.com or John Hodgson: hodgsonjbp@gmail.com. The Holy Week Services are: Good Friday 10 April 1Liturgy, Meditation Readings - 12pm (midday) Easter Day 12 April - Eucharist - 12pm (midday).

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**DANIEL MALDONADO**

Flour, the ideal material to get creative with

Combine and balance. Crepes, pies and flat breads with vegetables are good ways to make use of flour in meals under current circumstances

ESPERANZA PELÁEZ

► Don't forget to sift. For any recipe, sifting helps to prevent lumps and helps to activate gluten.



Cereals began to be grown about 11,000 years ago and changed the history of humanity, introducing new basic foods into the diet of different civilisations. Mortars and mills are among some of the oldest cooking implements. In the Mediterranean they were vital for the first step in transforming wheat into a flour or raw material for bread, cakes, pasta and biscuits, among other things.

It could be said that nowadays, with a much wider range of foods available, that we are witnessing a food revolution. However, it is interesting that at an exceptional time like the present, wheat flour has once again become one of the most popular foods in the supermarket. It's as if our cultural DNA, as powerful as our physical DNA, has activated our intuition that this ingredient, when mixed with water, is capable of providing sat-

isfaction, delight and of course, nutrition. It is precisely because wheat flour is so versatile that we are going to focus on it here and explore the best ways to transform it into the basis for foods that are healthy and full of calories.

Except for those that already bake their own bread or eat special flours for dietary reasons, most will have common multipurpose plain or self raising baking flour at home.

Both are refined products, obtained by successive milling and sifting. First the grain is crushed to remove the germ which, although very nutritious, limits the storage time. Then in successive siftings, the husk or bran is removed; this part is kept in wholewheat flour.

The result is a product where the nutritional element is limited almost exclusively to the carbohydrates contained in the en-

dosperm, the internal part of the grain. As Ali Bouzari explains in his book *Ingredients*, these carbohydrates, which were originally destined to feed the future plant, are long chains of sugars which, during cooking, "interpose themselves in the path of the water". This is why flours and starches have excellent qualities as a thickener (their function in a béchamel, a custard or a croquette dough), and as a base for doughs (with less water).

The multipurpose flour we are focussing on is not ideal for bread making because it has a lower gluten content than strong flour (10-13% for plain flour and between 9 and 11% for self raising; bread flour contains over 13%).

And gluten, from which we get the word for glue, gives the dough the elasticity needed to trap the air bubbles produced by the liv-

ing yeast in the baking process. The slow action of the yeast has the function of making it more digestible because it causes the gradual destruction of the sugar chains. The internet has lots of recipes for bread made with live yeast and, once dried, the results should be exactly the same.

If you do not have any strong flour in your store cupboard then it is best to make crepes, pancakes, fritters or flatbreads (cocas, pizzas, chapatis, etc.).

An easy recipe and a healthy and an appealing way to use flour in times like these is to make savoury pancakes. To make them take 150g of flour, a pinch of salt, 35ml of milk or water, one egg and 10g of oil. Whisk everything together, add more liquid if it is too thick and pour a thin layer of the batter into a nonstick frying pan. Cook both sides and keep warm,

◀ Simple base. Combined with other elements that provide moisture and the addition of other ingredients, flour takes on a thousand forms.

and continue making the pancakes until all the batter is used up. Fill the pancakes with stir-fried vegetables seasoned with soy sauce or a simple salad, the options are endless.

We can make American-style pancakes by using the same ingredients as above but increasing the amount of flour to 230g and adding a teaspoon of baking powder. This time the batter should be thicker; pour three or four smaller pancakes at a time. Flip when set on the top and well risen. Serve with fresh chopped fruit (bananas, pears, apple cut into cubes and lightly cooked in the microwave ...) and yoghurt instead of cream.

Traditional coca or flatbreads are also very simple to make. You need 250g of flour, 125ml of beer, salt and 60ml of olive oil. The recipe is as simple as putting the flour with the salt in a large bowl, adding the oil and finally, slowly adding the beer while stirring. Once all the ingredients have been added, knead a little until you get a consistent dough. The quantities are enough for two cocas, which can then be covered with various vegetables (onion, tomato slices, mushrooms or sliced courgettes, peppers...) before baking for approximately half an hour in a preheated oven 225° C.

Another classic recipe that is perfect for plain flour and can be combined with a savoury filling is the petit-choux. Preheat the oven to 180°C. Measure 250ml of milk, water or a mixture of both, 50g of butter and 50g of lard (replaceable by 100g of oil or one of the two fats), 150g of flour, a pinch of salt and four large eggs. Heat the liquid with the fat and salt in a saucepan and, when it comes to the boil, add the flour all at once and beat vigorously until it is well mixed (about three minutes).

Leave it to cool for about 20 minutes and then add the eggs one by one, beating well after adding each one. Line a baking tray with greaseproof paper and place spoonfuls of the choux mixture spaced well apart to give them room to spread. Place the tray in the oven and bake the petit-choux for 20 minutes, then turn the oven down to 160°C and cook for 10 minutes more. Remove from the oven and leave to cool.

They can be split open and filled with chopped sautéed mushrooms and allioli, or perhaps a low fat cheese and herbs.

Remember that carbohydrates, of any kind, should not exceed 25% of the intake at each meal, and that 50% should be vegetables and fruits (the rest, protein).

WHAT IS IT USED FOR?

Starch

Although similar in appearance, starch and flour are not the same. Starch is the part of the endosperm (inside the cereal) that serves as a food reserve for the plant, and is extracted by various procedures that involve breaking open the grain, separating it and then drying and milling it. Starches, finer than flour, serve as thickeners. In bread preparations for coeliacs, wheat starch is sometimes used which has been isolated from gluten in the process. Other starches are extracted from tubers (potato, cassava, etc.)

Sieve

You will see that many recipes call for the addition of sifted

flour. Do not skip this step. Sifting not only helps to prevent lumps and better distribute baking powders and other dry ingredients, but also by separating the flour particles oxygen penetrates and releases the gluten proteins which helps give the dough greater elasticity.

Yeast and baking powder

Bread yeast is a living micro-organism, *Saccharomyces cerevisiae*, a single-celled fungus that ferments bread dough. Baking powders are a mixture of an acid (citric or tartaric) and a base (bicarbonate) that, when in contact with water and heat, generate bubbles that help lift the dough. Both are leavening agents, but baking powders

do not produce fermentation. If you don't have baking powder, use bicarbonate of soda.

Vegetable flours

The most common is chick-peas. It is usually mixed with wheat flour or used alone. It is common in Indian recipes.

Rice flour

You can add it to cakes mixed with wheat flour, but its ideal use is in tempura batter, always mixed with very cold water and a little salt.

Buckwheat flour

Gluten free as it is not a cereal or a grain, it works well in cakes and is perfect to replace wheat flour in pancakes.

RECIPE

Paratha - Indian flatbread

These simple flatbreads, so called because they contain no yeast or other raising agents, are a staple of Indian cuisine where they are used as a spoon to eat with, as well as to mop up the rich sauces from spiced curries and other dishes with gravies and juices.

PARATHA

Ingredients

- 250g strong flour
- 2 tbsps oil
- 175ml warm water
- Pinch of salt

Method

Sift the flour and salt into a large bowl.

Slowly add the oil and warm water, drawing the flour in to the centre with your fingertips. Once all the flour is incorporated, knead the dough on a floured work surface until it is soft, smooth and elastic. This should take about eight to ten minutes.

Form the dough into a ball and smear it lightly with oil before placing in a clean bowl, covering it and leaving it to rest in a warm place for around half an hour. Once rested, divide the dough into eight even size pieces. Place a heavy frying pan or griddle on the heat with a little oil.

Flour the work surface and roll out the pieces of dough as thinly as possible, sprinkle with a little oil, fold the edges into the middle and roll out again. Repeat twice again to form a multi-layered thin square. Place the paratha in the hot pan with a little oil. Bubbles should appear on the surface of the dough. As the underside starts to turn golden, flip the paratha over to cook the other side. Repeat with all the pieces of dough.



Mostly losers

ANDREW J. LINN



The losers in the coronavirus epidemic are those unfortunate enough not to be politicians, civil servants or the comfortably-off. The wine trade, in all its shapes and sizes, regrettably will come out as a big loser.

Starting at the bottom – or the top, depending how you rate such matters – most bodegas have their cellars stocked with the wine from last year's harvest that has not yet been sold.

Assuming the sun continues to shine, there will be a 2020 harvest from July on, so where is that wine going to be stored? If this year's vintage is better than last year's, there is even talk of tipping the 2019 down the drain.

The other option of course is not to make any wine this year, and let the grapes rot on the vine. That means no income for the winery until this thing is over, but at least wine is not a spoiling asset, and is quite capable of sitting around in oak barrels or stainless steel tanks for years to come.

A sobering fact: Many bodegas in every winemaking country rely on visitors and on-site sales for much-needed income, and this has vanished.

Wine retailers and restaurants have it even worse. They are sitting on stocks that, in many cases, can be worth hundreds of thousands of euros.

Some, in the knowledge they cannot keep their dining rooms open, have been selling off the contents of their cellars. Perhaps this is a short-term way of obtain-

Like a forest fire, everything except the biggest trees is destroyed, but it's not long before green shoots come up

ing vital cash, but the final conclusion will depend on the duration of the emergency.

Many restaurants will close for ever, and, once the all-clear is sounded, new ones will spring up.

Rather like a devastating forest fire: everything except the biggest trees is destroyed, but it is not long before the green shoots start pushing through.

WINE OF THE WEEK

Mirabrás

This wine from the famous Barbadillo winery in Sanlúcar de Barrameda is not technically a sherry, in spite of being made of the usual Palomino grapes and grown on the white albariza soil of the región. It is a white table wine fermented in old sherry barrels, then matured in tanks, all very unusual and, I suspect, something of an experiment.

However the only complaint I have about this really delicious wine is the price of 18 euros.



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Give your body ammunition to fight viruses

Ten ways to help strengthen your immune system

ROCÍO MENDOZA



In medicine, you've got to be wary of miracle cures. Nothing is one hundred per cent free from risk because there are so many factors that can't be controlled. However, one universal thing that can help minimise any health risk is living a generally healthy life and adopting good habits.

So... is there anything I can do to make my body react better to an attack by a pathogen like the coronavirus? The answer to the big question of the day is yes. The reaction of your immune system (i.e. the set of cells that takes on a pathogen) depends on many factors. Genetics, sex, previous exposure to viruses and bacteria, hormonal status, vaccinations, smoking, alcohol consumption or obesity all play a part. In the case of Covid-19, age is proving to be one of the most impor-

tant ones.

Although the army of cells able to recognise different antigens is greater in an elderly person (because his or her system has reacted to more situations throughout life), the capacity of the cells to react is less. In the young it's the opposite: the cells have less experience with viruses, but more vigour to cope with them.

That aside, there's one thing that's still in our hands. We can choose to feed that army well; the army which, if necessary, will have to fight.

Dr Patricia Fanlo, coordinator of the Systemic Autoimmune Diseases group of the Spanish society of Internal Medicine (SEMI), has helped to draw up ten commandments aimed at getting our defences ready for battle.

The first line of defence: intestines

GET YOUR MICROBIOTA IN SHAPE.

The mucosal barrier of the intestine, a seven-metre-long organ, contains millions of bacteria that are beneficial to the body. It is known as microbiota. One of its functions is to stimulate the development and function of the immune system. Probiotics, administered in appropriate doses, help this first line of defence. The most common are lactic acids, lactobacillus and bifidus. They inhibit the growth of pathogenic bacteria, which can cause infections, because these microorganisms compete with bad bacteria for food and thus prevent them from growing. In addition, probiotics stimulate cytokines and strengthen T-lymphocytes. They are found in all dairy products and kefir.

Omegas, the kings of the healthy oils

CHOOSE FATTY FISH.

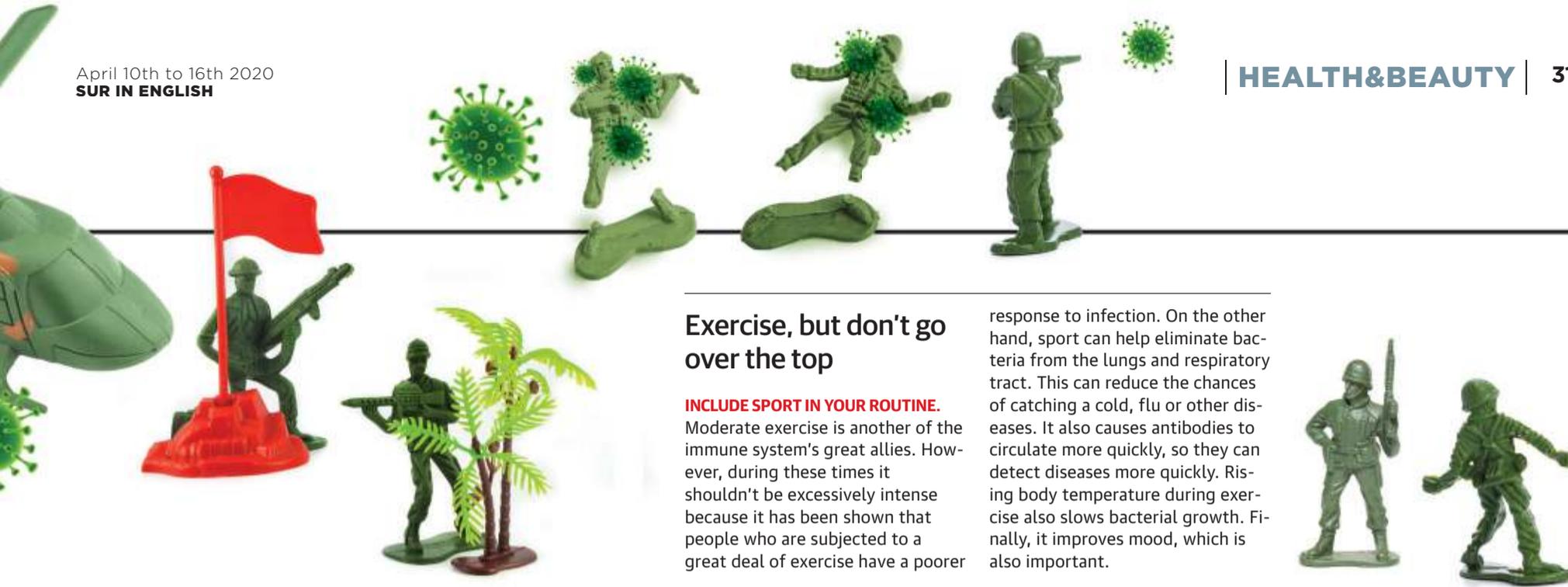
Unsaturated fatty acids, known as Omega 3, are another group of nutrients that are essential for strengthening the body. They have anti-allergic and anti-inflammatory properties and play an important role in auto-immune diseases. They also influence the reduction of infections. Although there are pharmaceutical supplements and some supermarket products are sold enriched with them, these essential oils are naturally found in foods such as olive oil, avocado (now so fashionable in new eating habits), all kinds of oily fish (sardines, anchovies, etc.), salmon and nuts.

Emotions on your side

RELEASE EMOTIONAL STRESS.

Over the last decade, extensive scientific research has shown that emotional stress has an immunosuppressive effect. Dr. Fanlo points out that this is not quantitative, but qualitative. The greater the number of negative emotions a person develops, the weaker the response of the cells responsible for fighting an infection. "It has been shown that people who suffer from emotional stress are more likely to suffer from infections," she said. The current confinement forces us to make an extra effort in this sense. Its importance for the state of physical health has made all specialists recommend exercises that help maintain mental well-being in these difficult times.





Three minerals on the front line

CONSUME IRON, ZINC AND SELENIUM.

Taking in minerals through our diet is one of the basic pillars of nutrition. Three are the most important: iron, zinc and selenium. In the case of iron, having the correct amount in the blood leads to a better production of interleukins (crucial in the regulation of immune responses, inflammatory reactions, and hematopoiesis) in macrophages (a type of white blood cell). Red meat, shellfish, parsley, raspberries and spinach are iron-rich foods that are important to have on your table during these times. Alongside it, two other minerals are essential for increased antibody proliferation. These are selenium and zinc, both present in fish, seafood, dairy products, nuts and brown rice. Selenium also has an antioxidant effect and acts against some viral infections. Copper also helps to increase the proliferation of lymphocytes.

A crucial alphabet

TAKE YOUR VITAMINS.

Vitamins are divided into two large groups: water-soluble (B6 and B12, C and folic acid) and fat-soluble (A, D and E). The former performs numerous functions that regulate the body's immune response, and the latter helps stimulate the production of cells that are essential for the proper functioning of the immune system, such as leukocytes and antibodies. All of them



are obtained from fruits and vegetables. Of all these, the most affected by the lockdown is vitamin D, which is obtained from the sun. It is of vital importance: any deficiency can lead to a greater susceptibility to infections as it inhibits the maturation of dendrites (another type of defence cell), among other effects.

Avoid eating more than necessary



SHOW SELF-CONTROL.

In these critical moments for the health of the population, Dr Fanlo believes that it's necessary to make nutrition the number one priority. "In times of confinement it becomes more difficult to keep anxiety at bay and therefore more food is almost inevitably eaten than is necessary. More calories and much more fat in general," she warns. But we have to be aware that nutritional imbalance can affect the ability of the immune system. "This situation of confinement isn't ideal; in fact it's adverse. It's good for keeping us from getting infected, but not ideal for strengthening the immune system. Hence, greater awareness and action is needed."

The power of the colour red in food

GET POLYPHENOLS ON THE MENU.

Strawberries, tomatoes, raspberries, pomegranates, blueberries, beets... Virtually all products in our shopping trolley that are bright red in colour are rich in polyphenols, an antioxidant substance known to contribute to the health of the cardiovascular system but now also praised for its ability to reduce chronic inflammation and regulate the interaction of macrophages (a type of defence cell) especially in adipose tissue. Lentils, beans, peas, tea, red wine, soy beans and other products such as chocolate, beer, olive oil and some nuts also contain them. Between 50 and 800 mg of polyphenols are ingested daily. Anything above this has a positive impact in terms of the antioxidants acquired.



Exercise, but don't go over the top

INCLUDE SPORT IN YOUR ROUTINE.

Moderate exercise is another of the immune system's great allies. However, during these times it shouldn't be excessively intense because it has been shown that people who are subjected to a great deal of exercise have a poorer

response to infection. On the other hand, sport can help eliminate bacteria from the lungs and respiratory tract. This can reduce the chances of catching a cold, flu or other diseases. It also causes antibodies to circulate more quickly, so they can detect diseases more quickly. Raising body temperature during exercise also slows bacterial growth. Finally, it improves mood, which is also important.



Aminoacids are essential

GIVE YOURSELF SUPPORT.

Essential amino acids such as arginine and citrulline have demonstrated their ability to stimulate the body's defences. Both also promote anti-inflammatory function. Citrulline, for example, is very abundant in watermelon and melon. It is one of the preferred amino acids for athletes because it reduces the occurrence of fatigue and promotes energy production during intense exercise. Other amino acids such as tryptophan (a sleep regulator found in pumpkin, chicken or peanuts) also increase the rate of antibodies. Finally, methionine (in beef, lamb, soy, dairy) is anti-bacterial.

Restorative sleep

FIGHT AGAINST INSOMNIA.

Not sleeping well is also related to a weakening of our natural defence capacity. During the pandemic, insomnia is another enemy threatening people's health, but without restful sleep there is no strong immune system. Sleeping well helps the production of serotonin, which prevents depression, moodiness and thus emotional instability, which is directly related to the body's depletion of defensive agents. Restorative sleep also promotes the production of T-cells, a group of white blood cells. Several scientific articles published recently relate the loss of sleep hours with a proportional reduction in the production of these cells in the individuals analysed.

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Some Olympic hopefuls don't mind the delay

The Tokyo Olympic Games will now be in 2021. The year-long wait could actually benefit some athletes from Malaga, or at least they don't seem to think it will damage their chances

PEDRO LUIS ALONSO



Natalia de Miguel
Rower
The Pre-Olympics (Lucerne) are postponed



Alejandro Davidovich
Tennis player
He would have options in singles and doubles



Ángela Lobato
Beach volleyball
Part of the second-best pair in Spain



María de Valdés
Swimmer
Ten kms in open waters and 1,500 metres



Ouassim Oumaiz
Athlete
Aiming for the 5,000 but still a way to go



María Torres
Karateka
In Kumite. Paris Pre-Olympics postponed



Paula Ruiz
Swimmer
Favourite for the 10 kms in open waters

PHOTOS: EFE/SUR/M. RIVAS

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Tokyo 2020 will now take place in 2021. Is that likely to change much for the athletes from Malaga? Those aspiring to compete in the Olympics seem to think it is a good move, rather than a bad one. Only karateka Damián Quintero from Torremolinos, who will be 37 if the competition takes place after 4 July next year, is already guaranteed a place, and is a top contender for a gold medal.

Azahara Muñoz, one of Spain's top women golfers, feels the same as the others, despite the uncertainty over the calendar for this year. The women's Olympic 'ranking' closes on 29 June, but a priori she has no rivals who could displace her. There were three feasible tickets to Tokyo if the Olympics had been held this year, all of them women.

Handball players Marta and Sole López were waiting for pre-Olympics qualifying in Liria (postponed, but they will have to take place when the coronavirus pandemic is under control). Their position as recent world runners-up (the greatest achievement for Spanish women in the history of this sport) gives them a place at the Olympics,

but now looking a year ahead everything is up in the air, especially for Marta, who is older (she will be 31) and facing her third Olympics. However, everything is in their favour.

The fifth, also very probable, representative of Malaga, would be in open water swimming. Either Paula Ruiz or María de Valdés, who is from Fuengirola (there will not be a place for them both) were set to compete for the position in the 10 kilometres in Fukuoka (Japan) on 30 May. This trial has been postponed. It was going to decide

nine or ten places (depending on whether or not a Japanese swimmer was included), but they are restricted to one competitor per country.

Also, as the swimmers who have already qualified will not be participating, and there are another five places for the best representative of each continent for those who have not yet qualified, there are still many options for one of the girls from Malaga. The delay doesn't change the picture, although their rhythm is disrupted during this time. De Valdés also

Azahara Muñoz's postponed motherhood

For 32-year-old Azahara Muñoz, the postponement of the Olympics may affect her in a different way, as she admitted in a recent interview with Ten Golf. "We all have life planned down to every second. Like many other women players, I had thought of hav-

ing a family after the Games but now everything is changing and there will be the Solheim Cup (and probably on the Costa del Sol) next year. A year off would be a lot in such a short career. If I were thinking of giving up golf when I was about 35, a season would be a long time. I make money, but the pandemic is still going to change things. Anyway, I want to keep playing while I still enjoy it," she said.

has a chance in the swimming pool over 1,500 metres although there are now two other Spanish girls with better results. The delay gives her a greater margin of time to try to do better than Mireia Belmonte and Jimena Pérez.

In rowing, time is also on the side of Natalia de Miguel, who competes with Rocío Lao from Seville in the double lightweight sculling. The world Pre-Olympics in this discipline, with two places available, has also been postponed. It was due to take place in Lucerne, Switzerland, in May.

Karateka María Torres, 22, is in a similar situation. The delay can only benefit her. She finished 19th in the Olympic ranking for kumite 61kg+, but there were only places for the top ten. Her chance was the Paris Pre-Olympics, scheduled for 8 to 10 May and now postponed. It provides three places for each weight group, although the Spanish Federation could still call up another karateka, Laura Palacio, 24th in the Olympic ranking at this weight, in her place.

Tennis player Alejandro Davidovich, 20, was eighth in the Olympic ranking (from 8 June 2019 to 8 June 2020) and no more tournaments will take place because of the cancellations. It remains to be seen whether it is frozen or reopens for 2021. Alejandro, from Rincón de la Victoria, may move up. Ahead he has veteran players like Feliciano López (who will be 39 at Tokyo 2021), Verdasco (37) and Andújar (35). He will also have a chance in the doubles, where he won a tournament a few weeks ago in Chile. The maximum is four men per country in singles and the same (different players) in doubles.

Finally in athletics, Ouassim Ou-maiz from Nerja can't rule out meeting the 13.13.50 target for 5,000 metres in the Olympics, and neither can his countrywoman Ángela Lobato, who pairs with Amaranta Fernández. The ranking closes on 14 June, and competitions in May have been cancelled. They are currently the fifth best pair without a place, as there is a limit of two duos per country and gender. The Baquerizo-Fernández duo have already classified. There is also the chance of a place earned for winning the Continental Cup in Madrid, which was scheduled for May and has now been postponed.

"It would be exceptional if a golf club hasn't laid off its staff during this time"

Pablo Mansilla President of the Federación Andaluza de Golf

An economist by profession, he analyses how the coronavirus crisis is affecting his sport, which is reliant on international tourism

PEDRO LUIS ALONSO

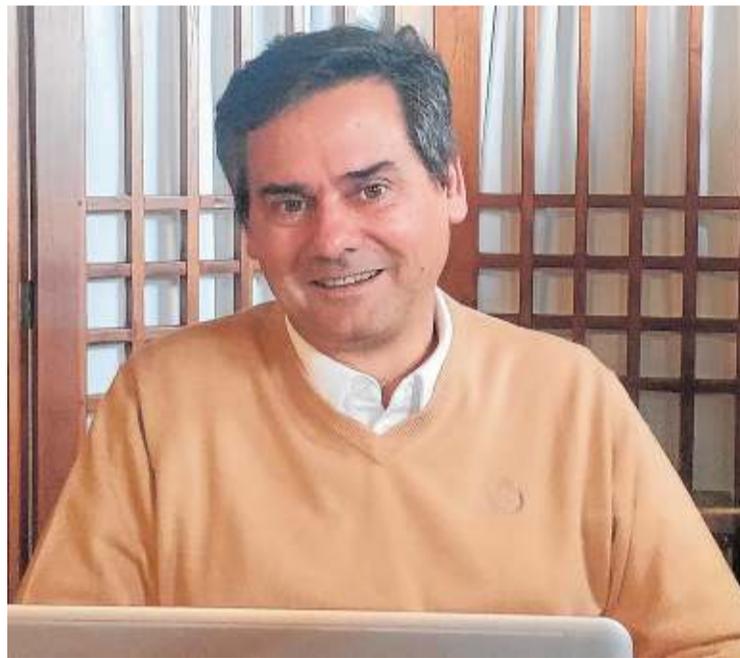
MALAGA. Pablo Mansilla, an economist from Malaga, has been president of the Federación Andaluza de Golf since the end of 2016. The Federation had just begun a new electoral process and he had presented his candidacy again, but then the CSD ordered everything to stop because of the pandemic, which is having an especially negative effect on this sport. Mansilla was also the only Spanish golf referee at the Olympic Games in Rio de Janeiro. With regard to Tokyo 2021, he says "it would be very difficult to do that for a second time".

-How many golfers in Andalucía are affected by this crisis?

-Well, you have to bear in mind that there are about 45,000 federated players, the third highest number in any sport in Andalucía after football and hunting. Everyone who competes in golf has a civil liability insurance and everyone who plays is federated, because all the courses are also federated. We have around 100 courses, of which 72, nearly three-quarters, are on the Costa del Sol.

-What main negative effects are you seeing?

-The thing that could have most consequence in the future is that we have to keep the courses maintained. A golf course is a living thing. There is no income now apart from members' fees, but the courses still have to be maintained and it is very costly. We are asking federated members and users to support them. If you don't pay your fee now, it could mean you won't be able to



Pablo Mansilla, at his home in Calahonda (Mijas). SUR

THE FIGURES

45,000

is the approximate number of federative golf licences in Andalucía: of these, 18,475 are in Malaga.

100

golf courses are situated in Andalucía, of which 72 are on the Costa del Sol.

participate in future.

-How is the maintenance being done? With minimum services?

-Yes. The decree for the state of alarm says you can carry out minimum maintenance tasks and that includes golf courses. If you go for two weeks without maintenance, and also depending on the weather, you can have serious

ferent tasks.

-Out of curiosity, how many golf professionals are there in Andalucía?

-There are 317 men and 17 women. There are players, coaches-teachers or a combination of both. Some don't give classes or compete.

-What do you think will happen when the lockdown is over?

-The world of sport will see many consequences. We'll have to see which sports we're allowed to practise and how. There's a great disadvantage for golf, because this is a very important tourism industry. We contribute 1.6 billion euros a year to the Malaga economy and it is calculated that 95 per cent of golf tourists come by plane. So let's see how we recover the air traffic and confidence.

-As an economist, what effect do you believe this pandemic will have?

-Well, what they have tried to do is freeze the economy, income and expenditure. The measures are the same as those adopted by other countries, and the State needs to generate liquidity and the EU needs to reach an agreement over this. Everyone will have to live as if nothing had happened, because if the machinery stops... but I don't really have enough ability to give an opinion. Some talk of a slow recovery, others of a clear V-shaped curve with major recovery. Both are being espoused by people with a lot of knowledge, but I think until we have guarantees about the virus, until it's all over, until people know they're not going to get ill if they travel...

-Your message for golfers?

-I would say to them: stay at home, applaud those who are fighting for us, and there are many: police, doctors, nurses, porters, chemists, shop staff... they are all making huge efforts right now, and we will have to as well, later on, when all this is finally over.

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IN BRIEF

CORONAVIRUS CRISIS

Sports stars donate trophies to help Red Cross Covid-19 response

EFE. Karateka Sandra Sánchez, footballer Amanda Sampedro, canoeist Saúl Craviotto, motorcycle racer Maverick Viñales and basketball players Marta Xargay and Javier Beirán have donated

some of their most important medals or trophies for an auction whose proceeds will go to the Cruz Roja Responde programme to help the most vulnerable in Spain in their fight against the coronavirus.

These six have answered the call from tennis star Rafael Nadal and basketball player Pau Gasol under the banner #NuestraMejorVictoria ('#OurBestVictory').



Maverick Viñales. EP

GOLF

British Open cancelled for first time since the war

EFE. This year's British Open has been cancelled - the first time this has happened since the Second World War.

After deliberation from the organisers, the tournament, which was due to take place at Royal St George's Golf Club in Sandwich (England) from 16 to 19 July, will next be played in 2021.

CYCLING

Tour de France won't go ahead without spectators

SUR. The head of the Tour de France, Christian Prudhomme has announced that the annual event, scheduled to take place between 27 June and 19 July, will only go ahead if spectators are able to attend. "For now the Tour's dates will stay the same," he said, but organisers are looking at alternative dates in August.

Malaga CF open talks with playing staff over reducing wages

The judicial administrator will stick by his decision not to file an ERTE despite La Liga urging all clubs to do so

ANTONIO GÓNGORA

MALAGA. Last week's plea from La Liga for all clubs to file an ERTE and temporarily lay-off staff has gone unanswered at Malaga CF, where judicial administrator José María Muñoz maintains his stance on the club's long-term plans.

Despite income taking a massive hit during the coronavirus crisis, Muñoz is determined to pass up the option of presenting an ERTE and therefore the opportunity to save a significant sum of money. Instead, he wants to restructure the club from top to bottom with other measures.

These may include an ERE (redundancy programme for the collective dismissal of workers).

Unlike an ERTE, an ERE doesn't prevent layoffs from being made in the future. ERTEs are "subject to the commitment of the company to maintain employment for a period of six months from the date of resumption of activity". This would mean that Malaga would not be able to carry out any restructuring until at least the end of the year.

Instead, the shortfall in the books must be made up in different ways. This includes lowering player wages for as long as this stoppage lasts.

With the wage bill coming in at eight million euros, a 20 per cent reduction for the remainder of the season has been mooted by Segunda clubs for if the campaign is written off (with a 10 per cent reduction for games played behind closed doors).

However, Malaga must negotiate terms with players on an individual basis and SUR sources understand that these talks began this week.



A LOOK AT LA LIGA
ROB PALMER

Commentator, Sky Sports

A dose of reality needed

Several weeks into lockdown, the players unions are still dragging their feet - all while others elsewhere in their clubs take a massive financial hit



It's time for top-level footballers to stop juggling toilet rolls and posting Instagram pictures from their palatial villas and tune in with the current world mood.

The reaction to the state of emergency has been quite unsavoury and damaging to the relationship between fan and footballer.

Several weeks into lockdown, the players unions are still dragging their feet and advising members to continue drawing full wage as others elsewhere in the club take a massive hit, or even worse, lose their livelihood.

In a previous life I was a professional footballer; alas my career didn't advance, but the support I received from the players' union (PFA) was invaluable. They assisted with further education, helped with finding another club and offered sound financial advice.

A few decades on, they are still offering financial advice, but I'm not convinced it's morally sound.

It's happening in La Liga and also in the Premier League; players are refusing to take pay cuts to help clubs and colleagues out.

You'll read that some players are making donations to charities and this is very noble. Forgive me for being cynical but I'd imagine that these gestures are tax deductible - as is the setting up of foundations. Taking a pay 'cut' means there are no financial advantages, just losses.

The logic of the English PFA was that the State would lose out if players were not paying



Outside Sevilla's stadium, completely deserted. EFE

the enormous amounts of tax on their full earnings. Less pay means less tax paid. It is interesting reasoning but one I struggle to agree with.

Players tend to totally depend on their agents to do their thinking, so I suspect it isn't all their doing.

I remember one Spanish agent telling me how his client, one of the more educated in the game, called him late at night as a kitchen light bulb needed changing. If they can't change a light bulb, they'll struggle to handle a complex financial situation.

Barcelona missed out the middleman and cut the players' salaries by 70 per cent, saving 32 million euros per month. Even a club with a billion-euro budget needs to take stock.

It isn't just about football, it's about business. The Nou Camp museum handles 10,000 visitors a day in peak season. Real Madrid employs eight hundred people in its many

departments.

It is reported that there are 184,626 jobs in Spanish football so that is 184,626 livelihoods that need some protection. The financial experts estimate it will cost one billion euros if the season is cancelled; 300 million if it resumes in empty stadia and 160 million if normality returns with fans at the games. Numbers are boring but so significant.

The players need a slice of reality. They argue that they're being singled out for special treatment and citing other high earners. In the entertainment industry, shows and concerts are being cancelled and in other sports, like boxing and golf, events are getting postponed - so it isn't just football.

There was a directive to stop posting on social media from their private gyms as people struggle with life. It's a little extreme but these are extreme times.

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Pisces
February 20th - March 20th
Although you are not usually keen on change, this is a special case. Stay flexible and aim not to take any criticism personally.

Aries
March 21st - April 20th
A lighter and brighter start to the week lifts your mood. There is a desire to help someone new. Is it that you see yourself in them?

Taurus
April 21st - May 21st
With such a settled attitude, success is sure to be very close. Some may see you as stubborn and they may try to shake your tree.

Gemini
May 22nd - June 21st
Some situations and decisions may seem to be out of your control. It is frustrating. However, you will find that, in a few months' time, this was a lucky delay.

Cancer
June 22nd - July 23rd
Usually smooth going in a group, you realise that working on your own is better. A clearer head makes for more balanced decisions.

Leo
July 24th - August 23rd
The stress that you have been feeling over the last month is about to become less. Has the process of change over the last weeks really given you a new way of looking at life?

Virgo
August 24th - September 23rd
Rethinking future plans now can save both money and even stop you heading in the wrong direction. By this weekend you could be feeling a strange sense of freedom.

Libra
September 24th - October 23rd
It is said that every dark cloud has a silver lining. This is something that you could be about to find out. Look for that opportunity to make some extra cash (even if you can't currently spend it!)

Scorpio
October 24th - November 22nd
Gaining closer links with a partner can mean spending less time with others. Turn on that charm and humour when making contact through media or phone.

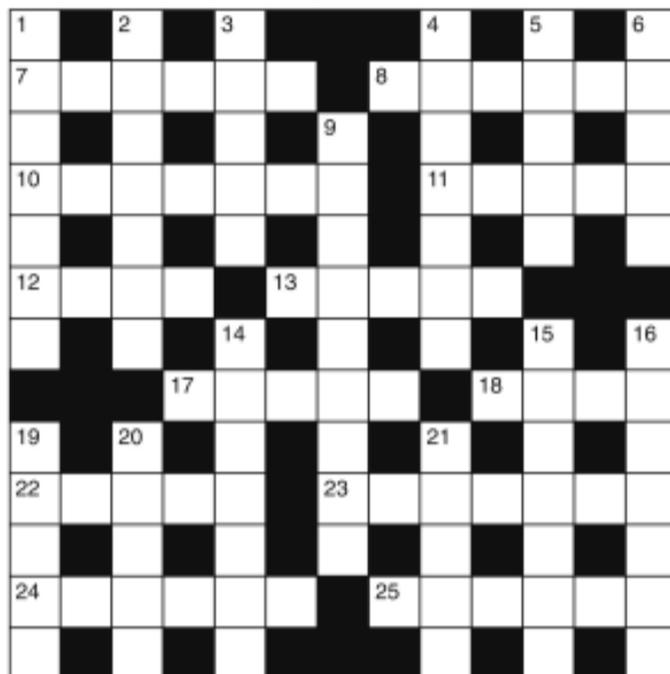
Sagittarius
November 23rd - December 21st
Help and cooperation from an unexpected area sees you getting a financial boost. Overall, is this your chance to save for a rainy day?

Capricorn
December 22nd - January 20th
Too much energy? It can be used for helping generally or improving your own health and wellbeing. If you could go back 15 years and do something that you failed to do then, would you?

THE SEVEN DIFFERENCES



CRYPTIC CROSSWORD N° 11404



Across

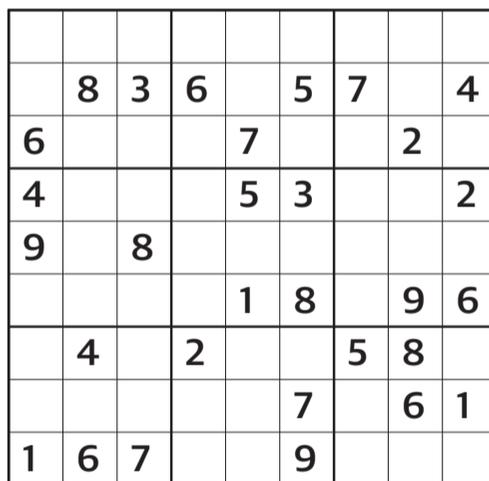
- 7 Salesman wanting help given money back (6)
- 8 Remember to visit again? (6)
- 10 Cook chicken for a pagan (7)
- 11 Rasher, perhaps, but might be saved? (5)
- 12 The right poem was carried (4)
- 13 Search to be excluded from legacy (5)
- 17 Throw out of value (5)
- 18 Flight employment? It's a trick! (4)
- 22 Likely after half a mile to have jumped (5)
- 23 Old boy to go first at 25? See 4 out (7)
- 24 Grand month (6)
- 25 In which there's love on both sides to begin with (6)

Down

- 1 Joan's place with her youth leader in sport (7)
- 2 Going higher - where the patients are out of bed? (7)
- 3 Weighing little, it dispels gloom (5)
- 4 Wordy 23 (7)
- 5 19 Weapon (5)
- 6 151 is not a normal product (5)
- 9 Quick insight in teaching (9)
- 14 100 being tried out in competition (7)
- 15 Contemporary flower (7)
- 16 Free to let again? (7)
- 19 Is able to include the French who are untainted (5)
- 20 Vehicle will travel as freight (5)
- 21 Wakes to one side (5)

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

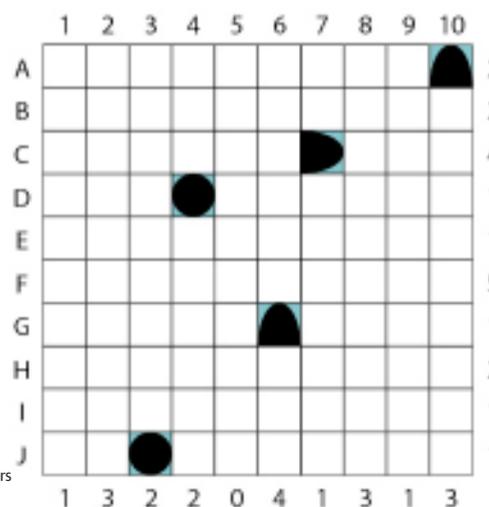
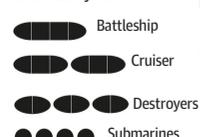


Can you identify the words that contain 'rot' from the clues listed below?

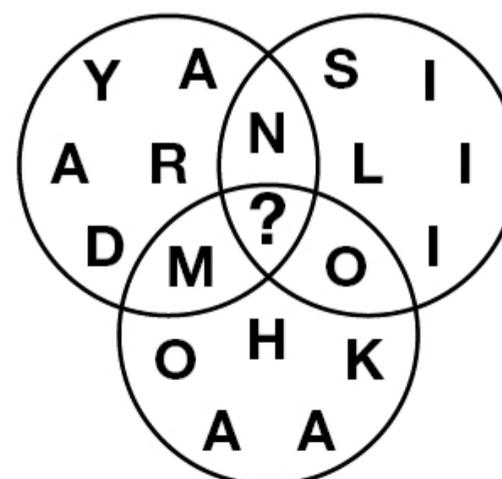
- 1. Choke
- 2. Soup
- 3. Vegetable
- 4. Cad
- 5. Sensual
- 6. Fortune-telling cards
- 7. Foam
- 8. Helicopter blade
- 9. Relative
- 10. Routine

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?

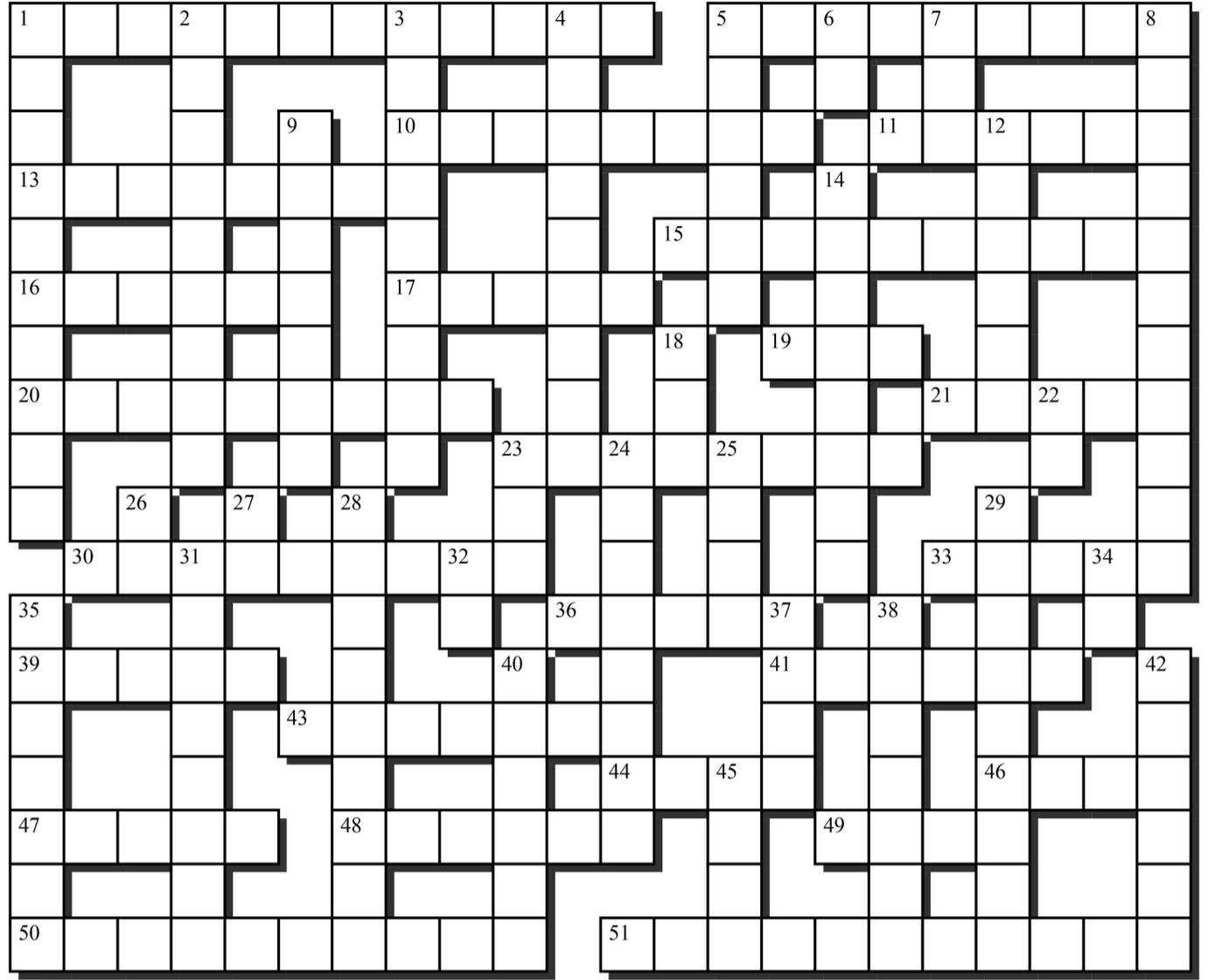
LANGUAGE CROSSWORD FILL IN THE SPANISH WORD

Across

- 1) Personality (12)
- 5) Biography (9)
- 10) Guitar (8)
- 11) Theatre (6)
- 13) Arrested (8)
- 15) Defiant (10)
- 16) Prison (6)
- 17) Success (5)
- 19) Time (3)
- 20) Impartial (9)
- 21) Mother (5)
- 23) Controversial (m) (8)
- 30) Stage (9)
- 33) Mind (5)
- 36) She guarantees (5)
- 39) Pleasant (f) (5)
- 41) Flute (6)
- 43) Exhausted (m) (7)
- 44) Temple (4)
- 46) They love (4)
- 47) Sand (5)
- 48) Exile (6)
- 49) To read (4)
- 50) Repertoire (10)
- 51) Cleaners (11)

Down

- 1) Production (10)
- 2) To silence (9)
- 3) Speech therapists (9)
- 4) Artistic (m) (9)
- 5) Brothel (6)
- 6) You (pl) (2)
- 7) He laughs (3)
- 8) Teenager (11)
- 9) Cyclical (7)
- 12) Alarm (6)
- 14) Lack (8)
- 18) That (3)
- 22) I gave (2)
- 23) Tweet (3)
- 24) Rainy (m) (8)
- 25) Honey (4)
- 26) Ace (2)
- 27) Faith (2)
- 28) Of Malaga (9)
- 29) Wardrobe (9)
- 31) Singer (8)
- 32) To go (2)
- 34) You (2)
- 35) Flamenco dancer (7)
- 37) Eagerness (4)
- 38) Career (7)
- 40) Flamenco club (6)
- 42) You sing (6)
- 45) Ahem! (4)



ANSWERS

Quiz answers

Of interest: The Christian celebration of Easter incorporates pagan traditions connected to the goddess Eostre who is said to have saved a dying bird and turned it into a hare so that it might survive the winter.
Answer: Eostre

Of interest: The word pysanka comes from the verb pysaty, "to write" or "to inscribe", as the designs are not painted on, but written (inscribed) with beeswax. Many other Central and Eastern European ethnic groups decorate eggs using wax resist for Easter.

Language Crossword

ACROSS:
1. PERSONALIDAD 5.BIOGRAFIA 10.GUITARRA 11.TEATRO 12.DETENIDO 15.DESAFIANTE 16.CARCEL 17.XEPTO 19.VEZ 20.MARCAJAL 21.MADRE 23.POLEMICO 30.ESENCARIO 33.MENTE 36.AVALA 39.AMIENA 41.FLUTA 43.AGOTADO 44.SIEN 46.AMAN 47.ARENA 48.XEPTO 49.LIBER 50.PEERTORIO 51.LIMPADORE

DOWN:
1.PRODUCCION 2.SILENCIAR 3.LOGOPEDAS 4.ARTISTICO 5.BURDEL 6.OS 7.RIE 8.ADOLESCENTE 9.CICLICO 12.ALARMA 14.CARENCIA 18.QUE 22.DI 23.PIO 24.LLUVIOSO 25.MIEL 26.AS 27.FE 28.MALAGUENO 29.VESTUARIO 31.CANTANTE 32.IR 34.TU 35.BALNOR 37.AVAN 38.CARRERA 40.TABLAO 42.CANTAS 45.FEM

Cryptic Crossword

Solution: Across: 7 Rapaid; 8 Rapaid; 10 Heathery; 11 Balding; 12 Faded; 13 Guest; 17 Wont; 18 Puck; 22 Leap; 23 Observe; 24 August; 25 Tennis; Down: 1 Archery; 2 Lipwax; 3 Light; 4 Verbose; 5 Lanes; 6 Crown; 9 Implies; 14 Contain; 15 Current; 16 Praise; 18 Cream; 20 Cargo; 21 Ashew.

Wordpuzzler solution

1. Throttle
2. Broth
3. Carrot
4. Roter
5. Erotic
6. Rotat
7. Froth
8. Rotor
9. Brother
10. Rote

R	O	T	E	R	O	T	A	T	E	
T	A	R	O	T	I	G	R	O	T	
R	O	T	E	R	O	T	U	E		
R	O	T	A	L	O	T	I	B	F	
R	O	T	A	L	O	T	I	C	H	R
E	D	L	R	O	T	I	C	H	R	
A	R	E	O	T	H	M	A	R	O	
C	R	O	T	O	E	F	R	O	T	
G	O	C	A	R	R	O	T	I	H	

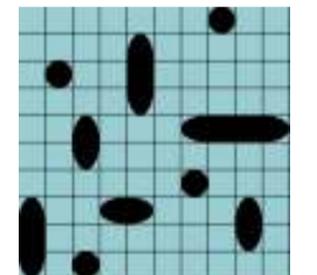
Sudoku solution

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

Circlegram

The letter represented by the question mark is L. Maryland, Illinois, Oklahoma, all US states.

Battleships



WHERE IS THIS?



A haunted helicopter?

Last week: Marbella

This spiky sculpture/fountain is situated on a small roundabout at the junction of Calle Platino and Avda José Manuel Vallés in Marbella.



CORONAVIRUS ADVICE

To notify symptoms of coronavirus

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



APP Salud Responde: take the Coronavirus symptoms test



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

Coronavirus information

955 545 060

Banderas: "We will all be affected by this and will need to regain confidence"

The actor has been on his own at his Marbella home since 12 March, and is coordinating charity work through his foundation, Lágrimas y Favores

PEDRO LUIS GÓMEZ



MALAGA. Since 12 March he has been at his Marbella home, travelling there from Madrid after filming of the movie he is making with Penelope Cruz was suspended. His partner, Nicole Kimpel, is 'trapped' in Switzerland with her sister Barbara and her father, so Antonio Banderas is sitting out this lockdown on his own. He says the coronavirus crisis is going to affect everybody, but at the same time he is hopeful about the future for Malaga and the Costa del Sol, even though "very hard" times are on the way.

In his many hours of free time he studies, reads scripts and books and, above all, coordinates the social work carried out by the Fundación Lágrimas y Favores, of which he is the founder and president. He has also succeeded in getting the Fundación El Pimpi and La Caixa on board.

Banderas is also working with the Agrupación de Cofradías, the Association of Religious Brotherhoods, with its president Pablo Atencia, who is a good friend.

When we spoke to the actor from Malaga, about 1pm last Friday, he was making a 'puchero' soup and after lunch he planned to continue working on distrib-

uting materials. With 53,000 euros and the help of his Foundation, Banderas is helping to fight the crisis. They are distributing hundreds of single-use medical gowns, gloves, masks and shoe covers to hospitals, homes for the elderly and pharmacies. They have also 'armed' a network of suppliers in the Axarquía area through small companies and individuals: "Every day volunteers collect the items they have made, and people are being fantastic about collaborating. That's why I say Lágrimas y Favores is out in the streets. Of course it is! We send the material, which is special, and the patterns, and companies and individuals make them. We have created a large network of small manufacturers through Pablo Ruiz de Alba, and they are all working flat out, because yesterday we took 330 gowns to the Clínico hospital, for example. We're hoping to distribute 30,000 gowns...".

With regard to distributing medicines, Banderas said about 100 volunteers responded to the call from the Agrupación de Cofradías "and then I spoke to the president of the pharmacies, Francisco Javier Florido, who is a personal friend in Carratraca. The volunteers leave their phone numbers with the pharmacies and when someone needs medicine and can't go and get it, they

"People's behaviour during these difficult times will determine whether we come out of this with a feeling of pride or shame"



A bearded Antonio Banderas at his home in Marbella last week. **SUR**

ring the volunteers and they deliver it".

With all this, "I don't have time to get bored, and it's comforting to think that I can do something to help others," he said. "I'm in regular contact with Atencia and the University, with whom we are collaborating on a project. I admire the work the religious brotherhoods in Malaga are doing in these difficult times. As I have said before, their present and future lies in being involved in society, and they have done that and done it very well".

Asked about what happens when this terrible situation is over, he was very clear: "We're all going to be affected by this, firstly because of the people who have died or been seriously ill, and many families will be affected. But looking to the near

future there is also going to be a negative effect at an economic level, although let's hope that is temporary. For our socio-economic reality, for Malaga and the Costa del Sol, this is a real blow and to get over it we will all have to make a big effort to regain people's confidence. That will be essential".

He also stressed that "individual and collective behaviour during these difficult times will determine whether we come out of the crisis with a feeling of pride or shame. If we all do what is needed, we will be in a much stronger position when we reach the end of the tunnel."

Soho Theatre

This "regaining confidence" will mean important measures being taken, because as Banderas

said to us, "nothing is going to be the same tomorrow as it is today or was yesterday. I don't know what others are going to do, but in my companies, to regain people's confidence, we are going to take very clear steps.

For example at the Teatro del Soho we are going to adopt five measures: first, reduce prices; second, the whole of the theatre will be cleaned and disinfected every day and to do that we are going to acquire special ozone machines. Third, if anyone due to see the show doesn't feel well on the day we will refund their money or change their ticket for another date. Fourth, if anybody, for any reason, starts to cough in the theatre, staff will give them a mask to put on and fifth, all staff will wear special single-use anti-bacterial suits and gloves which will be changed several times a day. The staff know all this and have accepted it. Just like at El Pimpi, where the kitchens will be disinfected every night and so will the kitchen equipment, cutlery, crockery and glasses, the cooks will wear masks on a permanent basis and the waiters will wear gloves. It will seem strange at first but we will get used to it, and we all have to put special measures into effect because that's the only way to regain people's confidence," he said.

For Banderas, the only positive thing to come out of this is "the amazing solidarity of the people of Malaga and Spain in general, but we also need to take into account what is important, the quality and dedication of our health workers, State Security Forces and the enormous support from the Armed Forces for society. They are all doing a vital job and provide a lesson in sacrifice, constancy and discipline, always there to serve democracy and the Spanish people when they are needed most... I take my hat off to them for what they do".

To end, Antonio Banderas told us: "Let nobody forget Lágrimas y Favores; it is dedicated to our Virgin, and that is now more necessary than ever... it has been well named, and make no mistake, Lágrimas y Favores is out there in the streets to help people through this".

The Professional Association of Real Estate Managers in Building Developments (GIPE) is an association of professionals from the real estate sector who offer their services in intermediation and management of all types of real estate operations, with offices all over the country.

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