



ÑITO SALAS

### HEALTH CRISIS

# Thousands of furloughed workers facing payout delay due to red tape backlog

While sectors such as construction were back in action on Monday, benefits for others are slow in coming

More than 100,000 local people who have been temporarily laid-off via ERTe schemes due to the coronavirus crisis or recently jobless may have to wait until next month to receive their unemploy-

ment benefits. Also suffering from the crisis, small businesses and self-employed workers have seen some relief this week in the form of extended tax deadlines and a 300-euro handout. **P2**

**i To keep up to date with the latest on the coronavirus pandemic** visit our website, [www.surinenglish.com](http://www.surinenglish.com), and follow us on Facebook and Twitter.



Health workers outside the Malaga Regional Hospital this week. **ÑITO SALAS**

## Local heroes helping us to turn a corner in the pandemic

**Applause** for those on the frontline in the battle against the coronavirus has become a welcome daily ritual across Spain. Outside hospitals, healthcare professionals return the applause to acknowledge the support of the public **P8**

## Death figures stabilise but lockdown extension likely

The state of alarm is set to be prolonged but children's health is expected to be a major consideration **P4**

## A third of families in the province of Malaga spend lockdown in less than 75m2 **P6**

### MUCH MORE INSIDE

**Future delight for shoppers**  
Larger stores will be able to open on more Sundays and holidays **P11**

**An isolated Orthodox Easter**  
Costa residents prepare for the biggest celebration of the year **P18**

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# More than 50,000 Costa construction workers back on site as ban ends

Gardening is another big local employment sector that had been shut down for two weeks as part of the ban on non-essential industries

N. T. / J. H. / H. B.

MALAGA. Last Sunday marked the end of the government's two week ban on non-essential work, although the state of alarm which started on 15 March still continues until at least 26 April.

Monday was the first working day back for employees who are not in any of the fully shutdown sectors of the economy (such as restaurants, gyms or bars) and those who are unable to work from home.

In Malaga province this included the return of over 50,000 workers in the construction sector to outdoor sites and public works. Builders visiting homes where people are living have been banned however.

Building sites weren't expected to be working at full speed, with fears over a lack of availability of some construction supplies.

Bosses had worked with unions and authorities to introduce safety guidelines such as working at least two metres apart or using masks where that isn't possible.

Another big non-essential sector to go back to work was gar-



A worker wears a protective mask at a reopened construction site in Malaga. SALVADOR SALAS

dening, which provides a lot of employment in the developments and public gardens of the Costa del Sol. Food and healthcare manufacturing had not been paused but other non-essential industry was allowed back. Firms were expecting a slow start be-

cause of a decrease in demand for their products.

While call centre workers and other similar activities were officially allowed back after this two-week extra measure, there was little change in those leaving home as the majority have been

working remotely since the general state of alarm on 15 March.

Among the local large construction sites being opened up again were the widened access motorway to the PTA high-tech business park near Malaga and work on several key new hotels in the city.

Over 100,000 local furloughed or jobless wait for delayed payouts

NURIA TRIGUERO

MALAGA. The intense pressure on the public administrative system means that over 100,000 workers in Malaga province who have lost jobs or been furloughed will be waiting for payments. The regional employment service and national SEPE jobless benefits agency have staff working at home and cannot keep up with demand.

There are so far 112,000 newly furloughed workers in Malaga province, out of a total of four million nationally, as well as those recently made jobless, where numbers are still unclear. With online platforms saturated and a backlog, government sources believe most will only get payments after 10 May.

The SEPE service in Malaga, where 75 per cent of staff are working remotely, has received 30,000 calls and 20,000 emails during the crisis, and this week it said it has answered 60-70 per cent of them so far.

Marbella council was also among those saying that it was carrying on previously halted works, including building on the town's language school, planned repairs to sports facilities and street resurfacing work that was already under way.

## New measures provide some more relief for Costa small firms and the self-employed

SUR

MALAGA. The government confirmed this week that smaller firms and self-employed would not have to pay in first-quarter tax receipts that had been due by 20 April. Payment had been due

to the government for VAT and income tax retention of workers. Instead there is now an extra month, until 20 May (or 15 May for automatic bank transfer).

The move is expected to benefit 200,000 'autónomos' and small and medium-sized businesses

whose turnover is less than 600,000 euros. Many had been worried not just because of lack of funds but also that they hadn't been able to complete their accounts properly during the stricter shutdown of non-essential workers.

Firms and self-employed still have the option to delay payment of these first quarter payments further on request via their gestor until July without interest or until October with interest.

### Autónomo-specific measures

It is expected that the government will shortly approve an extra measure for autónomos, where those that pay a fixed preagreed amount in taxes to keep bureaucracy simple, the modular system,

will be allowed to move to the direct estimation system as their incomes have dropped.

In addition, the Junta de Andalucía gave details of the 300 euros it will pay to self-employed in many sectors to cover April social security cuotas. The payout will be for those who aren't due other payments from suspended or reduced activity. Details can be found online ([www.juntadeandalucia.es/organismos/empleoformacionytrabajoautonomo/servicios.html](http://www.juntadeandalucia.es/organismos/empleoformacionytrabajoautonomo/servicios.html)).

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# Ministers to discuss extending state of alarm as rate of fatalities stabilises

There were 2.9% more new cases on Thursday in Spain, reflecting a rise in tests. Thought has been given to letting children out of lockdown first

## SUR

**MALAGA.** Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez will shortly decide with ministers whether to extend the state of alarm beyond the current 26 April expiry date, and any extension will be debated and approved in parliament by MPs next Wednesday, 22 April.

Ministers weren't being drawn this week on the extent to which any lockdown measures might be gradually lifted within the state of alarm.

Speaking on Wednesday, Health minister Salvador Illa said he was convinced "we are going in the right direction". Asked if it

might be possible to let children go out to exercise at least, he said he was "following the day-to-day evolution of the epidemic so that when possible, and in an orderly way, boys and girls can go out into the street".

## Latest case numbers

The number of coronavirus-related deaths in Spain continues to plateau with new daily recorded deaths having remained at around the 500 mark for most of the last week.

On Thursday the ministry of Health reported 551 deaths from Covid-19 in the previous 24 hours, 28 more than in the previous report (up three per cent), taking the total up to 19,130.

The number of new infections reported on Thursday was 5,183, in line with the data provided on Wednesday, with a daily rate of increase of 2.9 per cent. This rise was being put down to the in-



A National Police officer walks past healthcare staff inside hospital grounds in Porto Cristo, Mallorca. **EFE**

crease in the number of tests being carried out with the return to work in some sectors on Monday.

## More testing

"We knew that increasing the number of tests would increase the number of confirmed cases, and we knew that this would compromise us when reporting them," explained Fernando Simón, director of the government's centre for Health Alerts and Emergencies on Thursday.

"I think it's good news that more

than 40,000 tests have been performed in the last few days. This doubles what we were doing in the previous weeks. We are making a big effort across the country to identify and isolate all those cases that could be dangerous for the rest of the population," he said.

Data showed 182,816 people have tested positive for Covid-19 by Thursday since the start of the crisis. While this number continues to grow, so does the number of patients given the all-clear, which now totals 74,797 (40.9 per

cent of those who have contracted the disease). Between Wednesday and Thursday, 3,944 people were discharged - the highest daily figure so far.

## Malaga's figures

Locally, there had been a total of 2,363 cases and 211 deaths in Malaga province by Thursday, which was 42 cases and 10 deaths more than the previous day reported. Across all Andalucía there are still 334 in intensive care wards with Covid-19.

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# Government hands out masks to commuters as pharmacists wait for new supplies

Local chemists have offered to be a future point of distribution to the public for free masks from the authorities

## SUR

MALAGA. Volunteers gave out face masks at transport hubs in Malaga city from Monday morning as many non-essential workers returned after Easter. This came after new advice to wear protective masks on public transport required 372,000 to be distributed over two days, paid for by central government.

Passengers using city buses, riding the metro or leaving the Cercanías railway benefitted from the move, as did commuters at transport hubs throughout Spain.

Many passengers were relieved to finally have a mask or to swap one they had been using for several weeks. The distribution is of lower-grade hygiene masks which aren't considered personal protective equipment. There continues to be high, unsatisfied demand for the more sophisticated surgical masks.

Local pharmacists have been complaining about the lack of availability of masks and other protective equipment. The College of Malaga Pharmacists has said it is doing all it can to encourage supply, but often only enough has been arriving for the staff in



Volunteers hand out face masks to people going to work on the Alameda in central Malaga. **SUR**

the pharmacies themselves.

Bidafarma, a local cooperative distributor of pharmaceutical supplies, has said it was expecting part of a big order from China this week and that it had been sourcing supplies of some equipment from a manufacturer in Jaén.

Andalusian pharmacists have said they are willing to act as a distribution point of free masks to the public once the overall lockdown starts to end.

## "Don't blame us for high prices," say chemists

The College of Pharmacists has been receiving complaints about the high prices charged by some chemists for protective equipment. The local president, Francisco Florido, has said the worst abuses are iso-

lated and that his trade body is monitoring it.

Many pharmacists explain that they are charging more as the high worldwide demand is pushing up wholesale prices. "Usual suppliers don't have stock and we have to look in other markets, where there is huge competition," added Florido.

# SUR in English increases efforts to deliver across the region, despite restrictions

## SUR IN ENGLISH

MALAGA. The state of alarm decree introduced by the Spanish government on 14 March specified a number of services that are considered essential during the Covid-19 crisis... and press and the

media are among them.

The general public needs to have access to reliable and verified information, especially at times like this when social media is awash with rumours and fake news. Buying or, in the case of SUR in English, picking up a newspaper is

therefore included among the permitted reasons for being outside your home during the lockdown.

The print edition of SUR in English has not missed a single Friday since July 1984 and continues to be distributed to hundreds of outlets across the Costa del Sol,

around the rest of the province of Malaga, on the Costa Tropical and in Gibraltar. Some points have been temporarily removed as establishments have been forced to close, while in others the number of copies has been increased.

Consult [www.surinenglish.com](http://www.surinenglish.com) for a list of newsagents that receive SUR in English or, alternatively, send an email to [surinenglish.su@diariosur.es](mailto:surinenglish.su@diariosur.es) or contact us via Facebook @surenglish or Twitter @SUR\_English.

## HERE AND THERE

### MARBELLA

## Costa del Sol hospital takes part in clinical trial

**H. B.** The Hospital Costa del Sol is going to participate, alongside 61 other Spanish hospitals, in the first clinical trial at a national level and one of the largest in Europe, aimed at preventing Covid-19 in health professionals.

This study, called EPICOS, will compare the preventive effectiveness of medication used for malaria, such as hydroxychloroquine, and antiretrovirals used to treat HIV infection.

Four thousand healthcare professionals are taking part nationwide.

### MARBELLA

## Council workers being tested for Covid-19

**H. B.** Marbella town hall has started testing around 2,000 key municipal workers for coronavirus using fast test kits. "The idea is to find out who might be a symptom-free carrier and who might have already had the illness," said the mayor Ángeles Muñoz.

The tests, which involve a finger prick and produce results in minutes, are being carried out in collaboration with the private health centre Helicópteros Sanitarios. Firefighters, cleaners and gardeners are among the operatives being tested for the virus.

### ANDALUCÍA

## Women reminded of violence helpline

**SUR.** The Andalusian Institute for Women (IAM) has stressed to non-Spanish women in the region that help is available for victims of domestic violence, a problem that could be heightened during the coronavirus lockdown. Victims, or anyone who knows of a possible case, are urged to call 900200999, a 24-hour helpline.

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# Preparing your finances for the unexpected

By Steven Langford, Partner, Blevins Franks

We can all agree that these are highly unusual times. A year ago, no-one would have predicted the state of disorder that people, governments, businesses and markets find themselves in today. At any time, however, you need to plan for what you know while trying to protect yourself as best you can from life's surprises.

## Investing in volatile times

Global coronavirus concerns are impacting markets in an unprecedented way, making things extremely uncomfortable for investors. Is this a bad time to invest? Should you hold your nerve if you are already invested? Unfortunately, there are no simple answers, just good investment principles.

Whatever the market is doing at any given point, the most sensible approach is have a well-diversified portfolio and invest for the long-term rather than trying to 'time' the market.

Financial markets are inherently unpredictable and do move radically and swiftly in times of uncertainty. With hindsight these movements are

often disproportionate, and when more positive news emerges the market can also move swiftly upwards, and at a pace that is usually too quick to react to. Even experienced investors cannot get this right all the time.

Certainly, from previous events such as the dramatic 1987 and 2008 market falls, we can see that short-term negative reactions are often later reversed by a strong longer-term recovery. While it may feel uncomfortable to stay invested when markets fluctuate, this discipline usually produces better returns over the longer term.

## Investing in a low interest rate climate

Of course, this is also a time of prolonged ultra-low interest rates worldwide. In the UK you have to go back over eleven years, to January 2009, to find rates over 1%.

As a result, funds in savings, ISA or deposit accounts are failing to keep up with inflation, let alone beat it. At times like this, achieving better returns than bank deposits means widening your investment horizons

to consider 'riskier' assets. However, this approach will not suit everyone. In any case, it is crucial to factor in your personal appetite for risk.

As we have already seen, you can help reduce risk by being invested for the medium to long-term, but it is also essential to have a well-diversified portfolio. The key is to spread investments across different regions, asset types and sectors to limit exposure in any one area, using a strategy matched to your particular situation, goals, timeline and risk appetite.

You could also consider spreading the timing of your investments by investing capital in tranches. This 'pound (or euro/dollar) cost averaging' approach can help smooth out volatility and potentially improve overall returns over longer time periods.

## Tax planning for Spain

While Spain can be a highly tax-efficient home, much depends on how you structure your wealth and assets.

Spanish residents can, for example, unlock significant tax advantages for

capital investments. But many UK expatriates overlook such opportunities in favour of retaining UK assets. This approach may become less tax-efficient when the Brexit transition period ends and the UK government gains more freedom to tax citizens abroad. With much still unknown about Brexit, it is sensible to explore Spain-compliant alternatives before things potentially change.

## Estate planning for Spain

Even after Brexit, you can override Spain's 'forced heirship rules' by applying the law of your nationality to your estate instead through the EU regulation, 'Brussels IV'. Beware that, while this would ensure your legacy is distributed according to your written wishes, this can have unwelcome tax implications.

Although Spanish succession tax can be complex and varies regionally, it is possible to restructure your wealth to minimise tax for chosen heirs – and even ensure they receive your legacy when you want them to – so explore your options.

With a careful strategic financial

planning review – that considers your investments, tax and estate planning together – you will be best placed to prepare for what's ahead, both known and unknown. Cross-border financial planning is complex and needs to be designed around your specific circumstances and wishes, so take specialist advice.

*All advice received from Blevins Franks is personalised and provided in writing. This article, however, should not be construed as providing any personalised taxation or investment advice. These views are put forward for consideration purposes only as the suitability of any investment is dependent on the investment objectives, time horizon and attitude to risk of the investor. The value of investments can fall as well as rise, as can the income arising from them. Past performance should not be seen as an indication of future performance. Summarised tax information is based upon our understanding of current laws and practices which may change. Individuals should seek personalised advice.*

# We're here. Whenever you need us, give us a call.

These are challenging times for everyone. Under current circumstances, your own welfare and that of your family and friends must take priority. We feel the same.

But we're still here for you.

While our local offices have closed their doors, in a bid to do our bit to minimise the spread of Covid-19, Blevins Franks remains open and fully operational as a business. All our advisers and support staff are working as usual, albeit from home.

So if you do have questions about your tax or estate planning, pensions, investments or preparing for Brexit – or just want to talk – please get in touch.

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# A third of families are spending lockdown in apartments under 75m<sup>2</sup>

The inconvenience of confinement is most acute on the coast, where one in every five homes is smaller than 60 metres

FRANCISCO JIMÉNEZ



MALAGA. Sometimes, size does matter. When it is the space a family has to share during a month of lockdown, for example, and however much longer there is to come. In this case, any extra space can make all the difference in making the exhortation to "Stay at home" a little more bearable, and not only in extreme situations when one family member has to be isolated from the rest because of coronavirus, but also day-to-day living in any home.

Obviously, living alone or as a couple is not the same as sharing a home as part of one of the 20,000 large families there are in Malaga province. Also during this period of enforced confinement, it is not the same to live in a villa with plenty of rooms and a large garden as in an apartment measuring 60 square metres with not even a terrace to go out on and get some fresh air.

"I never thought I would ever miss having a roof terrace or courtyard so much," admits José Manuel Luque, who lives with his wife and two children in the Cruz del Humilladero district of Malaga.

An overall view of Malaga under lockdown at the moment, when we can only leave our homes for a few essential purposes, shows that one-third of the population is confined in apartments less than 75 square metres in size (204,000 homes) and that about 14% of the 606,000 buildings in the province (not including second homes, empty properties or those used for holiday lets) have less than 60 m<sup>2</sup> of usable space.

At the other end of the scale we find the 42,010 houses (7%) which have more than 150m<sup>2</sup> of usable space, according to the latest population and housing census from 2011 (which is updated every ten years). Despite the time that has passed, there has been little construction during those nine years, so the situation is unlikely to have changed much.

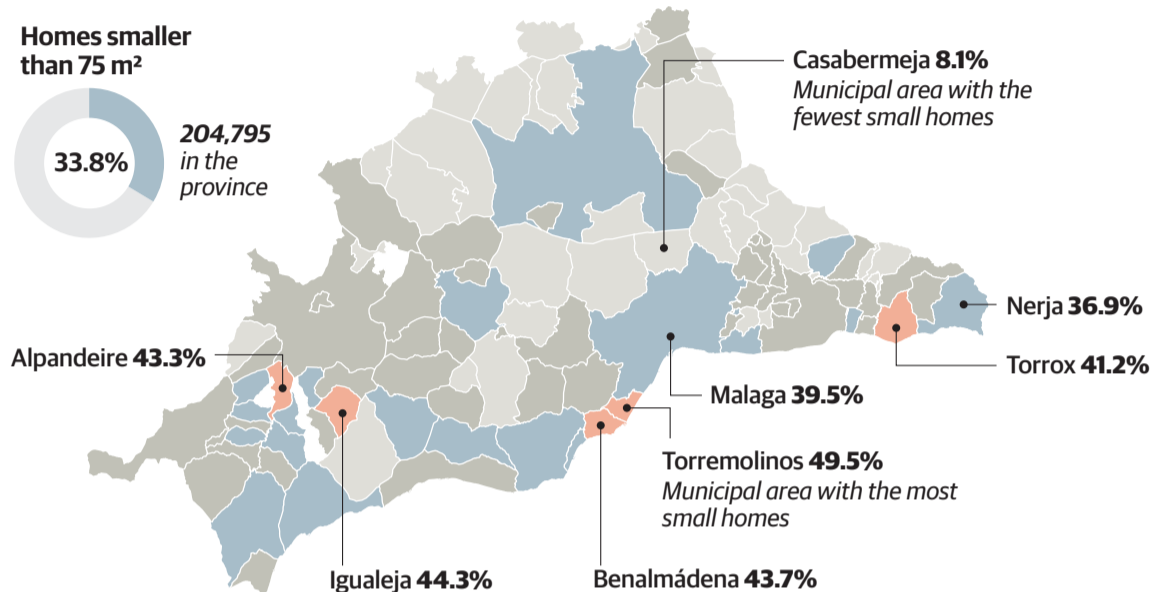
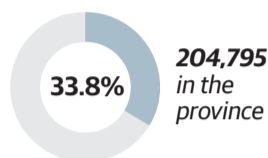
There is also more up-to-date information at a provincial level, from the National Institute of Statistics 'Encuesta Continua de Hogares' survey. The one for 2019

## The size of homes in Malaga province

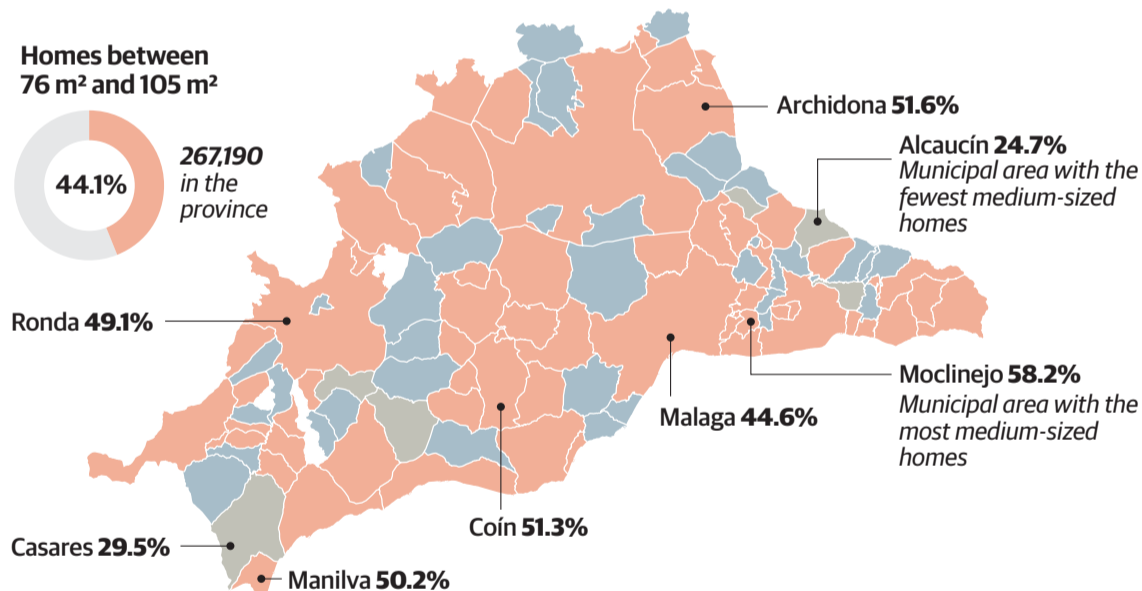
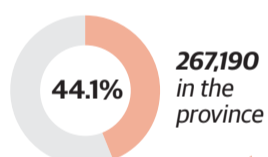
Percentage of the total number of primary residences in the municipal area

Less than 20% 20%-30% 30%-40% More than 40%

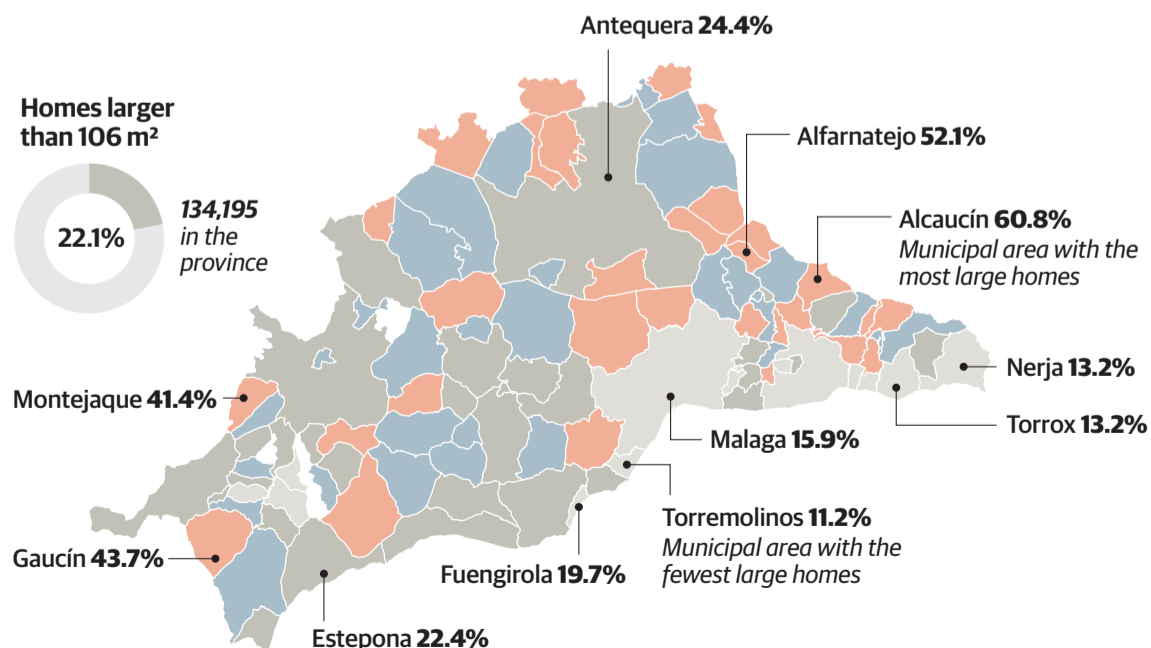
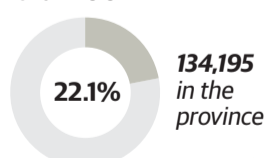
Homes smaller than 75 m<sup>2</sup>



Homes between 76 m<sup>2</sup> and 105 m<sup>2</sup>



Homes larger than 106 m<sup>2</sup>



Source: Instituto Nacional de Estadística. Figures don't include second homes or empty homes.

GRAPHIC ENCARNI HINOJOSA

shows that one out of every three homes is occupied by a family with children, that 8,500 people live in homes with less than 10m<sup>2</sup> space per inhabitant and another 239,400 (14%) have less than 20m<sup>2</sup> per person.

### From villas to small apartments

"I'm lucky that we have a house with a garden. We spend most of the day out there. If the weather is good, we even eat outside and it means we can take some exercise. It helps us a lot," says Paloma, the mother of a large family in Pinares de San Antón.

For Carlos Sánchez, or rather for his six-year-old son, the terrace has become the epicentre of life. "The oldest, who is 13, found it hardest at first but he's used to not going out now," says Carlos, who lives in Fuengirola in one of the 134,195 properties (22%) in the province measuring more than 106m<sup>2</sup>.

Meanwhile Laura, who lives in a studio in Torremolinos, says she is coping well, although "it is killing me having to be on my own all the time and not seeing my family and friends," she says.

In Malaga province there are nearly 3,000 tiny apartments under 30m<sup>2</sup> in size and another 23,000 with less than 45. There is a noticeable difference between the coast, with so many apartment blocks, and the countryside, where there are more houses. In fact, in villages half of the houses have more than 105m<sup>2</sup> of space, and in some places, such as Alcaucín and Humilladero, the ratio is two out of three. This is very different to the coast, where the greatest number of homes under 75m<sup>2</sup> are situated. Torremolinos tops the list, with nearly half of all properties in that range and one-third less than 60m<sup>2</sup>. It also has the lowest number of larger properties, with only 11 per cent over 105m<sup>2</sup>. This is because so many were built for tourism purposes, as in Benalmádena, (43% under 75m<sup>2</sup>) and Torrox (41%). In Marbella (29%) the proportion differs because of the numerous urbanisations around the town centre.

The size of a home and number of occupants can make a big difference to coping with lockdown.

**Torremolinos has the highest number of small apartments and fewer villas than elsewhere in the province**

# Eight out of ten calls to the police are about lockdown breaches

The majority of the police's work during the state of alarm has been in response to reports of non-compliance with the terms of the quarantine

ÁLVARO FRÍAS / JUAN CANO

MALAGA. During the state of alarm, the general public has become the eyes and ears of the police in the enforcement of the lockdown. According to SUR sources, 80 per cent of the calls received at the 091 (National Police) and the 092 (Local Police) call centres during this period have been to report others breaking the conditions of the lockdown.

This is not only occurring in Malaga, though. The National Police in Madrid have received



A National Police checkpoint in Malaga. NITO SALAS

nearly 100,000 calls since the state of alarm came into effect, double the amount of calls from the same period last year.

The reasons for the calls are

varied, from those reporting that their neighbour has taken their dog out six or seven times in one day, to those who report that the house next door is ordinarily a

holiday home and that the owners have just moved in.

"The vast majority of call-outs stem from a complaint from someone who has seen the lockdown rules being breached," said one local officer in Malaga.

The second in command of the National Police, Chief Commissioner José Ángel González, said that "the fight against coronavirus is everybody's business". "Each one of us has a share of the responsibility, some duties to fulfil if we want to turn this situation around."

If anyone sees someone not complying with the confinement measures, González insists "the best thing they can do is to call 091" and not intervene personally.

He discourages the type of vigilantism that has been increasingly present and refers to a case in Mislata (Valencia), where a man was stabbed in the neck after arguing with his roommate. He was attacked because he had tried to prevent him from going out with his partner given the state of alarm and because she also had a cough.

## Woman stands on police car naked after being let go following arrest

ÁLVARO FRÍAS / JUAN CANO

MALAGA. A 41-year-old Spanish woman was taken to the Clínico hospital in Malaga for a psychiatric examination on Saturday after she removed her clothes and stood on top of a police car after she had been released from their custody.

She was originally arrested in central Torremolinos after spitting at a police officer and was taken to the station where she stripped for the first time. SUR sources report that officers convinced her to get dressed before appearing before a judge. She was later released.

Once out, she removed her clothes again before standing on the roof of the patrol car. Officers had to detain her again before taking her to hospital.



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# Austrian man arrested for threatening health professionals in Torrox

The man allegedly wanted preferential treatment at the doctor's surgery in El Morche and failed to respect social distancing regulations

EUGENIO CABEZAS

TORROX. A 60-year-old Austrian man was arrested at his home in Torrox Costa on Wednesday of last week after allegedly insulting and threatening staff at the El Morche health centre.

According to Local Police sources, staff at the health centre first called the police at around 2pm, reporting that the man had been shouting at health professionals and threatening to assault a nurse, as well as failing to respect social distancing regulations.

It would appear that the man



The moment the man was arrested at his home in Torrox Costa. SUR

wanted preferential treatment from medics at the centre and it was not the first time that he had threatened staff. However, on previous occasions his behaviour had not led to staff calling the police.

## Zero tolerance

"There have been similar incidents with this individual but this time there will be zero tolerance towards anyone who disrespects, intimidates or threatens health workers," said a Local Police spokesperson.

Chief of Torrox Local Police José Manuel Ruiz said, "We cannot condone any type of violence or disrespect towards those on the front line in the fight against this pandemic, or risk their professional integrity."

"We will be uncompromising and do what we can within the limitations of the law."

## 112 REPORTS

### ESTEPONA

## Three women freed from forced prostitution

**C. MÁRQUEZ.** The National Police have arrested a couple in Estepona for alleged sexual exploitation. This came after a woman called police on 7 April to report that she was being exploited and was unable to flee a flat in which

the couple had set up a brothel.

It is alleged that the couple prevented several women, mainly of Paraguayan origin, from leaving and they were expected to be available to clients 24 hours a day. The woman would allegedly arrange the meetings while the man would provide clients with drugs.

Three women were freed as part of the operation.

### ALHAURÍN DE LA TORRE

## 1,000-euro fines for Good Friday procession

**A. JIMÉNEZ.** Three people have been issued with 1,000-euro fines each after organising and participating in an impromptu Good Friday procession through the streets of Alhaurín de la Torre. The individuals were identified after they posted video footage on Facebook. Mayor Joaquín Villanova insisted: "This type of behaviour has consequences."

### MOLLINA

## Armed post office robbers detained

**F. TORRES.** Two men, one Czech (32) and the other British (33), accused of holding up a post office in Mollina on 20 March armed with knives, have been remanded in custody pending trial. Staff handed over 27,000 euros in cash and stamps to the men who fled the town in a vehicle driven by a third man. More than 11,000 has been recovered.



## HERE AND THERE

A nurse helps a patient to use one of the tablets. **SUR**

## TORRE DEL MAR

## Tablets allow patients to contact their families

**A. PELÁEZ.** The Axarquía hospital in Torre del Mar, in collaboration with the company ION IDE Telematics, is providing patients with tablets in order to make video calls to their families.

The hospital's nursing team is helping patients to use the machines to contact their loved ones

during their time in hospital.

The tablets are mainly being used by those who don't have their own mobile phone or who are unable to use modern technology.

Malaga-Axarquía hospital area manager Miguel Moreno thanked staff, patients, family members, carers and volunteers earlier this week for their "understanding, responsibility and solidarity during this exceptional situation".

## FUENGIROLA

## Former social worker sets up helpline

**T. BRYANT.** Former social worker Bob Hudson has decided to offer his skills as a counsellor during the current state of alarm. A member of the U3A in Fuengirola, Bob spent many years working for various organisations in the UK and he has now set up a special helpline (699 038 042) that will be available daily from 10am until 6pm.

"I have dealt with people from all age groups in a number of different situations. Whatever we discuss will be totally confidential," Bob explained.

## ALMUÑÉCAR

## Covid-19 leaflets made in various languages

**J. R.** Almuñécar town hall has published leaflets with information in different languages regarding the Covid-19 lockdown.

The information has been published in English, French, German and the Scandinavian languages and will be shared via social networks. It will also be available in the supermarkets and other food shops as well as newspaper kiosks in Almuñécar and La Herradura.

Information numbers are also available: 958 630 90 86 and 958 61 61 18.

## MARBELLA

## Local fishing fleet returns to work

**H. BARBOTTA.** Eight purse seiner fishing boats, which have been confined to harbour since 1 March, have resumed fishing off the Marbella coast this week.

The president of the Marbella

fishermen's association (cofradía de pescadores), Manuel Haro, has called on the town's residents to eat fresh fish from the local markets: "Consuming local fresh fish helps to support the fishing industry and local fishmongers, many of whom are offering to take orders by phone or Facebook and are delivering to homes."

Health workers also take time out for the daily applause. **SUR**

## Applause, the unifying symbol of Covid-19

## MALAGA

## The first person admitted to intensive care with coronavirus in Malaga left the unit at the Hospital Regional on Monday

## SUR

**MALAGA.** Applause has become a unifying symbol of the coronavirus pandemic in Spain and other European countries. People go out onto their balconies in a sign of appreciation to the doctors, nurses and other hospital workers, as well as the police, military and other sectors who are in the front line of the crisis every evening at 8pm. At the same time, health workers who are able to take time out of their jobs stand outside hospitals to acknowledge and join in.

In Malaga the first person to be admitted to intensive care at the Hospital Regional de Málaga with coronavirus left the unit on Monday to applause from the doctors and nurses who looked after her for over a month.

The 55-year-old woman, who was admitted on 9 March, will continue her recovery in one of the hospital's wards until she is well enough to go home.

## Thanks from the fire brigade

Fire officers joined in the show of appreciation on Saturday evening by driving past Malaga's Carlos Haya hospital with banners along the sides of fire engines which read, "Thank you for looking after us."

It has become a common sight and sound in the province for police cars to stop outside hospitals at 8pm every evening to join in with the applause.

## Nerja shops act as donation points for materials to make protective clothing

## NERJA

**J. R.** Shops in Nerja have joined forces with a group of volunteers in the town who are making masks and other personal protection equipment by providing materials.

Suministros Nerja in Calle

Chaparril is accepting financial donations to pay for tablecloths, large garden rubbish bags, elastic and sewing thread and Eco Nerja Bio, on the same street, is acting as a collection point for donations of materials.

Anyone wanting to make a donation can contact Suministros Nerja on 655 574 193 or email javifrigiliana@gmail.com. English is spoken. One packet of 50 tablecloths costs 20 euros and five packets of 10 rubbish bags cost 12 euros. Donations of materials can be taken to Eco Nerja Bio, Monday to Saturday from 9.30am to 2pm.

## Cudeca Hospice launches its #CaringTogether campaign

## SUR IN ENGLISH

**MALAGA.** Cudeca Hospice, the Benalmádena-based palliative care foundation, has launched a new campaign, coinciding with the Covid-19 crisis.

Through the #CaringTogether initiative, Cudeca hopes to let people know about the work being done to care for and accompany more than 500 people at the end of their life, and to send a positive message of support to the community.

"We're all aware that this crisis is a big challenge for everyone, not only for the Cudeca team, but also for the community, our families and our friends," said chief executive and medical director Dr Marisa Martín. "Cudeca is very used to receiving the support of the community, that is why we exist and that is why we are launching this campaign to let you know that we are still here to continue caring for anybody who needs us."

To this end, Cudeca has created a video showing various people passing a 'Caring Together' sunflower to show the importance of care at the end of life, especially during these very difficult times.

Cudeca has asked that the community helps by sharing the campaign video on social media along with the hashtags #CaringTogether and #Cudeca.

Dr Marisa Martín. **SUR**

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An estimated 400,000 of us Brits have a place in Spain where we can stay and soak up the sun. But research by MySpanishDeposit - a team of lawyers helping Brits who lost their deposits in Spain's property crash - shows that as many as 100,000 sun-seekers lost deposits for their off-plan holiday apartments in the wake of the global financial crisis a decade ago. Each family that invested lost on average €40,000, with some families losing much more.

Property developers all over Spain went bankrupt and nobody

could get their money back for years. In 2015, lawyers acting for Spanish investors won an important victory when Spain's Supreme Court ruled that it is not the developers who must repay any lost deposits but their banks and insurance companies.

All those who lost money on deposits in Spain between 2005 and 2016 can now recover it. They can even get it back with the interest they lost out on, too. But there's a time limit. All claims must be filed in the Spanish court by October 2020 at the latest.

And a lot of legal work has to be done for each person for their money to be recovered.

That's where the legal team at MySpanishDeposit comes in. The team can help people who lost their deposits in the crash bring their claims in the Spanish courts cost and risk-free.

If you lost a deposit paid between 2005 and 2016 on an off-plan Spanish home which was never built or finished, you almost certainly have a claim.

Go to [MySpanishDeposit.com](http://MySpanishDeposit.com) to register now.



De la Torre, right, with neurosurgeon Miguel Ángel Arraez, centre. **Ñ. SALAS**

Mayor of Malaga out of  
hospital after surgery

Francisco de la Torre, 77, will have to spend a month resting at home following a small brain haemorrhage but remains at the helm of the city hall

**PILAR RODRÍGUEZ QUIRÓS**

**MALAGA.** The mayor of Malaga, Francisco de la Torre, left hospital on Tuesday morning after undergoing surgery to correct a small brain haemorrhage.

De la Torre was taken to hospital on Saturday after displaying symptoms of a stroke following two days of head pain. Having been diagnosed with a subdural haematoma (a condition where blood collects between the skull and the surface of the brain), he underwent surgery on the same day.

Doctors said his good progress meant that he could be discharged, however he has been

prescribed a month's rest at home.

The brain injury suffered by the 77-year-old mayor was minor, said medical sources. Surgery was carried out by the Hospital Regional's Neurosurgery service, which has been moved to the nearby Hospital Chip during the coronavirus crisis.

A "satisfactory" CAT scan on Sunday meant that the drainage tube could be removed that same day, said neurosurgeon Miguel Ángel Arraez.

Arriving at home on Tuesday, where he was met by his wife Rosa Francia, the mayor said he felt great and thanked his well-wishers for their support.

De la Torre has said that he will remain at the helm of the city hall during his convalescence, although his place will be taken where necessary by his first deputy mayor, Susana Carillo.

"I'm going to have to tie him down; he needs to take it easy," joked his wife.

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Flooding as  
downpours  
return

The wet weather returned on Tuesday night, with downpours causing flooding in Alhaurín el Grande where several cars were swept away. In Mijas, a motorist had to be rescued after his car got trapped on the riverbed.



# Shopping centres will be able to open up to 16 Sundays and holidays a year

The modification will allow those which are over 300 square metres in size to open for an extra six days a year by 2022

JUAN SOTO

MALAGA. Shopping centres in Malaga province will have more freedom in deciding when to open than ever before. The Junta de Andalucía has approved a change to the law so stores over 300 square metres in size will be able to open on 16 Sundays and holidays a year, six more than at present. However, the modification will be introduced gradually over the next few

years, to a total of 12 days this year, 14 next year and 16 in 2022. Shops which are smaller than 300 square metres will still be able to open on any Sunday and public holiday they like, as at present.

The Andalusian government says this will help stores adapt to changing demand by consumers because, independently of size, traditional formats of shopping need to be able to compete with the large online shopping platforms which have no physical presence and can operate 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

They will need to decide which opening days will be most attractive to consumers. The

Junta suggests opening on at least one public holiday when there are two or more consecutive days off; on Sundays and holidays during the traditional sales periods and Christmas; and on Sundays and public holiday which are busiest in peak tourist season.

As an additional move, more businesses will be able to decide

when to open to the public from now on, including those which make and sell churros, crisps, nuts and sweets, those dedicated exclusively to selling cultural and sports products inside museums or cultural and sporting facilities and those located in premises where tourism services are provided.

The classification as a 'Zona de Gran Afluencia' or major tourist area, which provides more freedom in opening hours, is also to be expanded, and will be granted indefinitely instead of for four years. The annual average of overnight stays, a condition of being included, is also being reduced.

**The change to the existing law in Andalucía will gradually be brought into effect over the next three years**

## Comercio Andalucía fears for the future of small shops

The change in legislation has been strongly criticised by the Comercio Andalucía federation, which has accused the regional government of "endangering the survival of small local shops". It believes they will not be able to compete under equal conditions with the large stores. Sources say this move has been made "treacherously and at dead of night, without listening to the opinion of small businesses" and has come at an already difficult time, with many shop owners already fearing closure due to the coronavirus crisis.

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THE BIGGER PICTURE  
JEREMY BLATCH

## Don't become a victim of market volatility



In March 1933, at what turned out to be the peak of the Great Depression, President Franklin Roosevelt gave the famous rallying cry to America that "the only thing we have to fear is fear itself". Today fear has again gripped investors, and we have witnessed viciously volatile panic-selling, as traders and algorithms ply their trade to make a profit. As in 2008, when many feared that the financial system would collapse, today investors are fleeing risk assets and seek-

ing safety in money market funds, government bonds and cash deposits.

Unlike speculators, who look for short term profit, as investors we should be pleased when what we wish to own can be bought more cheaply. If we have taken appropriate steps to ensure that we have sufficient liquidity to weather a storm, then if we are able to invest the same amount on a regular disciplined basis, we will buy more shares when prices fall and buy fewer when

they rise, while watching our net asset value rise.

The markets at this time are a treacherous place, however, dollar cost averaging into the market with discipline will reap rewards, provided that the investor invests into a broad index which itself is part of a well-thought-out and diversified strategy.

It makes no sense from an investment standpoint to hide in a money market fund or cash deposit. Money market funds have their place in any investor's portfolio, but not if you are a saver or are funding retirement at a time when practically everything is on sale. Deciding where and how to allocate capital and what to buy is another matter.

Some people may even be considering suspending retirement contributions until the situation improves. Making re-

tirement contributions will always be sweeter when prices are rising, but you will be getting more for your money when they are falling. The money you put into the market when prices are declining sharply will be the best purchases you ever make, especially if you are relatively young.

You may be reading this in the midst of making some hard choices regarding family finances and business, with immediate survival as your priority. However, if you are able to invest, then do not become a victim of volatility. Until after the event, no one knows where the bottom of any market is, or knows anyone else who does. If you think you do know, you will fail! The beauty of dollar cost averaging is that you don't need a market bottom to succeed: Rather than becoming a victim

of volatility, you can make it work for you. Savers should hope that the market goes lower, so they can cash in during sales.

Two things need to happen for the economic and financial situation to improve: containment of the spread of the pandemic and the restoration of the supply side of the economy. No one can forecast when this will happen. In the meantime, however, if you believe there will still be a capital market next year and the year after that, then dollar cost averaging will bring rewards.

The author is a member of the Society of Trustees and Estate Practitioners and an investment counsellor. The comments by the author are a reflection of his opinion and do not constitute an offer to buy and hold securities.

## The Costa aims to bounce back after the crisis with its reputation as a safe destination

PILAR MARTÍNEZ

MALAGA. The Costa del Sol tourist board is seeking expert advice on ways to convince travellers that the destination is still a safe place to visit after the coronavirus crisis comes to an end.

It recently held a videoconference to discuss the matter, attended by the president of the Diputación de Málaga and Turismo Costa del Sol, Francisco Salado; the CEO of Turismo Costa del Sol, Margarita del Cid; president of Aehcos and the Foro de Turismo de la Costa del Sol, Luis Callejón; and Antonio Díaz, manager of Turismo Costa del Sol.

Also taking part as advisers were Carlos Díez de la Lastra, the CEO of Les Roches senior hospitality college in Marbella and Carlos Vogeler, former CEO of the World Tourism Organisation and currently heading Oman's tourism strategy.

The plan is to draw up a new local strategy for this year with the help of these experts, who Francisco Salado said are internationally recognised and have had indisputably successful careers. He said Malaga province is united in facing this crisis "under the umbrella of the Costa del Sol brand, and it already has a reputation as a strong, safe, quality destination in the Spanish and international market".

There will be weekly meetings to draw up the new plans, with a view to the short, medium and long term future.



## QUARANTINE STORIES

# Locked-up energy

"I thought I'd try to keep my circle connected over live coffee time"

**Radu Rosu**  
Coffee Roaster

JENNIE RHODES

NERJA. For Radu Rosu and his wife Alina who run El Camaradu coffee bar and roasters in Nerja, life under lockdown has meant having to close the café for now. However, the couple can still roast their coffee, take online orders and make deliveries, which Radu describes as an "interesting and challenging new business model".

In an effort to keep his coffee-drinking customers together, Radu now does what he calls "live coffee time" on social media, so that people can still connect, drink coffee together and chat, like they would in the café. The talented guitarist also incorporates music into his online coffee sessions.

"I've noticed the inevitable toll social distancing can have on me and everyone I know, so I thought I'd try to do my tiny share in keeping my circle connected over 'live coffee time' on the social media platforms," he explains, joking, "I thought we either help each other with not going crazy or at least we do it together."



"I fear it will be hard to keep up with the world when this is over"

**Finion Kenny**  
Saxophonist

TONY BRYANT

BENALMÁDENA. Dublin-born Finion Kenny is looking forward to returning to the Virgin del Carmen church in Arroyo de la Miel, where he plays the clarinet and saxophone during Sunday mass.

As well as topping up on his Spanish lessons, he has been using the lockdown to entertain his neighbours from his balcony.

"It's not been too bad. We study some new Spanish verbs each day, although we can't remember the old ones. One of the neighbours on our urbanisation has a DJ rig. We sing and clap to the Andalusian anthem at 8 o'clock each evening, after which, I play some tunes on the saxophone. I played Danny Boy on St Patrick's Day, and Amazing Grace on Easter Sunday. It is like a big open-air gig."

Although he is thankful that his family are all safe and well in Ireland, he has concerns for the future.

"I fear it will be hard to keep up with the world when this era is over."

SUR IN ENGLISH

COSTA DEL SOL. Week five of coronavirus lockdown in Spain is nearly done; for many it's hard to believe that we've managed

"I've been kept busy with the home-schooling of my two sons"

**Rebecca Thomas**  
Waitress

TONY BRYANT

BENALMÁDENA. Single parent Rebecca Thomas is enjoying spending more time with her two children during the lockdown, but she has concerns about how her family will survive the aftermath of the coronavirus crisis.

"It's not been too bad so far. I've been kept busy with the home-schooling of my three and ten-year-old sons. It's been nice because they are normally in school."

"However, I am really worried that life won't be the same again. I have not worked for six weeks, so I am obviously worried about money because the bills are piling up and there is no end in sight."

The Welsh national, whose eldest son celebrated his tenth birthday on Wednesday, is missing socialising with friends and shopping, although she feels "the police are doing an incredible job".

"If I'm not in jail for unpaid bills, the first thing I'll do when this is over is treat Olly to a birthday day out of his choosing," she says.



to spend so long without going out, our social life moving to the screen of a computer or mobile phone.

Here are five more Costa del Sol residents who were willing to

share their experiences with readers during these unusual times.

If you have a story you'd like to share with others, send an email to us at Quarantine Stories at [surinenglish.su@diariosur.es](mailto:surinenglish.su@diariosur.es)



"I look up on Google walking maps to see where we are"

**Jess Lewis**  
Retiree

JENNIE RHODES

RIOGORDO. Jess Lewis, her husband and their two dogs have been keeping themselves entertained and fit by 'terrace trekking.'

The keen walker explains that a friend put a speeded up video of themselves going round and round their terrace, which inspired her to do likewise. "We have a large terrace on our roof which we've hardly ever used in the 13 years that we've lived here because we have other areas," she explains.

Jess adds that the dogs are used to lots of walks and "are getting bored" so she tries to encourage them to join in too. "We go up there every morning and are generally doing five kilometres in one go." Using a combination of diagonals, figures of eight, zig zags, straight up and down, round & round, a tracker and radio to keep them entertained they have walked over 100 kilometres since they started. "I look up on Google walking maps to see where we are in a virtual world," she says.

"I am worried about going out after lockdown has finished"

**Steve Hughes**  
Singer/songwriter

TONY BRYANT

MALAGA. Steve Hughes and his wife Sandie are concerned about the coronavirus and they are strictly adhering to the state of alarm, although they are conscious of others who are more vulnerable than themselves.

"I'm glad to say that we are well and staying safe, although I am a little bored now. My wife has been looking after an elderly friend and making sure that she has all she needs during these difficult times. I have been using the time to play my guitar and learn some new songs for when I can get back on the local gig circuit again."

Steve admits that he has missed many things that we normally take for granted, but he is uncertain about venturing outside after the lockdown is over.

"I miss going out for a decent cup of coffee, visiting my favourite restaurants and playing gigs, but I am worried about going out after the lockdown has finished, because we don't know for certain if other people are still infected," he says.



# Carrefour

Estepona | Fuengirola | Mijas |  
Torremolinos | Valle del Guadalhorce

## OFFERS OF THE WEEK



## FROM THE FISH MARKET TO THE TABLES OF MÁLAGA

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

### Trust in the best

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

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Ctra. Coin-Cártama, Km 1. Coin

# Opposition parties disagree over need for a national pact

The main opposition PP party has said it is willing to reach a consensus with the PM but "in the full light of day"

**SUR**

MADRID. There was growing ill-feeling between the political parties nationally this week over how to steer the country out of the health crisis and the impending economic crisis.

The left-wing government led by Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez wants a cross-party deal similar to the historic Moncloa Pacts, wide-ranging social agreements used at the restoration of democracy. However, parties to the right have been reluctant to agree to the idea.

Speaking in the first prime minister's questions since the crisis, where most MPs listened in remotely, the PM explained why he thought new pacts would be a good idea and complained at opposition parties' reluctance. "Let's hope that a new way of carrying out politics



A near-empty Congreso chamber during Prime Minister's questions. EFE

brings with it the general interest and not party interest," he said.

Leader of the Partido Popular, Pablo Casado, replied, "He said in his weekly sermon that he is the high representative of Spaniards, but this isn't true. You aren't the King however much you sum-

mon us to talks." Casado said he was willing to reach consensus but "in the full light of day".

Some smaller parties, especially regional ones normally supportive of the government, have also distanced themselves from the call for cross-party pacts.

## A basic living wage for all edges closer to reality

**JOSE MARIA CAMARERO**

MADRID. The leader of Unidas Podemos, Pablo Iglesias, also a deputy prime minister, said on Thursday that the government was putting the finishing touches to rolling out a permanent minimum living wage from May.

The policy has long been held by the anticapitalist party despite the reticence of their majority coalition partners, the Socialist PSOE.

Iglesias explained in a message on social media that the minimum income for everyone will become "a new core social right", and that "it fills the fridge for a

great many compatriots and many people can maintain a minimum level of consumption".

However Social Security minister, José Luis Escrivá, of the PSOE party, appeared to contradict Iglesias later: "We need weeks not to announce it but to get it onto the statute books," he explained. He added that the government had to carefully check tax data to make sure people genuinely in need would benefit and also work out how much it would cost to implement.

THE EURO ZONE  
MARK NAYLER

## A united front



The weekly congressional debate on Wednesday was an exasperating but all-too-familiar affair. As represented by the Popular Party (PP) and Vox, the Spanish right revelled in the kind of pointlessly antagonistic, tribal behaviour that has caused so many delays and problems over the last few years.

Seemingly lacking any serious points to make, speakers for each of these two parties resorted to trivialities or absurdities, such as requesting that Pedro Sánchez wear a black tie in mourning for victims of the Covid-19 pandemic, and accusing Podemos of exploiting the situation to "impose a totalitarian Venezuelan model" on Spain. Not even an international health and economic crisis, it seems, is enough to make these leading politicians adopt a more collaborative approach in dealing with their peace-time adversaries.

But there was one encouraging feature of Wednesday's session. Unlike in previous congressional and TV debates, the government didn't respond in kind to the mudslinging and accusations. Instead, both Sánchez and Podemos leader Pablo Iglesias repeatedly made appeals for cross-party collaboration, in order to more effectively deal with the pandemic and its economic consequences.

Sánchez is right to ask his opponents, chief among them the perennially combative PP

and Vox, to engage in "another way of doing politics". The adversarial, finger-pointing tactics employed by those two parties on Wednesday will only cause unnecessary delays in managing the after-effects of Covid-19, just as they have done in other scenarios. Instead, Sánchez wants to discuss the possibility of a new set of Moncloa Pacts, the range of cross-party agreements made in 1977, as Spain returned to democracy after the death of Francisco Franco.

A similarly united front today would improve the Spanish parliament's ability to deal with the economic impact of Covid-19, which the IMF warned this week could be exceptionally damaging. The Washington-based organisation predicted an 8% contraction of Spain's GDP in 2020 as a result of the pandemic, which would be the largest annual drop since civil war broke out in 1936.

That figure starts to seem less worrying, however, when you consider that the Fund routinely changes its forecasts, even under normal circumstances. Amid all the confusion caused by this pandemic, those apocalyptic predictions will almost certainly be reduced, refined or simply replaced out over the coming months. Nevertheless, Spain will be better prepared to deal with whatever fallout materialises if its leading politicians form a united front.

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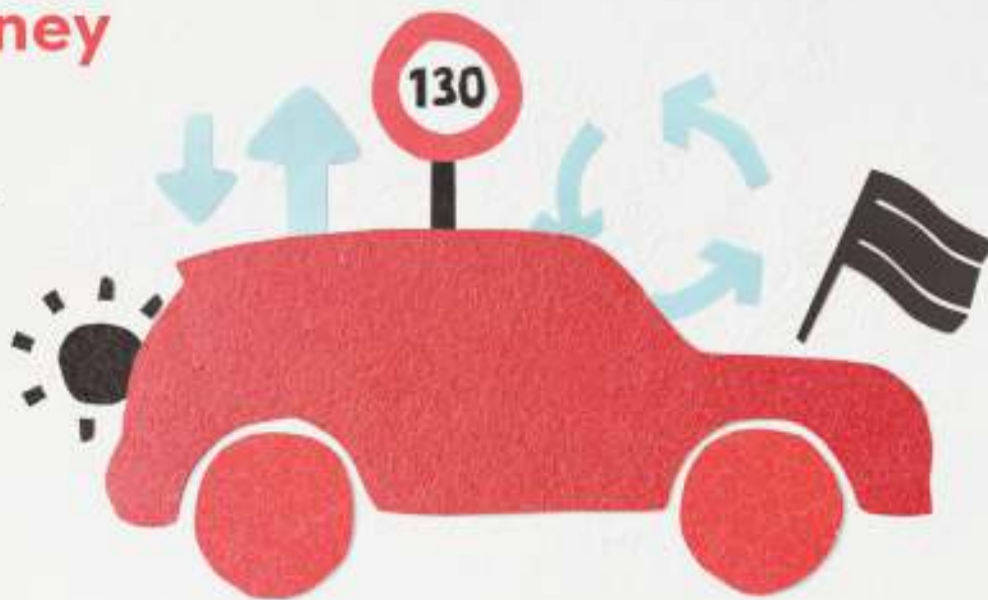
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# Brexit preparations inadvertently help with the coronavirus situation

Last summer, with all eyes on Brexit, nobody could have imagined that Gibraltar would be in need of oxygen due to a new virus six months later

DEBBIE BARTLETT



GIBRALTAR. Back in the days when Gibraltar was preparing for every possible Brexit scenario, including Britain leaving the EU without a deal, it was decided that the Gibraltar Health Authority needed to be as self-sufficient as possible and less reliant on medical supplies having to be brought across the border from Spain.

Last summer, therefore, the government decided it would be best to purchase an oxygen production plant rather than to rely on the existing liquid oxygen tanks which are topped up from the depot in San Roque and cylinder compressed oxygen which is refilled at the depot in Jerez.



St Bernard's Hospital's oxygen supply is now guaranteed. **SUR**

It also calculated that the plant would prove more cost-effective within a reasonable amount of time.

At that time, nobody could have guessed that around six months later Gibraltar would be in lockdown due to a completely unknown virus, and that the bed capacity at St Bernard's hospital would be expanded with an additional facility at Europa Point as a precautionary measure in case of an increase in pa-

tients with COVID-19.

So, with a worst-case Brexit scenario in mind, the GHA's tech-

nical team travelled to Eastern Europe to see a particular plant which was being used successfully at a number of hospitals.

It was then decided to purchase this system and, as a result, the equipment is now up and running in Gibraltar. It can produce more oxygen than St Bernard's would normally need and can be used to fill other cylinders.

The Nightingale hospital facility at Europa Point is currently equipped with oxygen through portable concentrators and compressed oxygen cylinders, but will soon use a temporary liquid oxygen tank and fixed supply points installed by multinational medical gas supplier, Linde Plc and local medical gas supplier, Oxy Ltd.

Gibraltar's coronavirus statistics continue to be low and relatively stable so far. Thanks to the recent addition of random testing as well as those with symptoms, 5.5 per cent of the population have been tested, placing Gibraltar fourth in the world in this respect.

## Gibraltar National Museum's virtual tour is giving thousands a look back into the past

D. BARTLETT

GIBRALTAR. Nearly 5,000 people with an interest in Gibraltar and its history have gone online and visited the National Museum's website and social media pages since it set up its Virtual Museum two weeks ago.

Posts have ranged from archaeology to social history, with the most popular on the Great Sand Dune behind Catalan Bay, the medieval Galley House at Casemates and a 20 thousand-year old bone spear point from Gorham's Cave.

Also popular are descriptions of artefacts, adverts from the Gibraltar Directory of 1920 and even earlier, and photographs of old Gibraltar.

### IN BRIEF

#### SOCIETY

### Easter eggs delivered to local pensioners

D. BARTLETT. This is a difficult time and there may be a lockdown in force but Easter just wouldn't seem like Easter without chocolate eggs and any residents of the four 'pensioner estates' in Gibraltar who were worried about missing out found their fears were unfounded.

Thanks to the generosity of the local branch of Marks & Spencer, Easter eggs and other goodies were delivered to their homes for them to enjoy.

Gibraltar's Minister for Housing, Steven Linares, said he was very grateful to Marks & Spencer for their kind gesture of solidar-



Easter eggs and goodies. **SUR**

ity. "This action of generosity further shows the unity within our community and will definitely put a smile on many faces, making their Easter a little extra special," he said.

#### TRAVEL

### Advice for travellers to and from Gibraltar

D. B. British Airways is still running flights into Gibraltar from UK but the government is warning British travellers not to try to enter Spain across the land border from Gibraltar unless they are legally resident and have documentation to prove it. Only Spanish citizens or people who are legally

resident are permitted to enter the country, and the Spanish authorities are also forbidding entry to visit a holiday home which is not a person's habitual residence.

The advice also says that people crossing into Gibraltar from Spain to take a flight must present evidence of a confirmed flight booking, together with valid travel documents, to both the Spanish and Gibraltarian immigration officers. They must also go immediately to the airport terminal.

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LETTERS  
TO THE EDITOR

## Tragedy or opportunity?

In these difficult and incomprehensible times it has to be said that we have never suffered so much in one generation, perhaps more.

Confinement, better late than never, seems to be the only remedy to halt the deadly virus for most sensible governments, but we must remember this is more to save the collapse of neglected health services than simply to save lives.

However, let's try to look at the positive aspects of this lockdown... less pollution, less waste of precious resources and a growing human solidarity.

All this gives us time to think of how we got into this mess in the first place and hopefully to learn from this bitter experience that a constant emphasis on so called "progress" in world economies at the expense of reinforcing true human values worldwide has undeniably been a factor in the pandemic occurring, whether it was caused accidentally or not.

If and when we emerge from this dark tunnel is there any chance we could change our "chip" and concentrate more on humanity and not on the economy alone?

I, for one, sincerely hope so. **BRIAN O'CARROLL**

## A weekly tonic

Thank you for securing us Peter Edgerton's weekly column. For years, it has been a tonic of humour, warmth, sanity, and humanity.

We could all do with a few smiles and nods these days. (Am still laughing at, "You don't like supper? Unfortunately; we'll have yours; go do your homework.")

**MARGARET DEAN**

## Technology

At 76, I never saw the point in keeping up with new technologies. But I must say, after being shown how to conference call on my tablet, it's opened my eyes to a whole new world. I can't get out much these days (even before the quarantine) but now I'm in touch with people more than I ever was before - fantastic!! Every cloud...

**EILEEN FISHER**

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## Force of will

**T**hese are, without doubt, extraordinary times and there is perhaps no greater illustration of this than that strange, nagging discomfort anybody with any vestige of empathy is currently feeling, albeit in spite of themselves. It's because we sort of feel a bit sorry for politicians.

Alright, it's true, they're still behaving like a gang of spoilt children, but the fact is they find themselves in an impossible position.

Nobody knows what on earth's going on during this crisis, least of all the self-appointed scientific experts who pop up constantly in the media to contradict each other in a battle of egos worthy of Ronaldo and Mourinho in their pomp.

Meanwhile, ministers and leaders are left to try to explain the inexplicable, leaving themselves wide open to attacks from all corners. They're damned if they do and damned if they

don't. So, like I say, we start to feel a bit of sympathy for them. And then, to quote Frank Sinatra, they go and spoil it all by saying somethin' stupid.

That somethin' stupid, in this case, is their new de rigueur, and extremely annoying, phrase "What I will say is..."

This is a mightily disingenuous piece of work even in the context of the chicanery so prevalent in politics. It goes like this: an interviewer asks a direct question.

"So, you've made a complete pig's ear of everything you've ever done, haven't you?"

The politician scratches his/her bonce, looks down his/her nose in that supercilious manner they're so fond of and deigns to reply: "Look, (that's another trick - 'look' gives the illusion of being in control), this really isn't the time to be talking about pigs' ears. There'll be a full inquiry into those when it's right and proper.

What I will say is this - I'm absolutely brilliant because my mother says so."

This is genius. The phrase "What I will say" simultaneously feigns to be letting us in on some sensitive, important information while at the same time opening up the floodgates to enable the sneaky person in question to say whatever the hell they want.

Errant husbands should try this when cornered.

"Is that lipstick I can see on your collar, you meathead?"

"Look, this isn't the time to be considering women's face painty stuff, there'll be a full proper inquiry into that when it's right and proper. What I will say is this: I bought you these lovely chrysanthemums from the petrol station on the way home, oh, and can you pass me the remote? The football's on in a minute."

Thank you for reading; what I will say is this - stay well.

## SANSÓN



**SUR** in English

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## Luis from Portugal



**E**xperts are blaming globalisation for the spread of Covid-19. (By the way, I have absolutely no idea why in Spanish 'el virus', which is masculine, has suddenly mutated and become feminine as in 'la' Covid-19, but that's something we can investigate when this is all over).

Travel, whether for leisure or for busi-

ness, is the nerve of globalisation. Then of course there is the phenomenon of migration, which also involves matters such as finance and travel, but that doesn't get mentioned nearly as often, especially in the press.

There are many human stories being told about the pandemic, and I take a special interest in those that serve as a

lesson in life and arise out of paradoxes. For example, the "angels" that "saved the life" of British prime minister Boris Johnson, nurses Luis and Jenny, who, we learned, are from Portugal and New Zealand, respectively.

The British have always been great travellers, just like the Portuguese, maybe because of their past as conquerors and colonisers of lands across the seas, including the New Zealand of the Maoris.

Of these two nurses Luis, the Portuguese, has received the most attention. It is worth bearing in mind that with Brexit in full force, the nurse from a small village near Porto would not have found it easy to work in the UK, where he arrived in 2014.

The fact that Johnson won the election and became prime minister because of his campaign for hard Brexit makes this a story with a moral. He now owes his life to the free movement of workers in the EU, something he so vociferously opposed.

The same thing applies to his alter ego Donald Trump, who has had to bow his head and ask for help from foreign doctors and undocumented workers in the fight against Covid-19, those who until just one month ago he was pursuing relentlessly to throw them out of the country. Both used an unscrupulous populist nationalism for their own political ends.

Someone around here should take note.



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# Orthodox Christians plan Easter in isolation

**Lockdown tradition. Hundreds of residents on the Costa del Sol are preparing to celebrate their most important religious festival of the year**

ALEKK M. SAANDERS

On 19 April, Orthodox Easter will be celebrated in countries such as Greece, Cyprus, Lebanon, Bulgaria, Serbia, Romania, Russia and Ukraine, and by numerous Orthodox Christians on the Costa del Sol. The celebration is usually held later than Catholic Easter. This year the difference between them is one week and only this year there is one extra thing in common - celebrations will be indoors. Four Costa del Sol residents talk about the peculiarities of Orthodox Easter in their countries and how they plan to celebrate it here in lockdown.

## Adrian Alexiou, Benalmádena Fireworks from the roof

"Most Greeks belong to the Eastern Orthodox Church which has a unique way of celebrating. They blend the significance of two separate events - the suffering of Jesus Christ and the joy of his resurrection. That is why Easter in Greece includes the funerary procession of the Epitaphios - a Christian icon - as well as the festive Easter Sunday meal, accompanied by singing and dancing.

"On the Saronic Gulf islands of Spetses and Hydra where I grew up they celebrate Easter in their own way, which is not unlike the Costa del Sol's Virgen del Carmen processions and sea celebrations.

"The most emotional moment

is on Good Friday with the Epitaphios processions. On Hydra, in the picturesque fishing village of Kaminia, at Easter there is something similar to what happens in La Carihuela, Torremolinos, in the middle of July. The seafaring Epitaphios literally enters the sea in order to bless both the waters and the boats. At midnight the sky is full of fireworks.

"Our family usually goes to Nerja where at our relatives' place we celebrate Easter Sunday in the garden full of flowers. But this time we bought potted flowers in the supermarket and our daughters replanted them on our roof terrace. They managed to create appropriate scenery of my native island. This weekend we will dance and sing anyway. When it is dark we will let off fireworks from our terrace."

## Galina Tishchenko, Torremolinos Back to the oven

"For Ukrainians, who are primarily Orthodox Christians, Easter is the most important religious holiday of the year. This holiday came to Ukraine from Byzantium together with christening at the end of the 10th century.

"The preparation for Easter begins weeks beforehand. It starts with Lent, but in comparison to the Catholic tradition there are no carnivals. That is why I was con-

beach bars, pastry shops and bakeries. The scheme (#CocinamosEnCasaCon) is designed to promote local businesses that are suffering because of the current lockdown, while helping to relieve the boredom of confinement.

Chefs from some of the town's most popular establishments are publishing easy to follow recipes

## IN BRIEF

### TORREMOLINOS

#### Online cooking to promote local cuisine

**T. BRYANT.** The tourism department of Torremolinos town hall has launched a new online initiative to highlight the typical gastronomy of the town's restaurants,



Adrian Alexiou, Galina Tishchenko, Slava Novascu and Egor Novikov. SUR

fused for the first time watching funny dressed people in Malaga - singing and dancing. For us, Lent is a strict 40-day fasting when we really give up meat, eggs, and butter and in addition abstain from dancing and other frivolous activities. This period before Easter is considered to be a time for soul-cleansing and penitence.

"After the Easter mass fasting ends and feasting begins. They start to eat the food from the Easter basket which is blessed at the night mass. The willow basket decorated with an embroidered cloth contains traditional sweet Easter bread and sweet Easter cheese, dyed hard-boiled eggs, butter, lard, horseradish cream, smoked ham, sausage, blood pudding, vodka or moonshine and, as a rule, fortified dessert wine.

"Isolation helped me to avoid temptations during Lent. I haven't been to any cafes eating my favourite cakes and neither to concerts. In addition, this lockdown made me bake for the first time in many

years. Before I used to buy the traditional sweet Easter bread in the Ukrainian food shop in the centre of Malaga. Due to the isolation I baked it myself. My own bread seems to be much tastier."

## Slava Novascu, Marbella A bathroom instead of the sea

"Easter is the most important celebration for Romanians. It is preceded by numerous preparations and rituals. I like preparing food myself. But this time the traditional Easter lamb will be not cooked out of doors on a rack over an open fire as we cannot go to the village. So I will clean the ashes out of the fireplace and grill the lamb.

"In my native region of Transylvania, there is a tradition called 'the wetting'. After Easter, on Monday morning, the boys take a bucket of water and go to the houses of the unmarried girls. If they find them sleeping, the boys throw water on them. As it is believed that those girls will marry soon, they reward the boys by giv-

ing them decorated eggs and Easter cheese or Easter bread. In some places, the boys catch the girls when they go out and take them to the fountain or to the river, where they wet them.

"Actually, wetting with ice-cold water is not only a Romanian tradition. In Slovakia, for example, dousing women in water on Easter Monday is one of the most treasured traditions. What's more, when the women are wet, they can also be whipped with a whip braided from thin branches of a willow. It is nothing to do with violence. According to tradition this water procedure makes women younger, stronger and healthier for the upcoming spring season.

"I usually push my wife into the sea while we are walking on the beach. This time it will be just cold shower for her as I really want her to be healthy during this pandemic. This time all of us have already got used to 'the wetting'. To protect against viruses my family started taking ice-cold showers. It is known that in this way the body's long-term metabolism increases as well as mental strength. Both are important, specially now."

## Egor Novikov, Mijas Costa Handmade cards mean more

"I like Easter a lot. First of all, when I was younger my grandmother used to bring me a basket with chocolate eggs. However, our proper tradition is about boiled and painted eggs. At school we even learn how to decorate eggs. Though today you can buy different paints to colour the eggs, but in my family we prefer the natural way of painting.

"Traditionally, Easter eggs are different shades of red. So if you boil eggs with onion peel they get a brownish shade of red. To make natural patterns I put dried flowers or small leaves on the eggs and then put them in a sock for boiling. When they are ready, I take the leaves off and those spots would remain white and look like a lace. On the Costa del Sol we started using local olive oil which gives the eggs at least an Andalusian smell.

"It is a pity, but in quarantine I will not be able to meet my friends for the traditional egg-smashing competition. However, this lockdown helped me develop my creativity. This time I have not sent digital greetings for Easter but have posted handmade paper cards."



San Francisco bakery. SUR

### MALAGA

#### Sixth form college to host virtual open day

**SUR.** Malaga-based Phoenix College continues its schedule of open evenings for potential new A-level students and their parents. Registration is now open for an online visit, including a photographic tour and Q&A session, on Thursday 23 April at 7pm.

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DENISE BUSH

GARDENING

# Thespesia populnea

This attractive small tree or large shrub is probably native to the Old World tropics although it may have originated in India. Its exact origins are not entirely certain as Thespesia populnea is found in many regions of the world, carried by Austronesian voyagers to the islands on which they settled.

Common names for this

dense, evergreen tree with rounded crown and lemon-yellow blooms include portia tree, Pacific rosewood, milo and Indian tulip tree. In Spanish it is called alamo blanco and palo de jaqueca among many other names.

The tree is found mainly in

coastal areas up to 275 metres above sea level. It is very resilient to salt spray and sea winds and adapts to most soils except for those that become waterlogged. It has a very long tap root and can withstand months of drought but is not resistant to frost.

Thespesia populnea needs full sun to thrive and flower well. In an ideal location it will reach 6-10 metres high.

The genus is a member of the Malvaceae family and this is apparent from the form of the flowers which appear very similar to most of the mallow family. The buds are pinkish and open a soft yellow with dark purple or red spots at the base. The flowers wither the same day although remain on the tree for two to three days before dropping. After the blooms are rounded fruits which contain several brown seeds about 1cm long.

The tree has always been prized for the quality of its reddish brown heart wood which is used for carving and making musical instruments. In eastern Polynesia it is planted in sacred groves and the wood harvested for religious carvings.

Propagation is by seed or by stem or root cuttings. The seeds have a very hard outer coating and need scarifying before sowing.



Thespesia populnea with fruit and bloom (insert). Wikimedia

READERS' PHOTOS



D. Cotesworth

## A sight for sore eyes

This beautiful green oasis is located in Mijas and is something that many people can only dream of from the balconies of their flats at the moment. Lucky owners Deborah Cotesworth and Diane Gibson sent in this photo of their serene little patch.

## Phalaenopsis perfection

SUR in English reader Kiki sent in this photo of an orchid and says each bloom, of which it presently has four, has a rather sad face on it, indicative of the situation in the world today. The orchid is one of the Phalaenopsis genus and looks to be doing extremely well, with another nine flower buds still to open. They are commonly called moth orchids (Greek word 'phalaina' which translates as 'a moth') or just 'phals' for short.



Kiki

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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## WHAT HAPPENED TODAY?

17 APRIL 1492

# Columbus obtains funding for his first voyage

His contract with the Spanish monarchs was called the Capitulaciones and was signed in Santa Fe, near Granada

On 17 April 1492, Christopher Columbus achieved the first step towards his dream of setting off westwards to find a quicker route to the Maluku Islands, a trading centre for spices, when the voyage for which the Portuguese king had refused funding was approved by the Catholic Monarchs of Spain, Ferdinand and Isabella.

Columbus had approached the Spanish monarchs in 1486, and they finally signed the contract, known as the 'Capitu-

laciones', in the town of Santa Fe, near Granada, nearly six years later. Under it, he was appointed admiral, viceroy and governor of the lands he discovered and was entitled to ten per cent of profits from "every kind of merchandise, whether pearls, precious stones, gold, silver, spices, and other objects and merchandise whatsoever, of whatever kind, name and sort, which may be bought, bartered, discovered, acquired and obtained within the limits of the said Admiralty".

The Capitulaciones also stated that he would spread the word of God in his travels.

Columbus didn't waste any time. He set off on this voyage from Palos de la Frontera, in Huelva province, on 3 August. There were 90 men on three ships: the Pinta and the Niña,



Painting illustrating Columbus' arrival in the Caribbean. AFP

both small caravels, and the larger Santa Maria.

He didn't achieve his aim of reaching the spice islands on this unusual route, but arrived instead on an island in the Bahamas that he called San Salvador; the natives had called it Guanahani. The land was first

sighted on 12 October, reportedly by a sailor on board the Pinta, although Columbus apparently claimed he had done it, to avoid having to pay the reward he had promised the crew for being the first to do so.

After reaching Cuba on 26 October, which Columbus

thought was China, the ships arrived at the island of La Española (the natives called it Haiti) on 5 December.

On the 25th, the Santa María ran aground and had to be abandoned, and the others set sail for Spain on 16 January, finally arriving back via Portugal in early March.

**Bilingual crossword inside back page**

## LANGUAGE FOOTNOTE

Descubrimiento	Discovery
Documento	Document
Contrato	Contract
Trato	Deal
Reyes	Monarchs
Almirante	Admiral
Virrey	Viceroy
Expedición	Expedition
Navegar	To sail
Nobleza	Nobility
Espicias	Spices
Oro	Gold
Plata	Silver
Territorio	Territory
Conquistar	Conquer
Escrito	Written
Beneficios	Profits
Occidente	West
Carabelas	Caravels



Statue of Columbus in Madrid. AP

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**REF. H. P. E.**

The Spanish company I have worked for for five years is struggling, and myself and my colleagues have recently been informed that an American multinational company is going to buy the company out. We fear that we will all lose our jobs and

and at our ages it will not be easy to find a new one. We would like to know if the new company will be obliged to keep us on.

You can relax as the law establishes that the employment relationship of the previous company persists. This means that, in principle, the new company will be obliged to apply the collective agreement that was in force before the merger took place, unless you and your colleagues reach a new agreement with the new company.

**REF. E. N. O.**

Everyday we hear screams and banging from our neighbours upstairs, and we are sure that they mistreat their child, as more than once we have seen him with his face red as if he had been

slapped. On one occasion, he was crying so much that we called the police, but when they came he denied that his parents hit him – obviously he was very scared. The situation has worsened since then. What can we do before it is too late?

This is a very delicate issue, which should be carefully handled. Nevertheless, if you suspect that a minor is being mistreated, then you are obliged to act. To do this, you can report the situation directly to Court or to the police, or to the public prosecutor for minors. You can also contact the social services of the Junta de Andalucía or the town hall, and finally, you could also contact any of the different associations for the defence of minors, so that they take charge of reporting the case to the authorities.

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## Dedicated volunteers initiate alternative fundraising idea to help palliative care charity

Proceeds from a recipe book containing dishes submitted by people in lockdown all over the world will be donated to the Asociación Girasol

**TONY BRYANT**

ANTEQUERA. Many local charities have experienced problems raising sufficient funds to stay afloat during the current state of alarm, so alternative measures are now being sought. The Antequera-based Asociación Girasol, a palliative care charity dedicated to supporting and improving the quality of life of patients with advanced, incurable illnesses, is one such organisation.

Searching for alternative ways to raise money, dedicated volunteers hit upon a scheme to help boost the charity's funds and to enable it to continue helping those most in need. The association invited its supporters and members to submit recipes to be included in a special cookery book. Participants were

asked for a small donation when submitting their favourite recipe, and the organisation has now published an e-book featuring 80 of their dishes.

The book includes recipes for starters, mains, desserts and cakes that were submitted from all over the world.

The volunteers have decided to dedicate the book to all whose lives have been affected by Covid-19. "We spread the word via our volunteers, supporters, friends, families and Facebook, asking them to invite anyone they know to send us their favourite recipes along with a minimum donation of three euros. We received recipes from people in lockdown from as far as India, Austria, Kenya, Spain and the UK. It took three weeks to produce," volunteer Hilda Hammond explained to SUR in English.

The book costs nine euros and is available online ([www.friendsofgirasol.weebly.com/buy-recipe-book.html](http://www.friendsofgirasol.weebly.com/buy-recipe-book.html)).

All proceeds will go to the charity.

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# U3A turn to social media during coronavirus lockdown

TONY BRYANT

**FUENGIROLA.** The U3A Costa del Sol Fuengirola is the latest association to turn to social media in order to continue offering a service to its members during the current state of alarm. The association is run by group leaders who usually offer their knowledge and skills in a variety of indoor and outdoor activities. Some of these volunteers have now set up Facebook platforms and WhatsApp groups in order to offer a few online activities during lockdown.

The Art History group is currently setting up a social media page called Picture of the Week, which will feature well-known paintings, drawings and sculptures, complete with notes that explain why it is considered special.

Those interested in science can enjoy video presentations on a variety of subjects; while the writing group is using WhatsApp to keep in touch.



The Dawn Chorus, together before the lockdown. SUR

Members of the group have been invited to write and submit a short story based on experiences of the coronavirus crisis.

Other initiatives include online bridge; a quiz night on FaceTime, and a Facebook page dedicated to The Dawn Chorus, a choral group led by the association's president Dawn Boardman.

"I set up the page so members can upload videos of themselves singing. Anyone can become a member and I am really trying to encourage this. We have a mixture of music so far, including classical and a cappella," the president explained.

For more information see [www.u3afuengirolacostadel-sol.com/](http://www.u3afuengirolacostadel-sol.com/)

## 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](http://www.metopera.org) for 23 hours.

**17 April.** Puccini's *Madame Butterfly*. Starring Patricia Racette, Marcello Giordani, and Dwayne Croft, conducted by Patrick Summers. From 7 March, 2009.

**18 April.** Cilea's *Adriana Lecouvreur*. Starring Anna Netrebko, Anita Rachvelishvili, Piotr Beczala, and Ambrogio Maestri, conducted by Gianandrea Noseda. From 12 January, 2019.

**19 April.** Strauss's *Der Rosenkavalier*. Starring Renée Fleming, El na Garan a, Erin Morley, and Günther Groissböck, conducted by Sebastian Weigle. From May 13, 2017.

**20 April.** Strauss's *Elektra*. Starring Nina Stemme, Adrianne Pieczonka, Waltraud Meier, and Eric Owens, conducted by Esa-Pekka Salonen. From 30 April, 2016.

**21 April.** Puccini's *Tosca*. Starring Sonya Yoncheva, Vittorio Grigolo, and Željko Lu i , conducted by Emmanuel Villaume. From 27 January, 2018.

**22 April.** Puccini's *Tosca*. Starring Sonya Yoncheva, Vittorio Grigolo, and Željko Lu i , conducted

by Emmanuel Villaume. From 27 January, 2018.

**23 April.** Lehar's *The Merry Widow*. Starring Renée Fleming, Kelli O'Hara, and Nathan Gunn, conducted by Sir Andrew Davis. From 17 January, 2015

**24 April.** Verdi's *La Traviata*. Starring Natalie Dessay, Matthew Polenzani, and Dmitri Hvorostovsky, conducted by Fabio Luisi. From 14 April, 2012.

### Ballet

#### BALLET MALANDAIN DE BIA-

**RRITZ.** 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 Glück 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 with a special showing:

**18 April.** Spartacus. To celebrate the 80th birthday of Vladimir Vasiliev, the first person ever to perform the title role.

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## OPERA AND DANCE

## 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/royalopera-house](https://www.facebook.com/royalopera-house) or <https://www.youtube.com/user/RoyalOperaHouse> **17 April.** The Metamorphosis. A contemporary piece by Arthur Pita, created for Royal Ballet Principal Dancer, Edward Watson.

## 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

## The MET 360° Project

## THE METROPOLITAN MUSEUM NY.

The museum has six award-winning videos of its three installations. Now you can visit the Met's art and architecture without stepping foot inside the buildings. The videos cover the Great Hall, the Met Cloisters, the Temple of Dendur, the Met Breuer, the Charles Engelhard Court, and the Arms and Armour Galleries. [www.metmuseum.org/art/online-features/met-360-project](http://www.metmuseum.org/art/online-features/met-360-project)



British Museum. WIKIMEDIA

## Virtual museum tours

## THE BRITISH MUSEUM.

The world's largest indoor space on Google Street View is the British Museum in London. Visit over 60 galleries, see the Rosetta stone, Old Master paintings and amazing textiles from around the world as well going 'behind the scenes' at the museum to find out about poison arrows and 'mummy goo'. Information on how to explore the museum online is at: <https://blog.britishmuseum.org/how-to-explore-the-british-museum-from-home/>

## Dutch National Museum

**THE RIJKSMUSEUM.** The museum houses a famous collection of art by Dutch masters.

The museum has masterpieces by Rembrandt, Frans Hals and Johannes Vermeer as well as many other objects of art and history. <https://360stories.com/amster->

# Recreating the work of the Grand Masters, in the lounge

The Escuela de Arte San Telmo de Málaga has launched a social media project encouraging people to recreate iconic works of art

ANTONIO JAVIER LÓPEZ

MÁLAGA. People are looking for ways to relieve the boredom of social distancing and quarantine and one of the more creative ideas has been to try and replicate a famous work of art by just using family members (including the very youngest) and items found around the house.

The concept was picked up by Málaga's San Telmo Art School which launched a project to let the imagination run free without leaving home. The project looks at social networks (Instagram and Facebook) and encourages all users to recreate a work of art without leaving home and then share it with others.

The school explained on its Instagram account, "From the San Telmo School of Art we want to encourage you to put into practice a creative exercise that is already a tradition in our centre and in which everyone can participate: Pictorialism. It is about reinterpreting a work of art with the condition that it has to be done at home and with the available materials."

The first art work to 'come to life' was recreated by the School's Graphic Design teacher, Lula Linares, who recreated The Arnolfini Portrait (1434), a work



The Arnolfini Portrait, and the version by Lula Linares. SUR



The Sick Bacchus, and Eugene Hrotchuk's version. SUR



by Jan van Eyck that represents the merchant Giovanni Arnolfini and his wife Giovanna Cenami.

Lula Linares' example was followed by illustrator and designer Eugene Hrotchuk, who chose Caravaggio's Sick Bacchus (1593-94). "The Sick Bacchus is one of the first paintings by Caravaggio, probably painted for his master Giuseppe Cesari," informs the school.

Among the most recent additions to San Telmo's initiative comes a self-portrait, this one by Gustave Courbet, reinterpreted by Manolo Martínez; a Piet Mondrian composition by Exento Desing; and Magritte's The Lovers, seen through the eyes of @sr\_inqueto.

To view the contributions to the project, open Instagram and enter Escuela de Arte San Telmo.

## EXHIBITIONS

## Van Gogh

**THE VAN GOGH MUSEUM AMSTERDAM.** 360° story of the artist and his works.

On the website <https://360stories.com/amsterdam/story/van-gogh-museum> click on stories (49) at bottom of page to open information about individual paintings by Van Gogh.

## Picasso En Casa

**MUSEO PICASSO MÁLAGA.** The Picasso Museum is presenting its main exhibition online with an audio-guide 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://mas-dearte.com/especiales/picasso-en-casa/>

## Secret London Art

**GREENWHICH PAINTED HALL.** An online tour of one of London's hidden art treasures.

The stunning Painted Hall only reopened last March and can now be toured online at [www.secretldn.com/online-tour-painted-hall/](http://www.secretldn.com/online-tour-painted-hall/) it is a baroque masterpiece and offers a chance to view the ceiling up close as well as giving the viewer tidbits of information on the history of the building and its amazing art.

## LECTURES / DOCUMENTARIES

## Television documentary

**ART MYSTERIES.** The BBC recorded 4 episodes, each lasting half an hour.

Discover the secret meanings hidden in the paintings of Van Gogh, Gauguin, Cezanne and Seurat. BBC Art Mysteries.

## Art courses and lectures

**ART HISTORY IN FOCUS.** Online live lectures and courses throughout the year.

Founded by art historian and lecturer Siân Walters, Art History in Focus arranges regular courses, study days and visits in the UK as well as cultural holidays throughout Europe. Siân is a highly qualified and experienced tutor and events organiser, and lectures regularly for the National Gallery, NADFAS (The Arts Society). <https://www.arthistoryinfo-cus.com/courses/>

## THEATRE/ ENTERTAINMENT

## 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) Each performance will be available to view for the following seven days. <https://www.national-theatre.org.uk/>

**23 April.** Twelfth Night.

## Culture at Home

## TORREMOLINOS ES CULTURA.

Every night a cultural agenda is broadcast live from 8pm.

Local associations, theatre companies, artists, musicians and professionals from the world of art have designed a special programme of events which will include yoga and keep fit as well as activities for children at #TorremolinosEsCultura

## Scary tours

## VIRTUAL TOURS OF HAUNTED SITES.

Some of the scarier places to visit.

Virtual tours of Dracula's castle, The Winchester Haunted Mansion, the Paris Catacombs and the Stanley Hotel (where The Shining was filmed) can be found on [www.freaked.com](http://www.freaked.com)

## Free comics

## MARVEL COMICS.

There is now an App available for free comics.

Marvel Unlimited have released an App for iOS or android to download. Click on Free Comics and select from a variety of titles including Avengers vs X-Men, Amazing Spider-Man, Dark Phoenix Saga and Kree/Skrull War etc. More info on <https://www.marvel.com/>



Painted Hall. WIKIMEDIA



Jorge Berzosa poses with some of the tools of his trade. **SUR**

# Award-winning Russian salad to feed healthcare workers

With bars and restaurants close to the hospitals shut down, healthcare and other essential workers have to rely on buying food from vending machines

EMILIO MORALES

MALAGA. The best Russian salad in Malaga for those who deserve it the most. Verum restaurant, thanks to its owner Jorge Berzosa and head chef Montse Juárez, has launched a campaign called Russian Salad for our Heroes, in collaboration with OMERG (Observatorio Malagueño de la Ensaladilla Rusa y el Gazpachuelo), an organisation formed to promote both traditional dishes in local restaurants.

Their mission is to send out

strength, energy and, above all, plenty of encouragement and support by providing Russian salad and other foods to the healthcare workers, law enforcement officers and others who are fighting on the coronavirus front line.

Jorge Berzosa, whose ‘ensaladilla rusa’ was declared best in Spain in a recent competition, has committed to preparing around 10 kilos of the iconic potato salad every day.

He shares the work with his head chef Montse Juárez. “We make half each,” he said.

**Russian Salad For Our Heroes is run by the Verum restaurant, whose ‘ensaladilla rusa’ was declared the best in Spain last year**

The coordination and logistics of delivering this is down to Andrés Torres, president of OMERG, who will be organising deliveries so that they arrive at the changing over of shifts at the hospitals and health centres.

Many of the health workers say that all the nearby bars are closed so they have to take sandwiches or rely on food from hospital vending machines.

Having this contribution of food during their 24-hour days gives them energy and respite, and they have expressed their thanks for the tasty gesture.

Berzosa explained to SUR how the initiative was being carried out: “We make the Russian salad and we send it out to different hospitals for the health workers; for example today [Tuesday] we’ll go to Vélez-Málaga; we’ve already distributed it in Carlos Haya, Clínico, Parque San Antonio and Quirón.”

# Availability yes, demand no

ANDREW J. LINN



There would not be space in a thousand of these columns to include the hard-luck stories coming out of the hostelry sectors as a result of the Coronavirus. Restaurant groups are living their grimmest days, but it is also the suppliers who have to stand and watch as the material they would normally sell goes to waste.

One of Spain’s largest meat wholesalers chose the wrong time to breed 13 different strains of beef animals in Galicia with the object of producing the best mature beef ever offered. The crisis got under way just as the first prime aged chuletones were ready for delivery. The investment runs into hundreds of thousands of euros, and this will be lost if the meat, currently in cold chambers, has to be frozen.

Nearer home there is a sadder story involving live animals, titled Save a Goat from Hunger. The recently booming goat’s cheese business that has been developed in the local sierras over the last few years has been seriously handicapped by the current lack of demand. Serious problems are occurring just at the time of year when the goats are in top condition for producing milk. The 24 artisan cheese makers, who in many cases are the main employers of labour in some villages, may have to pour the milk down the drain.

We know that wine producers are among those with the most to lose in financial

**Restaurant groups are living their grimmest days, but it is also the suppliers who have to stand and watch as the material they would normally sell goes to waste**

terms, but wine dealers are experiencing a downturn unparalleled in history. Many of these only have restaurants and hotels as their customers, so the hardships they are experiencing does not need to be spelt out. Fortunately wine, unlike meat or milk, can be stored for extended periods without harm, but sitting in a bodega it is dead money.

## WINE OF THE WEEK

Don Pepe

This interesting white wine is made by the Cortijo de la Fuente bodega in the village of Mollina, just north of Malaga, from Pedro Jiménez grapes. It is quite dry, and served chilled is a very pleasant drink at a fair price, around 5.50 euros.



# "History repeats itself"

## Janis Beernaerts Retired doctor

The consequences of Covid-19 can be predicted in some way, says this retired doctor and pandemic expert

**ALEKK M. SAANDERS**

**MIJAS.** The current pandemic is considered by many as something out of the ordinary and unprecedented. However, many centuries ago the world was confronted with something similar. The retired Costa del Sol doctor Janis Beernaerts, who lives in Mijas, has always been interested in pandemics. He believes that history has a tendency to repeat itself. As a result there is much in common between Covid-19 and the Plague of the 14th century.

**Janis, what do you mean by 'history repeats itself'?**

History is cyclical. As memory fades, events from the past can become events of the present. That is why some people are panicking nowadays and see the cur-

rent pandemic as something horrible that has never happened on our planet. But we have to look back and to learn lessons. I would like to draw a parallel to the Plague - better known as the Black Death because it killed over thirty per cent of Europe's population in the fourteenth century. By the way, both Covid-19 and the Plague are infectious diseases and also zoonotic diseases because they were spread from certain animals to humans.

**Any other similarity?**

They both originated in China. It is quite curious, that in October 2010, international medical geneticists led by Mark Achtman came to the conclusion that all great waves of the plague had their bacterium "evolved in or near China". The Black Death probably also originated very close to China. From there the disease may have travelled along the Silk Road with Mongol armies and traders. It is known that around the year 1343, the Plague reached Crimea and from there was "transported" to Europe with

Genoese traders.

**As in case with the current Covid-19, the Black Death in Europe also hit the Italians first...**

It looks like it. The first European cases of the Plague and Covid-19 were reported in Italy. In 1347 the disease reached the southern island of Sicily with twelve Genoese galleys. Then it spread to Genoa, Venice and later Rome and Florence as they were the centres of trade routes. By the middle of 1348, the Black Death had struck Marseille, Paris, Bordeaux, Lyon and even London.

**What about Spain?**

The Plague raged in Spain in the early weeks of July 1348; almost at the same time as it was spreading in Italy and France. It is believed that it entered through the ports of Barcelona and Valencia. Lots of Spaniards were dying. In Spain, the population fell drastically from six million to 2.5 million. There is no information about Malaga which, as we know, at that time was a part of the Moorish kingdom of Granada. However, it was reported that the epidemic returned to Barcelona five times, in a period of 28 years. At the same time, for example, the majority of the Basque Country avoided the Plague as it was very agricultural and quite isolated.

**Was isolation also undertaken in the 14th century?**



Janis Beernaerts. **SUR**

The practice of quarantine actually began during the Plague. This is also a similarity. First of all, it was necessary to protect coastal cities from the epidemic. It started in Venice where ships arriving from infected ports were required to sit at anchor for 40 days before landing. Actually, in the beginning the sailors were held on their ships for 30 days and it was called a 'trentino'. I want to emphasise that, because of lack of informa-

tion, there was much more panic than now. Healthy people tried to do anything to avoid the sick. Moreover, doctors refused to see patients and priests refused to administer last rites. Shopkeepers closed their stores. Many people fled from the cities to the countryside.

**Did self-isolation help a lot?**

Yes. The infected and their families were confined to their houses for several weeks. Some efforts were made to provide them with food. More drastic measures were introduced. For example, sometimes those who were sick were banished from towns along with their relatives for at least three months. Their homes were burned to the ground. Only in some towns the infected were allowed to enter to do shopping with some restrictions. In general, vigorous attempts were made to improve hygiene, since many doctors were employed. I actually want people to learn the effectiveness of quarantine from the past.

**Janis, knowing the history, could you forecast the consequences of the current coronavirus?**

The main consequence that resulted from the Plague was population decline. Moreover, in most parts of Europe land values declined by almost 40%. I have heard that properties are not expected to largely hold their value. As for the wages, they soared in response to a labour shortage. Landowners faced a great loss and were also pushed to substitute monetary rents for labour services in an effort to keep tenants. At the same time, the price of food dropped. In general, some historians claim, that the Plague weakened feudalism. So I would also expect a kind of similar changes in our society in the near future. I cannot say for sure if the prices will increase a lot but some mental and value changes definitely must happen. It is a good lesson for us that we should remain aware that not everything depends on us and in some moments, like pandemic, we all - regardless of gender, social status, income or wealth, ethnicity, sexual orientation - are totally equal.

### HIS VIEW

ORIGINS

**"Both the Plague and Covid-19 originated in China and the first European cases were reported in Italy"**

CONSEQUENCES

**"Some changes must happen. We should be aware that not everything depends on us"**



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**Covid-19 Regular Updates**



# Coaches and administrative staff set to be exempt from Unicaja wage cut

Conditions of the temporary wage reduction for the players and the head coach are close to being agreed

JUAN CALDERÓN

MALAGA. The board of directors of Unicaja Baloncesto followed in the footsteps of the majority of Liga Endesa teams by agreeing last Friday that it would only apply a salary reduction to first-team players and coach Luis Casimiro. When the coronavirus crisis started to develop, Unicaja decided to maintain the club's salary conditions while waiting to see how the break in Spanish basketball developed. Once it became known that the nationwide state of alarm would last at least until 26 April, the club then decided to adopt this measure as a show of solidarity with the thousands of workers who can't work during this time.

Unicaja, in agreement with the Fundación Bancaria, the owner of the club, and Unicaja Banco, the main sponsor, de-



The Unicaja players embrace during a game this season. SALVADOR SALAS

cided that unlike other clubs, the club's coaches, administrative staff and academy players (on a considerably lower salary) would remain unaffected.

## Negotiations begin

Negotiations with the players began this week. The club opened with the proposal of a 10 per cent reduction should league action resume in the coming weeks (in May at best) and a 20 per cent reduction if no more games are played.

The president of the club, Eduardo García, contacted several players on the same day that the decision was taken but Unicaja is a large group and, of course, there is also a disparity of criteria, so a consensus is yet to be reached.

The club must start negotiations with all the players' representatives - something that shouldn't be too complex, as the squad is represented by just seven agents, and one agency (Beo Basket) represents seven professionals. Thus, an agreement is expected to be reached in the coming days.

## A congested calendar ahead for cycling as La Vuelta is pencilled in for November

A. GÓMEZ / P. L. ALONSO

MADRID / MALAGA. With the Tour de France now set to provisionally take place from 29 August to 20 September, the rest of the cycling calendar has been turned on its head.

The postponement of the event, for the first time since the Second World War, will have a serious knock-on effect for the Vuelta a España. With the World Road Championships likely to be contested from 20 to 27 September and the Giro d'Italia from 2 to 25 October, the earliest La Vuelta can begin is early November (originally scheduled between 14 August and 6 September).

This scenario would seriously hamper the ambitions of Marbella rider Luis Ángel Maté, in his tenth year at Cofidis.

Maté had been intending to compete in the Vuelta and the Giro, but now this appears to be unlikely as the recovery time between the two would be too short. The 36-year-old is yet to compete in a Giro.

# Miguel Ángel Jiménez: "The whole Spanish government should resign"

The Malaga golfer has given an outspoken view on Spain's handling of the coronavirus pandemic: "They have misled us all"

ANTONIO GÓNGORA

MALAGA. Miguel Ángel Jiménez delivered a damning verdict on the Spanish government's han-

dling of the coronavirus crisis in an explosive interview with Canal Sur at the weekend.

Speaking from his home in the Dominican Republic, he called on the whole government to resign once the pandemic is over "for having misled us in the way that they have, knowing what the WHO's recommendations were in February".

"Things like the Mobile World Congress in Barcelona and the

Geneva Motor Show had been cancelled when there were almost no cases [then look at] what happened on 8 March with the feminists and on 9 March with Vox in Madrid... now look what Madrid is like," he said.

Despite his anger, Jiménez said: "I want to give the public my support because we all need to have a little patience. Let's hope this all goes away as soon as possible."



Miguel Ángel Jiménez, during a recent tournament. EFE

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# Discussions continue over temporary salary reduction for Malaga players

A month after their last league game, Malaga's players are still on full wages but administrator José María Muñoz is in discussion with the club's most senior players

**ANTONIO GÓNGORA**



MALAGA. With professional footballers in Spain inactive for the foreseeable future, many clubs have already reached agreements with players over a reduction to their wages. However, in the case of Malaga, one of the clubs in greatest need of decreasing its expenditure, that is not yet the case.

According to SUR sources, the club's judicial administrator, José María Muñoz, is already involved in discussions with the club's most senior players (among them captain Adrián and vice-captain Luis Hernández) in order to explain and analyse the new state of the club's finances during this crisis with the aim of coming to an agreement over a reduction in wages for the squad.

The same sources say, however, that an agreement has not yet been reached but that one is expected to be reached shortly.

As the magnitude of the crisis and the potential revenue losses are still very much unknown, all clubs are discussing salary reduction in the context of three possible scenarios: first, that the current season cannot be completed; second, that the eleven matches that remain are played behind closed doors; and third, that the games are played with a crowd present (the least likely outcome at present).

In a virtual meeting attended by representatives of all clubs of the top two divisions, the agreement in the case of the first scenario was a 20 per cent cut, 10 per cent in the second and no change in the third. The final figure, however, has been left in the



José María Muñoz, right, in the stands at La Rosaleda. **ÑITO SALAS**

hands of the individual clubs.

With football halted for more than a month now, Muñoz will be hoping that an agreement can be reached sooner rather than

later. Much of the delay has been down to mixed messages (many of which have proven spectacularly over-optimistic) between La Liga and the Spanish Foot-

ball Federation over when competition can resume, but also the wait for a collective decision from the AFE, the footballers' association which never came.

## Al-Thani family's court appearance postponed due to the pandemic

**ANTONIO GÓNGORA**

MALAGA. The coronavirus pandemic has seen a large part of the judicial investigation into the club come to a standstill, barring urgent and essential matters. As a result, the hearing to which Sheikh Abdullah Al-Thani and his sons Nayef, Nas-

ser and Rakan were called to attend, has been postponed until further notice.

As part of the case brought forward by the Association of Minority Shareholders (APA), the family stands accused of improper management, misappropriation of funds and money laundering, among other offences, and the investigating judge, María de los Angeles Ruiz González, would like explanations from the sheikh and his sons.

The four men will now have to be called again at a later date.

Likewise, the latest petition from the APA must be heard af-

ter the lockdown passes. The association, having seen the police report that showed that Al-Thani purchased new shares in the club (0.919 per cent of the total) using club funds, will push ahead with a petition for Al-Thani to return those shares.

It appears that Al-Thani purchased the shares once it started to seem likely that he would have to return half of his existing shares (in the name of NAS Football) to the BlueBay hotel group.

This was done with the apparent aim to ensure that he maintained the majority share of the club.

## Expiring contracts

Another issue that José María Muñoz, alongside director of football Manolo Gaspar, must solve is that of players whose contracts are set to expire at the end of the season.

Seven players currently fit into that category (youth team keeper Kellyan; defenders Luis Muñoz, Mikel Villanueva and David Lómban; winger Aarón Níguez, who joined just before the lockdown started so hasn't played yet; and on-loan attackers Sergio Buenacasa and Armando Sadiku). While the club would like to retain their services, the drop in revenue could prove to be a sizeable obstacle, especially in the case of the three defenders.

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## Lockdown lets pitch at La Rosaleda recover

The football may have been brought to a halt but a lot has been happening on the field in the absence of competitive action. Maintenance work has continued on the turf at La Rosaleda since the last game was played there over a month ago against Real Zaragoza. The result is a perfect playing surface, ready for when league action resumes - whenever that may be.



**SALVADOR SALAS**



A LOOK AT LA LIGA  
ROB PALMER  
Commentator, Sky Sports

## A reputation in tatters

FC Barcelona boasts to be 'més que un club' but this lockdown period has coincided with a serious breakdown of relations within the club



**T**he reputation of FC Barcelona as the club held in the highest esteem for its pure football and proudest principles appears to be in ruins.

'Més que un club' is the slogan of an entity that boasts to be 'more than a club', refusing to sully the shirt with a commercial sponsor, playing pure enviable football and acting as ambassadors for the people of Catalonia in trying times.

This lockdown period has coincided with a breakdown of relations within the club. The region is used to political battles with Madrid but right now it is enduring a civil war within the walls of the Camp Nou.

President Josep Maria Bartomeu's tenure will end in 2021 and it looks like he'll leave a mess for his successor to clean up. It's a tangled tale!

This week, six directors resigned from the board, including his heir apparent Emili Rousaud, who made accusations that someone at the club had their "fingers in the till".

What is meant by that is unclear and a legal minefield, but it's obvious that all is not harmonious in Barcelona.

At a historic club, it's a conflict with a very modern twist. It appears the president sanctioned the hiring of a social media monitoring company that has proven to be even more damaging than Donald Trump's tweets. The company apparently has a background of being uncomplimentary towards Lionel Messi and Gerard Piqué.

Fast forward a couple of months and those two players



Josep Maria Bartomeu, president of FC Barcelona. AFP

are the influencers when their club is trying to persuade the players to agree to a 70 per cent pay cut. The players were not averse to doing the right thing, but unhappy they were being railroaded into making the decision without complete, considered communication.

This follows the disposal of the diplomatic coach Ernesto Valverde in the winter. Some thought the legendary Xavi Hernández would return, but he's wisely sidestepping the situation until the dust settles.

Quique Setién couldn't refuse a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to join one of the great clubs, but he's managing a situation that is beyond his powers.

Above him, he has a president who has lost control; around him he has players who are clearly disturbed - and this is all before the football resumes.

The jumbled thinking was summed up by the panic buy of Martin Braithwaite when Luis Suárez was injured in the winter. The game's equivalent of stocking up on loo roll.

Barça won't be able to buy their way out of trouble in the summer given the financial difficulties and may have to barter their way to success. Neymar continues to make noises about returning but his transfer fee isn't feasible.

Ivan Rakitić, aware that he may be used as currency, quite rightly exclaimed that he isn't "a sack of potatoes".

Once, FC Barcelona was upheld as a virtuous example of how a club should be run and how football should be developed. Now it is an off-the-field soap opera that is keeping us entertained during the lack of on-field action.

## Football Impact, feeling the effects of the crisis

After organising 227 training camps in 2019, the fast-expanding business had to file an ERTE in March

PEDRO LUIS ALONSO

**MALAGA.** The coronavirus isn't only attacking the weak. Booming businesses are suffering the effects too. This is the case with the fast-expanding Football Impact which in March had to file an ERTE temporary stoppage and lay-off of staff after practically all of its activity ground to a halt.

The company, which organises training camps and friendly matches for teams from around the world in and around Marbella (principally at the Marbella Football Center), organised 227 visits in 2019. However, the best hope for 2020 now is to "save the winter", according to Andrés Roldán, the company's general manager.

"Everything has stopped. Negotiations with teams about summer pre-season are all on stand-by, even though they signed contracts," he said. "Our best hope is that the European leagues restart soon and they



Andrés Roldán, at the Marbella Football Center. JOSELE

need somewhere to prepare. But from now until at least June, nothing is viable."

As a result, the company has had to temporarily let go of its staff (which total around 115 during high season), except for those who carry out maintenance.

It is estimated that Football Impact has an indirect economic benefit of around 10 million euros for the Costa del Sol, with guests accounting for 65,000 overnight stays.

## Malaga city council rules out playing football Copa de la Reina final behind closed doors

BORJA GUTIÉRREZ

**MALAGA.** Given the large number of sporting events which have had to be cancelled due to the pandemic, Malaga city hall councillor for Culture and Sport Noelia Losada this week told Cadena SER that the council will "try to make sure all of the events scheduled to take place in

the city would still go ahead but on other dates".

The biggest question mark hangs over the football Copa de la Reina final, scheduled to take place at La Rosaleda on 31 May (the first women's game to take place there). "Everything is still up in the air," she said, but stressed the city hall's good relationship with Spanish Football Federation president Luis Rubiales and that a change of date had been discussed.

However, one thing she was certain about was the council's stance that the game wouldn't go ahead behind closed doors: "We want people to come from all over Spain to see the players live and make their dreams come true."

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THE STARS




**Aquarius**  
January 21st - February 19th  
A weight is soon to be lifted. When you meet good fortune, take along with you those people who have been your help and allies in the past months.



**Pisces**  
February 20th - March 20th  
A shot of joy runs through your week. Did you really see it or was it wishful thinking? Sometimes in the last few months it has been like walking in a haze.



**Aries**  
March 21st - April 20th  
Spending time with someone who you thought that you knew well brings surprises. Suddenly you realise that you have only scratched the surface.




**Taurus**  
April 21st - May 21st  
There are some situations that no-one is to blame for and, although it would help you to blame someone, this is not possible.



**Gemini**  
May 22nd - June 21st  
Think twice before going ahead with a plan where others disagree. Now more than ever there is a need for unity for life to run smoothly.




**Cancer**  
June 22nd - July 23rd  
Feel like you are going round in circles? Sometimes the spiral of life brings us back, time and again, to the same point. Look further afield for things to reawaken your mind and spirit.



**Leo**  
July 24th - August 23rd  
Actions now need to be gentle and thought about rather than done in anger or frustration. The key thing to remember is that you are not the only one feeling this way.



**Virgo**  
August 24th - September 23rd  
Bring out your creative side by seeking a solution to an immediate problem. Just in the trying you begin to feel lighter and more optimistic.



**Libra**  
September 24th - October 23rd  
Avoid running before you can walk. Take extra care if changing your routines. It seems true now that you cannot do what you intended to do a few months ago.



**Scorpio**  
October 24th - November 22nd  
When frustration and anger mix it is never a good sight. Find a physical outlet for your feelings, preferably outside of the home and away from those younger.



**Sagittarius**  
November 23rd - December 21st  
Plan ahead and be a little more optimistic about the future. Having to find a new way to reach your goals or communicate with others is a challenge.

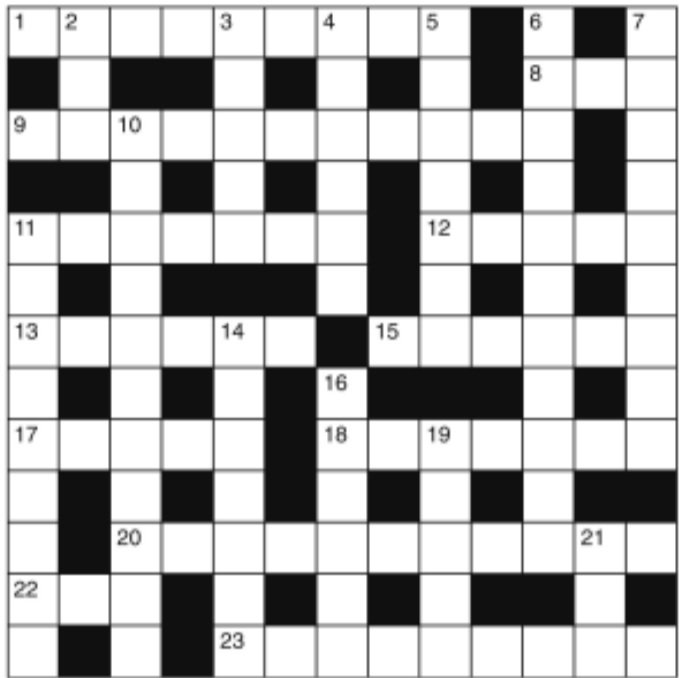


**Capricorn**  
December 22nd - January 20th  
In a situation where you have been very competitive, think anew. Here may be a chance to work with others to do something really worthwhile of your collective skills and talents.

THE SEVEN DIFFERENCES



CRYPTIC CROSSWORD N° 11405



Across

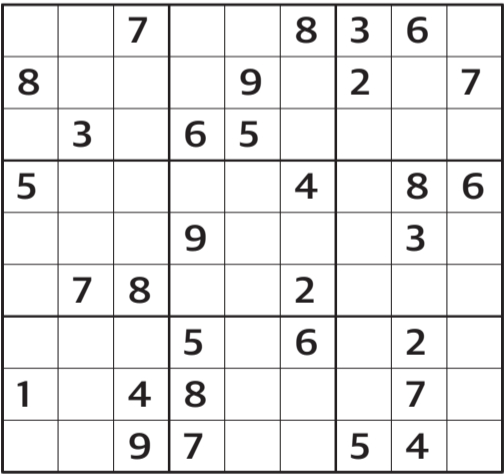
- 1 French gun breaking chaps' toes (9)  
8 It is stored in a granary, evidently (3)  
9 Suitable to take for one's own use (11)  
11 Inhabited institution? (7)  
12 He has to clean up (5)  
13 Unusual traits of a painter (6)  
15 Stop for a breather, say (6)  
17 Difficulties with small horses (5)  
18 You might get it in the ear from an inactive spy (7)  
20 Ham is forced to recreate Caesar's last day (4,2,5)  
22 Some everlasting metal? (3)  
23 Rude expression of worse draw, perhaps (5,4)

Down

- 2 Trendy joint? (3)  
3 Out of date weight? (5)  
4 Equality with one in a political grouping (6)  
5 Advertising film for the follow-up to 21? (7)  
6 Inexperienced footballer employed at the golf club (11)  
7 City where Crete lies perhaps (9)  
10 Doing a boring job? (11)  
11 In-form colleague? (9)  
14 Possibly resists those found in 11 across (7)  
16 A horse over on dry land (6)  
19 Man found in the Spanish and French sea? (5)  
21 "Vehicle" getting some Oscars (3)

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

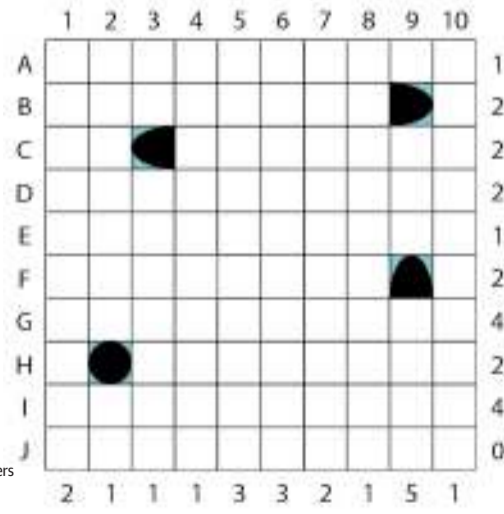
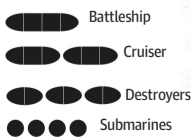


Can you identify the words that Can be made from the letters of CHAMPIONS from the clues listed below?

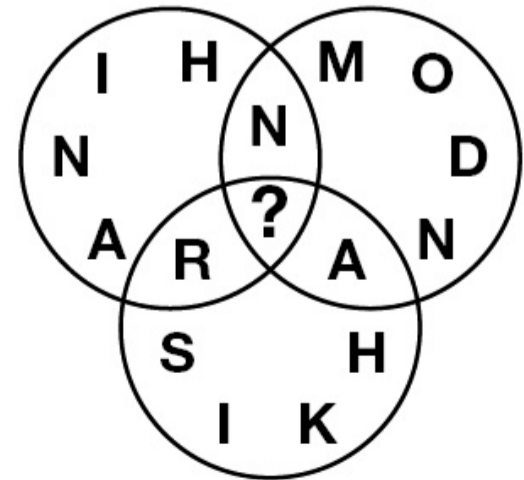
1. Deranged  
2. Sea vessel  
3. Nip  
4. Bathroom item  
5. Elegant  
6. European country  
7. Unit of length  
8. Monetary discs  
9. Units of resistance  
10. Savoury jelly

BATTLESHIPS

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



CIRCLEGRAM



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

LANGUAGE CROSSWORD FILL IN THE SPANISH WORD

- Across
- Down
- 1) Discovery (14)

7) Written (m) (7)

12) To mean (10)

13) Kiss (4)

14) Soft (m) (7)

15) Maternity (10)

16) Ocean (6)

17) Never (5)

18) Its (2)

20) They swindle (7)

25) Salt (3)

26) I heard (2)

28) Seven (5)

30) Warning (5)

33) To sail (7)

35) To send (6)

37) Godfather (7)

39) I avoid (5)

40) Portrayed (m) (9)

41) Spices (8)

43) So (3)

44) Drunk (m) (8)

46) This one (f) (4)

47) I gave (2)

48) Train (4)

49) Nobility (7)

50) You (2)

51) Representative (13)

52) Heir (8)
- 1) Document (9)

2) Catholic (m.pl) (9)

3) Based (m) (6)

4) Monarchs (8)

5) To make cross (7)

6) We touch (7)

8) Flavours (7)

9) She breathes (7)

10) West (9)

11) Deal (5)

19) Use (3)

20) The (m) (2)

21) I had (4)

22) Reliable (10)

23) Territories (11)

24) My (2)

27) I was going (3)

29) Expedition (10)

31) Viceroy (6)

32) They are (3)

34) Admiral (9)

35) Merchant (8)

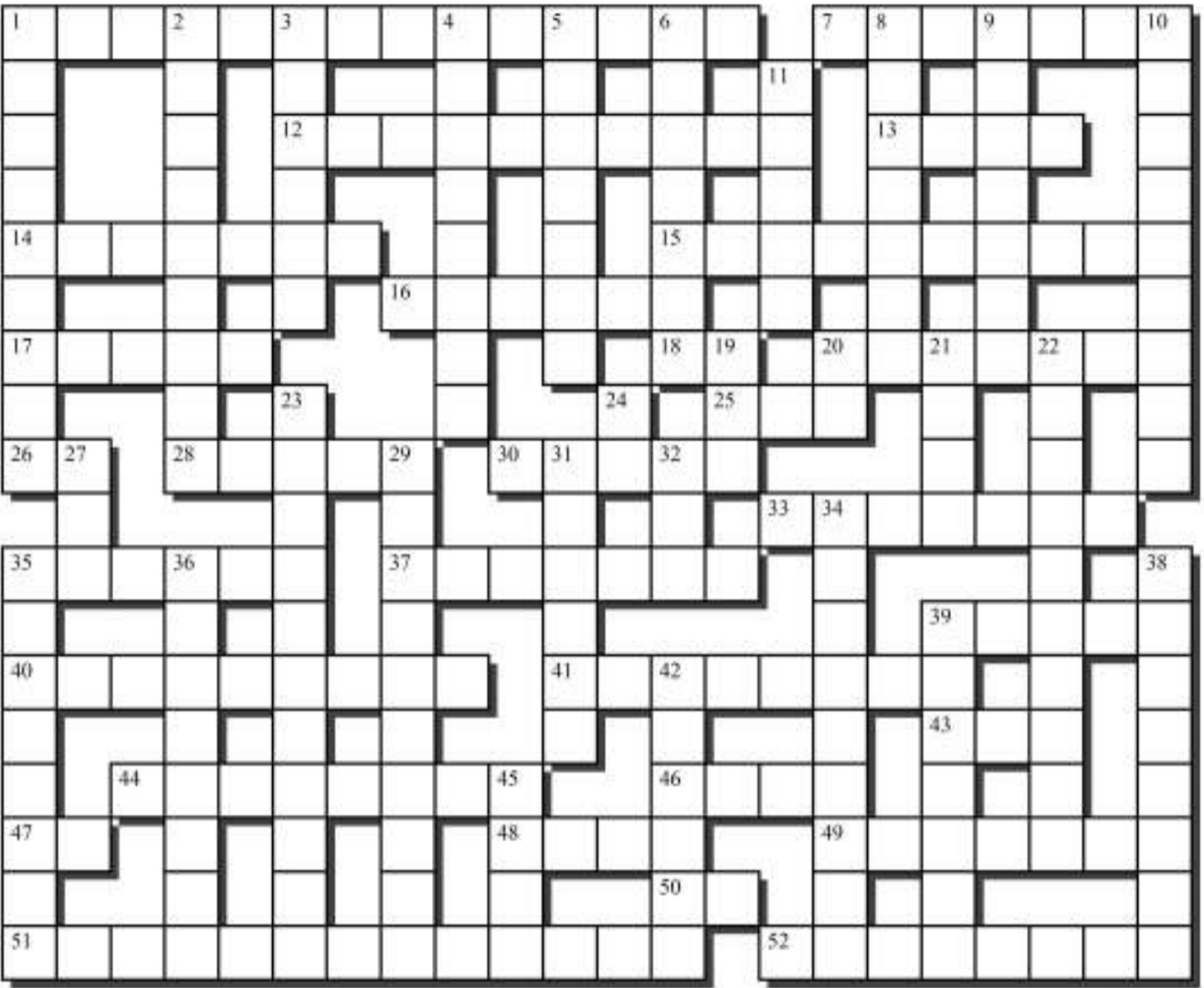
36) To defeat (8)

38) Contract (8)

39) Stable (7)

42) Bridge (6)

45) Another (f) (4)



ANSWERS

Quiz answers

**Answer:** Thousands  
**Of interest:** Snails and slugs eat with a jaw and a flexible band of thousands of microscopic teeth, called a radula. The radula scrapes up, or rasps, food particles and the jaw cuts off larger pieces of food, like a leaf, to be rasped by the radula.  
**Answer:** Five  
**Of interest:** Honey bees have five eyes, two large compound eyes and three smaller ocelli eyes in the centre of their head.

Language Crossword



Cryptic Crossword

**Solutions:** Across 1: Chesspot; 8: Flyer; 9: Appropriate; 11: Convent; 12: Lanes; 13: Artist; 15: Almost; 17: Snags; 18: Skipper; 20: Idea of March; 22: The; 23: Brawl word; Down 2: High; 3: Shown; 4: Party; 5: Trailer; 6: Greenkeeper; 7: Lockstep; 10: Penetrating; 11: Classroom; 14: Sisters; 16: Ashore; 19: Elmer; 21: Cat

Wordpuzzler solution

1. Manic  
2. Ship  
3. Pinch  
4. Soap  
5. Posh  
6. Spain  
7. Inch  
8. Coins  
9. Ohms  
10. Aspic

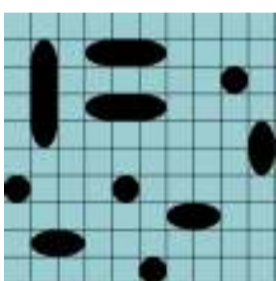
Sudoku solution

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

Circlegram

The letter represented by the question mark is A. Rihanna, Madonna, Shakira, all female popstars..

Battleships



WHERE IS THIS?



Last week: Granada

This helicopter, a Sikorsky S-76, is positioned on the roundabout on the Camino de Ronda in the city and has become a famous landmark. It is rumoured to move of its own accord, sometimes turning slightly towards the Paseo del Violón, other times facing down the Camino de Ronda.



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

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One week before the coronavirus lockdown was announced in Spain, 25-year-old Elena Craven returned from a two-week expedition to Uganda, with the Malaga-based NGO, SAWA, which means 'Together' in Arabic.

Elena is studying to become a nurse in Malaga and she explains that putting her training into practice for an NGO was something she had wanted to do for a long time.

It was her first time in Africa and she says, "You soon realise the value of every day things and how fortunate we are."

Elena was collaborating with a medical team which set up a temporary field hospital in a small village in Uganda to test children for Malaria and other diseases. "Every single test we ran was positive," she says.

She and her team also taught children basic hygiene, like how to wash their hands and feet, distributed mosquito nets and helped to install water tanks with a system to collect rain water. She also describes how the team treated the feet of over 200 children to help prevent against jiggers, or chigoe fleas; a parasitic insect found in sub-Saharan Africa. "We would disinfect the feet, remove the jiggers and apply Vaseline to the feet to prevent the insects from coming back again," she explains.

The trip coincided with the rapid spread of Covid-19 in Europe, and in particular Spain, and it has made Elena philosophical about the virus here.

"The people in Uganda only have a few basic resources and many illnesses they have to deal with already," she says. "While I was there, there were no reported cases but I have heard there are



Elena Craven with Ugandan doctors and nurse. **E. CRAVEN**

## Timely nursing practice in Uganda

**Elena Craven, a student nurse from Rincón de la Victoria, has just returned from Uganda, where Covid-19 threatens to join an already long list of life-threatening diseases**

JENNIE RHODES



▲ Community. "If Covid-19 spreads in Uganda, it will be one more disease to add to the existing ones," says Elena. "Social distancing will be difficult." **E. C.**



some now and if it spreads there, they already have the existing diseases and it's like coronavirus is one more to add to that."

Elena goes on to reflect that the idea of social distancing in Europe is relatively easy - most people live in a house, with windows.

"In Uganda the houses and schools don't have doors and windows and a lot of people don't wear shoes. It's very difficult in small African communities where people live together to social distance."

Despite the hardship, Elena describes the people she met as "happy with what they have". People are "always singing and dancing", she says, adding "and of course the landscape is overwhelmingly beautiful".

Elena took with her two big suitcases full of clothes, shoes, medicines and sanitary products, all of which were donated by friends, family and colleagues and she continues to collect donations.

SAWA works predominantly in Africa and the Middle East in disaster areas, health, education, aid distribution, investment and scholarship programmes.

According to the Johns Hopkins University, there are currently 55 confirmed cases of Covid-19 in Uganda. In response to the crisis, SAWA has set up an aid programme to help communities in the countries it already works in.

Elena hopes to go back to Uganda as she continues her studies here in Malaga, but points out that given the current situation she is "not sure when that might be."

**i Further information about SAWA :** [www.sawa-ngo.org](http://www.sawa-ngo.org), Facebook: SAWA-NGO

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