



CORONAVIRUS CRISIS

Regional government confident Malaga can now pass to Phase One after setback

The Costa del Sol and Costa Tropical missed out on this week's lockdown relaxation

Many businesses were unable to open as a result of the government's unexpected decision

The Junta de Andalucía is confident that all eight provinces in the region will be in Phase One of the nationwide Covid-19 lockdown easing plan next week.

More than half of Spain made

the move to the new phase on Monday, but both Malaga and Granada provinces were held back, which angered regional chiefs and disappointed business owners who were expect-

ing to be able to resume some form of activity. Tourism bosses also complained that holding the provinces back had caused reputational damage to the Costa del Sol and Costa Tropical. **P2-3**



Workers disinfect a restaurant terrace in El Chorro. **ÑITO SALAS**

Leading the local tourism revival

Attracting national tourists to rural, inland areas of Malaga province could hold the key to the recovery of the sector as doubts persist over when foreign visitors will be allowed into the country again **P6-7**

More than 30,000 local workers still waiting for lay-off payments

Furloughed staff will be able to draw benefits in advance thanks to agreement with banks

Several weeks after applying for government benefits because of furloughing, some 30,000 people in Malaga province and the Costa del Sol are still waiting to get their money.

Public authorities say they have had staff working seven days a week and that most of the 122,725 who have applied received money this week. The job benefit agency, SEPE, has said that those left without won't have to wait until next month's payday and will get transfers as their paperwork is cleared. **P16**

A 50th anniversary without a party - a Puerto Banús restaurateur shares his memories **P24**

Largest survey of Covid-19 so far shows just 5% of people in Spain have virus antibodies **P4**

No leaflets, no audioguides and no touching - museums prepare to open with a list of new rules **P26**

Cudeca supporters join in the Walkahome initiative and help raise 11,000 euros for the hospice charity **P31**

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Regional government confident that Malaga and Granada will be in Phase One next week

The Costa del Sol and Costa Tropical were left out of this week's easing of lockdown restrictions, stopping many businesses from reopening

ÁNGEL ESCALERA
MARÍA DOLORES TORTOSA

MALAGA. The regional government has said it is confident that all eight provinces of Andalucía will be in Phase One of the government's staged plan to ease Covid-19 lockdown restrictions next week. This follows the surprise announcement last Friday from Madrid that the provinces of Malaga and Granada would be held back in Phase Zero, delaying the further relaxation of restrictions on movement and the planned reopening of small businesses and pavement terraces.

The decision was slammed by the regional government, whose president, Juanma Moreno, called for an immediate review of the situation. He said that holding back Malaga and Gra-

nada had damaged the reputation of the Costa del Sol and the Costa Tropical as tourist destinations, just as they were trying to recover.

The outrage was echoed by representatives of the tourism industry, as well as mayors of numerous coastal resorts.

The Junta de Andalucía, in a report submitted last week to the government, had expressed its concerns about Malaga and Granada city areas not meeting the requirements, however it had expected the government to divide the provinces into health districts so that Phase Zero restrictions would only be maintained in the city areas if at all.

The government responded to the complaints, stating that the Health Ministry's decisions were based only on scientific criteria. These included the number of cases of Covid-19 registered per 100,000 inhabitants in the previous two weeks and the area's ability to step up availability of hospital beds at short notice in the case of a new spike in infections.



Malaga bar workers measure the distance between tables in the hope that next week they'll be able to serve customers. **SALVADOR SALAS**

This week, though, the regional authority insinuated that other criteria had been behind the decision. Speaking on Monday, the regional vice-president,

Juan Marín, and regional government spokesperson, Elías Bendodo, said that the Health Ministry had changed its mind in just one hour last Friday. Offi-

cials in Madrid had called the regional Health minister, Jesús Aguirre, first to say that both provinces would be held back in Phase Zero and then again to say that only the districts would be left out. Finally the former version was announced at the briefing later that evening.

The regional ministers also produced figures that showed more coronavirus cases in the Basque Country, which did go through to Phase One, than in Malaga, and complained that other provinces had been subdivided into their respective health districts.

Fast track to Phase Two

Meanwhile the regional authority has prepared a further report with "reasonable and objective" arguments for Malaga and Granada's promotion to Phase One this coming Monday 18 May, Moreno said.

While confident that the two tourist areas will see their restrictions relaxed, the president criticised the government's "excessive opacity" and called for

THE PHASES OF SPAIN'S ROUTE TO A 'NEW NORMAL'

Phase Zero: Current in Malaga* This phase has been active since 4 May.

Personal movement: Observe the timed slots. People 14 and over can walk 1km from home with household members (or run or cycle alone in their municipality) from 6am to 10am and 8pm to 11pm. Over 70s and other dependents from 10am to 12pm and 7pm to 8pm can go out accompanied. Children under 14 can go out, up to three with one adult, 1km from home for 1 hour from 12pm to 7pm. Timed restrictions do not apply if the municipality you live in (not your 'urbanización') has under 5,000 inhabitants.

Public transport: Use of face masks compulsory.

Commerce: Small shops only, open by appointment.

Bars and restaurants: Only for takeaway food.

House renovation: Only if nobody lives there or outdoors.

Phase One: Current in some areas; Malaga earliest 18 May*

Personal: Social contact allowed in groups of up to ten for non-vulnerable people. Timetables to go outside for exercise continue but regions can modify start/end times. Movement allowed within province.

Car travel: As Phase Zero - two people per row of seats if not same household, with masks. If same household, as many passengers as vehicle allows.

Small shops and businesses:

These can open with reduced capacity and people observing social distancing.

Cafes, bars & restaurants: Opening of outdoor terraces only, with 50% of capacity. Terrace areas can be increased if local town halls allow it.

Hotels and self-catering: These can open but communal areas, such as gardens or bars cannot. Strict disinfecting and social distancing rules.

Cultural activities and leisure: Events and shows for under 30 people, or 200 if the venue is outdoors. Museums can open but with reduced capacity.

Sport: Professional or clubs - Opening of specialist spaces with protective hygiene measures and with a rota system.

Non-professional sport / exercise: Sports facilities in the open air and without spectators (athletics, tennis...). Individual sports with an appointment and without contact (including personal trainer). No dressing rooms allowed. Reduced capacity. No gyms.

Places of worship: Limited to a third of normal capacity.

Public transport: Face masks.

Phase Two: Earliest 25 May*

In Phase Two, the restrictions will be relaxed even more, although activity can only be within the province where you live (e.g. Malaga or Granada). Among other measures in Phase Two, you will be able to visit a shopping centre (but not com-

munal areas) or larger store. Infant schools will open for the under sixes where parents have to work. Restaurants and bars can open inside but with reduced seating and extra protective measures. Cinemas can open at a third of capacity.

Phase Three: Earliest 8 June*

Further measures towards the new normal, generally centring on more capacity in venues. Nightclubs and gyms can restart at reduced capacity.

* Dates dependent on approval of government ahead of each phase

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Junta wants beaches and pools to open before the end of May

Beaches on the Andalusian coastline could be open to bathers before the end of this month. At least that is the intention of the regional authority, hopeful that all eight provinces will go into Phase Two of lockdown easing at the earliest possible date proposed by the government, 25 May. The regional authority then hopes that Madrid will heed its request to bring forward the opening of beaches and swimming pools to Phase Two, when it was initially included in Phase Three, starting on 8 June at the earliest.

While the date is still uncertain, regional and local

authorities are working on health and safety measures to allow beaches to open as soon as permitted.

The Junta de Andalucía announced a scheme this week that involves a spend of 10.5 million euros on helping local councils to get their beaches-ready and meet conditions.

It said that beaches could only fill up to 40 or 50% of their usual capacity and that sunbathers would be required to keep a distance of two metres from others.

Apps to advise users of how full beaches are among plans being devised to find a way of controlling their use.

The CSIC, Spain's scientific research council, has said that the probability of Covid-19 being spread through sea or pool water is very low.

"common, transparent, objective and comparable" criteria to be used for all of Spain's regions.

"We've sent more documents to the ministry with seriousness and transparency," said regional Health minister Aguirre on Wednesday.

Looking beyond next week, Juanma Moreno said he was optimistic that the region would be able to move further forward into Phase Two of the plan on

25 May.

Aguirre said on Wednesday that he would request that Malaga and Granada stay in Phase One for just one week, so all eight provinces can progress together.

The government will first have to decide whether Malaga and Granada can move to Phase One on Monday, however. The decision is expected to be announced later today (Friday).

Only one in three bars has opened in cities where restrictions have been eased

FRANCISCO JIMÉNEZ

MALAGA. While Malaga and Granada provinces remained in Phase Zero this week, just over half of the country did wake up to new opportunities on Monday.

The move was not all plain-sailing, especially around bars that decided to open their outdoor terraces.

According to Phase One regulations, tables must be a distance of two metres apart and only 50 per cent of a terrace's usual capacity is allowed.

Scenes of people gathering outside some bars as if nothing had changed led some owners to close again, finding it impossible to enforce social distancing regulations.

According to the ATA (association of self-employed workers) only one in three bars has opened this week in cities such as Seville, Bilbao, Zaragoza, Palma, Oviedo or Almeria.

The police forces were also setting up stricter controls at provincial boundaries as the new phase allows movement, but only within the home province.



An open air tapas bar in Almeria had to be closed down. SUR



The first mass held in Seville cathedral at the start of Phase One. EP

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Just five per cent of the population of Spain is immune to Covid-19, survey says

The country is a long way off herd immunity, early results have shown; Malaga and the Costa del Sol has 4.4% immunity, the highest in Andalucía

MELCHOR SÁIZ-PARDO / ÁNGEL ESCALERA

MADRID / MALAGA. The worst suspicions of many were confirmed on Wednesday. Spain, just as other surrounding countries, is a long way off herd immunity to coronavirus (a rate of 60 per cent of people with antibodies), which would allow for a much faster relaxing of lockdown.

A large testing survey being carried out across Spain has shown that the national average of those with antibodies is only five per cent. However there are wide differences between the regions and their 50 provinces.

The virus has had more impact in the centre of the country, away from the coasts, according to these preliminary results from the study by the Health ministry and Instituto de Salud Carlos III that began at the end of April.

The early conclusion is that Spain has 2.3 million of its 47 million population with immunity, meaning the pandemic can only be contained through social distancing.

The Madrid region and Castilla-La Mancha are the areas with the highest percentage with antibodies, at over 10 per cent of the population. The regions with least immunity are Murcia (1.4%), Asturias (1.8%) and the

Canary Islands (1.8%).

Within the eight provinces of Andalucía, which has a regional average of 2.7 per cent immunity, Malaga province (including the Costa del Sol) has the highest on 4.4 per cent. This is equivalent to around 73,000 local people who have developed antibodies after being infected.

In the remaining Andalusian provinces, the results were: Almeria, 1.8%; Cadiz, 1.7%; Cordoba, 2.4%; Granada, 2.4%; Hu-

These early results appear to show little difference in rates of immunity between men and women

elva, 1%; Jaén, 3.6% and Seville, 2.3%.

Across Spain, just over 60,000 people have taken part in the controlled test. Data is now being validated and the survey will continue until June.

These early results appear to show little difference in rates of immunity between men and women and between occupations.

Differences do appear to be showing up in children, where fewer have caught the disease.



Early study results show Spain is a long way off herd immunity. EFE

Increase in new cases this week worries experts after first phase of lockdown easing

M. S-P. / A. E.

MADRID / MALAGA. Experts were starting to get worried on Thursday that Spain could be starting a fresh spike in Covid-19 infections. For the last few days the number of new cases identified and deaths had been steadily increasing. This raised fears that the more relaxed lockdown measures in around half the country may be having a negative effect.

The number of new recorded cases nationally on Thursday in the previous 24 hours was 506, up from 439 on Wednesday and 426 on Tuesday.

Three regions (Madrid, Catalonia and Castilla y León) made up 70 per cent of Thursday's total.

The number of recorded deaths in the same period was 217, compared to 184 on Wednesday and 176 on Tuesday.

Local data

In Malaga province on Thursday, the number of people cured in the day exceeded new cases once again. One person locally had died in Thursday's data, bringing the total from the start of the coronavirus outbreak in the Malaga area to 273.

In terms of patients still in hospital in Malaga province, including the Costa del Sol, there were 64 on Thursday of whom 13 were in intensive care.

Government looks to renew state of alarm for another month in party talks

Pedro Sánchez needs either the support of Ciudadanos or the Catalan ERC to secure an extension as opposition grows

SUR

MADRID. On Sunday, 24 May, the latest extension to Spain's state of alarm expires and the government is looking at ways to get enough MPs' support to renew it.

Next time it hopes to win approval for a month more, rather than the usual two weeks' ex-

tension.

Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez has seen the parliamentary majority for the emergency measure under the state of alarm fall away and the next renewal is not guaranteed. Opposition parties on the right still say that the state of alarm should be replaced with less strict legislation and the main, conservative PP party has promised to vote against him next time round.

On Thursday this week, centre-right Ciudadanos and left-wing Compromis told the government that their votes couldn't be relied on for the extension either.

Ciudadanos (Cs) said that the PM hadn't mentioned wanting to extend the state of alarm to a month when he spoke with their leader, Inés Arrimadas, earlier in the week.

Catalan nationalists ERC have also said they will vote against an extension unless they can win concessions from the government.

Madrid needs the votes of ERC or Cs to succeed and is looking for a way of softening the terms of the state of alarm to gain their support. It says it needs the state of alarm to stay in place in some form to guarantee the restrictions on movement between provinces until the end of June.



Sánchez in Congreso this week. EFE

Health officials reconsider advice on compulsory use of facemasks

MIGUEL ÁNGEL ALFONSO

MADRID. The Ministry of Health has considered making face-masks compulsory in public places. Despite the government saying in March that these were "unnecessary" for the wider public, it now says they are "highly recommendable".

Not all its experts agree and masks are currently still only necessary on public transport.

World Health officials continue to say that masks are only effective if used alongside social distancing and frequent hand washing.



Using this time to look after your financial wellbeing

By Javid Ruston, Associate Partner, Blevins Franks

Those of us fortunate enough to keep safe and healthy during these unprecedented times will have been looking for positive ways to spend our time in lockdown. While home improvements or learning a new skill are usually top of the list, this is also a good opportunity to tend to your financial wellbeing.

With the Brexit clock still ticking, expatriates can benefit from using this time to fine tune their tax, pensions and estate planning. Here are some key considerations.

The Brexit countdown

After an understandable break while the UK and EU prioritised public health issues, Brexit negotiations have recently resumed. While it may seem unrealistic that trade deals can be agreed before the transition period ends on 31 December, this remains the deadline. The UK government has until July to request an extension, but first needs to amend the law that prevents it – and has reiterated unwillingness to do so.

This means 2021 could still start with a no-deal Brexit and it is more important than ever to make sure you are prepared from 1 January.

Residence

As things stand, you need to be legally resident in Spain before the end of 2020 to come under the protection of the Withdrawal Agreement. This guarantees the right to stay and enjoy uninterrupted benefits for as long as you remain resident there.

If you are still planning to permanently move to Spain, use this time to get your affairs in order. To acquire residence after the transition period, you will almost certainly have to meet more stringent requirements than today, including demonstrating a minimum income per person. So where possible, put plans in place to relocate before 31 December 2020.

If you are already in Spain but not yet registered as resident, explore steps you can take now to secure the lawfully settled status required post-Brexit.

Tax planning

The way you structure your assets and wealth can make a significant difference to your tax bill. You need to make sure your arrangements are

structured appropriately for your life abroad as well as your aims, circumstance, goals and risk appetite.

Are you taking advantage of tax-efficient structures available in Spain? Besides tax savings, these may offer additional benefits such as currency and income flexibility.

Regardless of Brexit, it is worth reviewing your UK assets to establish how much they are costing you in tax. With just a few months until the UK is set to fully leave the EU, this is even more important to prevent unnecessary taxation if rules change.

Pension planning

With more UK pension freedom than ever, review your options with care.

Many expatriates choose to transfer UK pensions to a Qualifying Recognised Overseas Pension Scheme (QROPS). Although you can currently transfer to EU/EEA-based QROPS tax-free, this could change after the Brexit transition ends. The UK has already brought in a 25% 'overseas transfer charge' for other transfers and has the means to easily extend this to EU/EEA transfers once it sheds its EU obligations. If you are

considering a QROPS, don't risk leaving it so late that you potentially lose a quarter to UK taxes.

QROPS can also offer advantages such as income and currency flexibility, but will not suit everyone. You may find it more beneficial, for example, to reinvest pension funds into Spanish-compliant investment arrangements, or even leave your UK pension where it is. Before making a decision, take care to review the best course of action for your circumstances with personalised, regulated pensions advice.

Estate planning

Is your legacy on track to go to your chosen heirs according to your wishes and with minimal taxation? Understand the succession laws and inheritance taxes in Spain and anywhere else you have assets and heirs. Make sure you review the pros and cons of using the EU succession regulation 'Brussels IV' to override local 'forced heirship' rules.

You need a strategy that achieves your wishes while making the process as straightforward and tax-efficient as possible for your heirs. And don't forget your own

needs; consider the tax implications to find the optimum solution for your wealth during your lifetime too.

Cross-border tax and financial planning is complex. While you can do some groundwork yourself, you will benefit from talking to a specialist adviser with in-depth knowledge of the Spanish tax regime and its interaction with UK rules. They can help you take advantage of available tax, investment, pensions and estate planning opportunities to ensure you do what works best for you and your family, during these challenging times and beyond.

Tax rates, scope and reliefs may change. Any statements concerning taxation are based upon our understanding of current taxation laws and practices which are subject to change. Tax information has been summarised; individuals should seek personalised advice.

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

Thinking of moving your pension out of the UK? Is it risky to wait?

With everything that has been going on you may have put your financial planning on hold, but if you were considering a QROPS, don't risk leaving it too late. Many British expatriates in Spain benefit from transferring their UK pensions into a QROPS without a UK tax charge – but time may be running out. The UK already imposes a 25% 'overseas transfer charge' on EU residents who transfer to QROPS outside the EU or EEA. It could start charging transfers within the EU too, once the Brexit transition period ends.

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Rural tourism set to lead the recovery of the industry as lockdown is eased

The sector has over 41,000 beds available in Malaga province and 2019 was a record year in financial terms

HÉCTOR BARBOTA



MARBELLA. With European air space largely closed to commercial flights and Spain still immersed in uncertainty, it may be difficult or even impossible for people to make major journeys this summer. For rural tourism, however, the picture may be rather brighter. Inland Malaga province alone has 41,000 beds available and last year was the best ever for this type of tourism, with an economic impact that is estimated by the Costa del Sol Tourist Board to be 935 million euros.

Of course, things are very different this year. The crisis caused by the pandemic will have a major impact on foreign source markets, which provide around 55 per cent of clients during the whole year. They probably won't be coming to tourist destinations in this region now, unless there is a major change in the situation, which is highly improbable.

However, the upside of this dramatic situation is that it could lead to an increase of visitors from other parts of Spain, elsewhere in Andalucía, or even from the same area.

Last year 134,014 travellers stayed in inland accommodation in Malaga province, of whom around 60,000 were Spanish, ac-



Cleaning and disinfecting outside the restaurant of La Garganta hotel, at El Chorro. NITO SALAS

cording to tourism data. The national market increased by over 30 per cent, while there was a reduction of around ten per cent in visitors from abroad.

A report from the Loving Tourism platform following a survey carried out between 2 and 22 April, in other words at the height of the coronavirus crisis, reveals that 41.5 per cent of people in Spain say they intend to go on holiday this sum-

mer, and about 80 per cent of them plan to do so in this country.

The study also shows an increase of 19 per cent in people who have decided to use a car as their means of transport, and an increase of five per cent in the preference for rural hotels and accommodation in order to avoid crowds.

Therefore, in the present situation of absolute uncertainty, it is possible that rural tourism will be-

Last year there were more Spanish travellers and a reduction in those from abroad

come the answer this year for people who do not want to travel great distances, although this has not yet been reflected in bookings, says Sebastián Hevilla, who runs the Grupo de Desarrollo Rural Guadalhorce.

He says there are always quite a lot of local clients, especially in the gastronomic tourism segment, and they normally take weekend breaks or short stays. Those who

Fernando García
La Garganta (El Chorro)

"Everyone is very uncertain, we don't know anything at all"

Fernando García, director of La Garganta tourism complex, where business had boomed since the Caminito del Rey was opened, says the present uncertainty is a very real problem.

"We don't know what is going to happen, or what protocol we'll have to follow in or-



der to open again," he says. In principle, he believes this season will be a write-off, because the vast majority of clients are from abroad, come every year and now they don't know if they will be able to travel or not. Nevertheless, he does admit to some optimism with regard to the local market.

"We think there will be some movement among people from Malaga," he says, although this is normally a market which is focused more on gastronomy than accommodation.

Miguel Herrera
Rustic Experience (Ronda)

"With so much space, it will be easy to adapt to the protocols"

"People who have never done sport are doing it now, they want to go out and have fun again and those with money are going to spend more than ever," says the director of Rustic Experience, Miguel Herrera, optimistically. He believes the crisis provides an opportunity for businesses in the coun-



tryside. "We have so much space that it will be easy to adapt to the protocols, whether they say we have to leave two metres between the tables or five," he says. In his opinion, after being in lockdown for so long, "rural tourism is going to sell itself; the countryside is beautiful, it's just that people haven't appreciated it before". He thinks people should be encouraged to holiday in different areas of the province. "So people who live on the Costa del Sol come for a break in the countryside, and vice versa," he says.

María Herrero
B bou Hotels (Axarquía)

"Our advantage is that despite being a rural location we are very close to the coast"

The co-founder of B bou Hotels, María Herrero, says the great advantage of rural tourism in Malaga province is that the countryside isn't far from the coast and can be easily reached.

"It only takes a short time to get here, but people can relax and feel





41,648

places are available in rural tourism establishments in Malaga province. Over 25 per cent are in the Serranía de Ronda.

45%

of the people who stayed in rural accommodation in 2019 were Spanish.

stay longer tend to be from abroad or from other regions of Spain.

María Herrero, the co-founder of B bou Hotels, is somewhat more optimistic. "People are going to feel the need for a break; our hotels are places in which they can relax, feel free and safe," she says.

Her opinion is shared by Fernando García Bravo, director of La Garganta tourism complex in El Chorro. "We think there will be some movement," he says, although he admits that with 75 per cent of normal clients being from abroad, the prospects for the season are looking rather sombre at the moment.

María Herrero, who has two hotels in La Axarquía, stresses the importance of foreign residents on the Costa del Sol, especially for gastronomic tourism, and says they are a type of safety net for moments of crisis because of their high spending power.

"Although most of our clients come from abroad, we do have some who live in Malaga province," she says, "and after this people are going to want to go somewhere, but not too far".

Miguel Herrera, director of the Rustic Experience group in the Serranía de Ronda, confirms the importance of the market between the Costa del Sol and Gibraltar.

"These people have high spending power and they appreciate our culture and our gastronomy," he says.

Spain imposes a fortnight's quarantine on arrivals from abroad

The move, in force from today, 15 May, comes as the EU and travel firms urge governments to find ways for people to holiday in Europe this summer

EDURNE MARTÍNEZ

MADRID. Anyone arriving in Spain from another country from today has to self-isolate for 14 days as a precaution against coronavirus. The order lasts until the end of the country's official state of alarm. This is at present 24 May but looks

likely to be extended further in some form.

The rule, similar to one announced this week for a future date in the UK, will apply to residents and non-residents coming from any other country. However, only Spanish citizens, foreigners with proof of their registered residency and cross-border workers can still currently enter Spain for the moment.

The Ministry of Health explained it was a carefully timed precautionary measure as the country gradually eases its lockdown.

People arriving in Spain will have

to spend the 14-day isolation period in their homes and only go out to buy food or medication, to go to the hospital or other force majeure reasons.

Use of a face mask will be compulsory on these outings, as will other hygiene and prevention measures, especially when in contact with other members of their household.

The only exceptions to quarantine will be cross-border workers, transport drivers and health professionals travelling to work who have not been in contact with Covid-19 patients.

The tourism sector has expressed its surprise at the measure, especially as it came in the same week that Brussels was encouraging EU travel this summer.

The vice-president of Exceltur, José Luis Zoreda, spoke of the demand in Europe of people "wanting to come to Spain" and gave the example of a German tourist planning their holiday in advance, who would now choose Greece or Portugal where there are no quarantine obligations for visitors.

Travel agents and airlines will be obliged to inform travellers of the 14-day quarantine rule before they sell them their tickets.

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Different message from the EU

In the face of some European countries imposing quarantine on arrivals from abroad or selecting which countries to open their borders to, on Wednesday the EU set out its non-binding advice to member countries on travel this summer.

The advice centred on opening Europe to tourists with the proper precautions. Brussels called for "coordinated, agreed and nondiscriminatory" measures to get people moving, adding that officials didn't see the need for individual countries to apply quarantine measures.

The declaration immediately caused confusion with the public as well as praise from Europe's travel industry.

Although Brussels recommends using masks to travel it is not recommending leaving empty seats between passengers on planes or checking temperatures at airports.

Ryanair to start flying to the Costa del Sol again on 1 July if air restrictions are lifted

The biggest carrier into Malaga Airport aims to begin with 40 per cent of its European programme

PILAR MARTÍNEZ / N. H.

MALAGA. The biggest airline flying into the Costa del Sol, Ryanair, has announced that it will resume its flights to and from Malaga Airport from 1 July.

The company has confirmed that it will start with 40 per cent of its programme and will focus on maintaining a wide diversity of routes but with reduced frequency to cover as much demand as possible.

The Irish 'low cost' airline has



Grounded Ryanair aircraft at Malaga Airport. S. SALAS

pointed out, "These measures are subject to governments' lifting of flight restrictions within Europe and the application of the efficient public health measures planned for airports."

The announcement caused

surprise after the Spanish government confirmed plans for a 14-day quarantine of arrivals and the UK government seemed to be actively discouraging people taking summer holidays abroad. Some consumer groups suggested

the move could be to avoid billion-euro payouts to passengers for cancelled summer flights.

Ryanair said it has initially scheduled nearly 1,000 daily flights around Europe, where before the crisis it operated 2,400.

The company said it will work closely with public health authorities to ensure that these flights comply with effective measures to limit the spread of Covid-19. This would include temperature checks and spaced-out queues at airports and compulsory face masks in terminals and on planes.

"All our aircraft are fitted with state-of-the-art air filtration systems which operate to hospital standards," said the airline, adding that the planes will be disinfected on a daily basis with products that are effective for 24 hours.

A limited onboard refreshment service will be offered and queues for the toilet will not be allowed.

as if they are 10,000 kilometres away," she says.

Something else which she says will be helpful is that there is plenty of space with no crowding and therefore no difficulties in maintaining social distancing.

"We are hoping the protocols will be given out soon," she says, so the hotels know what they will have to do before they reopen.

She says that although at the moment there are very few bookings coming in, the next two or three weeks will be key to seeing what the summer season will be like.



Provincial authority pledges 233 million euros to alleviate effects of the crisis

The organisation says the so-called 'Malaga Plan' is the "most ambitious ever" and will support families, councils, businesses, the self-employed and workers

ANTONIO M. ROMERO

MALAGA. The Diputación provincial authority is to spend 233 million euros before the end of this year on its own-style Marshall Plan for economic recovery and employment in province.

The money will be used to support the most vulnerable, assist companies and the self-employed with liquidity, help local councils and assist workers.

This is the Diputación's most ambitious programme so far, and a "historic" commitment to tackling the effects of the pandemic, said its president Francisco Salado during the presentation, which was also attended by the first and second vice-presidents, Juan Carlos Maldonado and Margarita del Cid.

The money is coming from three sources: 60 million euros will be from the Diputación's surplus, the provincial tax office and the fire, waste and water consortia. Salado said he is confident the national government will authorise councils to

use their surpluses, although he is concerned at the lack of response from Madrid to this request so far.

The second source of funds is a 28-million-euro modification to the budget, to be debated next week. The plan is to change projects which have not been carried out or are no longer considered a priority. The third consists of 145.4 million euros which is already available this year for employment, social assistance and the productive sectors.

Salado also stressed that the Diputación, which principally provides pooled support services to villages and smaller towns in Malaga province, would work with the tourism sector. It would reject any attempts by the government to discriminate against the Costa del Sol in terms of assistance or measures to alleviate the crisis.

The Diputación would reject any attempts by the government to discriminate against the Costa del Sol in terms of assistance or measures to alleviate the crisis

THE FOUR PARTS OF THE PLAN

Block 1

Cash injection for local councils

70million

Concept: Town halls will receive money to carry out works; of the 18.8 million euros as yet unpaid under the Concertation Plan, 17 million will be given to places considered in most urgent need. Municipalities with over 5,000 inhabitants will be exempt from paying their annual fees to the provincial consortiums, which will provide a saving of six million euros.

Block 2

Infrastructure works and hotel subsidies

65million

Concept: To reactivate the construction sector, infrastructure projects will be carried out, roads will be repaired, projects such as the Senda Litoral coastal path will continue and rural development work will be facilitated. For the tourism sector, as well as the 10.8 million

euros already planned for promotion, there will be 2.5 million to subsidise hotel stays.

Block 3

Help for families and vulnerable people

20.6million

Concept: To assist the most vulnerable families, individuals and groups, the Malaga Plan will include 20.6 million euros for social policies, including 17.7 million to reinforce social services, homes and domestic assistance. There will be another 1.2 million euros to support the cultural industry and creatives in Malaga.

Block 4

Companies and the self-employed

19.5million

Concept: To try to kickstart employment, 19.5 million euros will be allocated to help businesses and the self-employed with liquidity. Most of this will aim to boost employment, training and on promoting local products.

Junta de Andalucía plans to release one billion euros of funds to support regional economy

JOSÉ LUIS PIEDRA

SEVILLE. The president of the Junta de Andalucía regional government, Juanma Moreno, has promised to provide small firms and the self-employed with access to loans and liquidity "to save as much as possible of the productive capability" of the region.

Moreno said that his government was committing to putting forward over one billion euros, "to give oxygen" to business people, spread between taxation relief, guaranteed loans and the 300-euro payments to autónomos (self-employed).

This week the Junta de Andalucía signed an agreement with Garántia, a mutual loan guarantee society, to facilitate smaller loans between 9,000 and 15,000 euros to the self-employed, which will be fully guaranteed by the regional government, easy to apply for and interest-free in the first year.

In addition, the funding through Garántia for loans for small and medium-sized firms of up to 100,000 euros has been increased.

Garántia says that, up to now, loans worth over 100 million euros have been applied for in the region.

Tender process for seven-million-euro improvement to country roads is restarted

Damage inland caused by the heavy rain of autumn 2018 will be worked on, including one of the access roads to the Caminito del Rey

ANTONIO M. ROMERO

MALAGA. The Malaga Diputación (provincial authority) has restarted the tender process for almost seven million euros' worth of repairs at seventeen spots on roads in inland, rural areas.

The original awarding of contracts to carry out the works was halted when the state of alarm started in March and now they

will be put out to tender again.

The works were all already planned, and cover the northern area of the province, near Antequera, and the western side (the areas of Serranía de Ronda, Guadalhorce and Guadalteba).

Here, severe storm damage from October 2018 still has to be repaired. The cost will be shared between the Diputación and central government funds.

Repairs to embankments, improved drainage and resurfacing are among the main actions on these secondary roads which fall under the control of the provincial authority.

The biggest is expected to be the rural road from the village of



A section of damaged road between Ardales and El Chorro. **SUR**

Ardales to El Chorro, near the Caminito del Rey pathway tourist attraction. Here two million euros will need to be spent on the embankments and roadway

The next biggest job will be to make good the damage on the road linking El Burgo and Casarabonela in the Sierra de las Nieves.

The representative for Infraestructure at the Diputación, Fran-

cisco Oblaré, said he hoped that starting up the repairs would contribute to reactivating the economy.

Two bridges that were also damaged in 2018 have been left out of this bidding round, however. Repairs to the Bobastro access, valued at 800,000 euros and a bridge on the Teba to Campillos road (1.6m) will have to wait for now.

INLAND ROADS AFFECTED

Serranía de Ronda

MA-7403: Arriate to Puerto del Monte.

MA-7401: A-374 to MA-8400, at Benaolán.

MA-7400: A-367 to Arriate.

MA-7303: Cartajima to Júzcar.

MA-7302: Alpandeire to Faraján.

MA-7301: Júzcar to Faraján.

MA-8302: MA-8301 to Genalguacil.

MA-8301: Estepona to Jubrique.

Antequera Area

MA-6406: A-7278 to Almargen.

MA-4403: A-343 to the A-384, at Bobadilla.

MA-6407: From Campillos towards El Saucejo (Seville), as far as the provincial boundary.

Guadalhorce and Guadalteba

MA-6401: A-367-Cañete la Real.

MA-5404: A-357 to A-7278.

MA-5403: Ardales to El Chorro.

MA-5402: MA-5401 to Ardales.

MA-5401: El Burgo to Casarabonela.

MA-5400: El Burgo to Serrato.



Solutions needed as respect for lockdown rules starts to wane

Families and friends walking together, groups of teenagers and cyclists who fail to keep away from other people are the main problem

FRANCISCO JIMÉNEZ /
IGNACIO LILLO

MALAGA. It is 8pm on the seafront in Malaga and even though it is closed to traffic, there are crowds of people walking on the pavement and cyclists, skateboarders and runners on the road. Although most are complying with the regulations (only walking with their partner or children and maintaining social distancing from anyone else), it is easy to spot others who are not. For example, families with children walking together; groups of teenagers meeting up in quiet areas for parties and runners and cyclists who arrange to exercise together instead of following the instructions to keep well away from anyone else.

Nor are these the only ones. There are bars where groups of



People without masks, exercising together and ignoring social distancing rules in Malaga. SALVADOR SALAS

friends meet up for drinks, people who take advantage of being allowed to walk along the beach and have a swim or lie in the sun, shops allowing more people in than are permitted, people break-

ing the rules and taking a sheep or goat as an excuse for a walk, teenagers together and none wearing a mask, neighbours in developments gathering in groups as if lockdown had never hap-

pened and, of course, the runners, cyclists and skateboarders who take over the seafront promenades every evening during the times exercise is allowed.

If there's a law, someone will

break it. And when people decide to ignore the restrictions because they are bored or it won't be long before the province moves into Phase One of the easing of lockdown, it leads to a lack of control and too much confidence on the streets of Malaga.

No control on the seafronts

The police agree that more people are ignoring the rules. "It's happening in the different districts of the city, but on the seafronts there is a complete lack of control," says Manuel Troyano, general secretary of the Sip-an union, who wants the council to take measures to keep people separate, set up one-way systems for walking and cycling and prevent crowding.

The PSOE spokesman at the city hall, Daniel Pérez, agrees. "We need people to behave responsibly; we can't all go out to the same place at the same time," he says. He also says he has received calls from police officers who say they are overwhelmed.

Eduardo Zorrilla, of Adelante Málaga, considers the space is insufficient, "judging by the crowds", and wants streets in the most densely populated areas to be pedestrianised.

The councillor for Mobility, José Del Río, says the local authority is looking at the idea of putting up signs in pedestrian areas to guide and separate people who are walking and those on bicycles.

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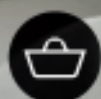
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No cars to be seen on the seafront in Malaga city. **ÑITO SALAS**

The province's main boulevards make way for pedestrians

With 79 per cent fewer cars on the road, the debate over reclaiming towns and cities for pedestrians has reopened

IGNACIO LILLO

MALAGA. With a 79 per cent fall in vehicle use experienced during the pandemic, large swathes of urban areas across Malaga province have been opened up to allow pedestrians to take their daily exercise and maintain a safe distance.

In Malaga and Marbella especially, due to their high population density, the historic centres and promenades have been virtually completely closed off to traffic, with special routes laid on for cyclists.

As a result, SUR has opened up a debate among experts in mobility and sustainable development over whether this break to life as we know it can provide an opportunity to reclaim towns and cities for people for good. "It would be



Cyclists are given priority on Avenida Ricardo Soriano in Marbella. **JOSELE**

beneficial for everyone," says architect Cristina Gallardo. "Do we really need six lanes for cars and just a tiny slither for pedestrians?"

According to Gallardo, having good connections between outlying neighbourhoods, town centres and green spaces for pedestrians and cyclists is not only good for personal health but also biodiversity.

Enrique San Miguel, president of Ametmos (the Malaga association for sustainable tourism) agrees and says: "With fewer cars on the roads, now is the perfect time to make changes."

For his part, Malaga councillor for Mobility José del Río said that the city hall would look into closing roads, if only at weekends to start with.

HERE AND THERE

ESTEPONA

Local company designs Covid-safe green screens

C. MÁRQUEZ. Andalusian company Agrojardín Landscaping (part of the Agrojardín Group based in Estepona) has developed a biological and hygienic system to separate spaces, creating a protected area around them.

This green screen or vertical garden serves as a separation between spaces, but at the same time it uses Envirolite technology which consists of an electrolysis system that generates Anolyte, a disinfectant effective against bacteria, viruses, fungi, spores and also



The green screens. **SUR**

against Covid-19.

The screens are mobile and have a series of mechanisms that allow them to be dismantled and stored easily.

MARBELLA

Online platform makes shopping local easy

H. BARBOTTA. Marbella town hall has launched two websites (compramarbella.com and comprasanpedro.com) to help smaller businesses be more competitive and to make it easier for people to shop local. The two websites bring together various businesses, including food and clothing shops, wholesalers and takeaway restaurants.

The money from transactions goes directly to the businesses which aim to deliver within 24 hours.

MIJAS

1,200 'autónomos' in Mijas apply for grants

I. GELIBTER. Just a week after the launch of its 'Plan Mijas', the town hall has already received more than 1,200 applications from self-employed and SMEs for grants of between 3,000 and 6,000 euros.

After having listened to suggestions from local business, mayor Josele González has also extended the eligibility criteria, removing a minimum percentage loss to earnings and loosening restrictions over restarting activity.

ÁLORA

New car park to open in El Chorro as Caminito prepares to reopen

A. JIMÉNEZ. Álora town hall is preparing to set up a 6,000-square-metre car park for visitors to the Caminito del Rey as the attraction prepares to potentially reopen on 29 May.

Arriving by private vehicle or train will be encouraged, with further plans to add an extra Cercanías stop at El Chorro to facilitate the arrival of visitors.

The car park, which has already been given the green light, will be located in El Chorro and is part of the measures being studied for the reopening of the Caminito del Rey in order to prevent contagion.

The Diputación provincial government hopes to reopen the daredevil walkway as part of its plan to give a kickstart to local tourism. It hopes that tickets will go on sale imminently for the end of May and the rest of June, albeit only from Friday to Sunday and with a daily limit of 550 visitors to ensure visitor safety.

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WHERE YOU COME FIRST

Rules clarified regarding car, motorcycle and taxi passengers

The revised rules apply to all phases of Spain's lockdown easing and include more freedom for members of the same household to travel together

DARYL FINCH

MALAGA. The Spanish government, responding to criticism and confusion over its policy regarding personal travel in vehicles during the coronavirus pandemic, has issued a new order that applies to all phases of the lockdown easing.

As of Monday 11 May in up to nine-seater vehicles, members of the same household can occupy all available seats without the need to wear a mask.

However, when the occupants of the vehicle do not all live at the

same address, they must sit two per row of seats, provided that they wear a mask and respect the maximum possible distance between occupants.

In the case of motorcycles with a space for a pillion passenger, two people can travel together if both have a helmet with a visor or wear a mask. Gloves must be worn by both driver and passenger.

In vehicles with only one row (ie. vans, trucks and lorries), a maximum of two people can travel, wearing masks and maintaining maximum distance.

These rules apply to all phases so far, but the different restrictions on destinations apply according to phase. In Phase 1, vehicles can be used to go to a shop, a terrace or a second home within the same province, while in Phase 0, which currently applies to Malaga province, this remains limited to permitted essential ac-

tivities (going to the supermarket, pharmacy, appointments, to go to work when home working is not possible, to collect takeaway food etc.)

Public transport

In the case of taxis, people living in the same household can now travel three people per row, not including the row of the driver (two per row if not in the same household).

On coaches, buses and trains in which seating is compulsory, members of the same household can sit together, but must leave a one-seat space between themselves and passengers not in their household.

On buses and trains where standing is allowed, all passengers, regardless of their household, must maintain the distance marked out.

Users of all modes of public transport must wear a face mask.

Local ITV testing centres facing a 150,000-vehicle backlog as they prepare to reopen

FRANCISCO JIMÉNEZ

MALAGA. The nine ITV vehicle-safety-testing centres in Malaga province must clear a 150,000-vehicle backlog when they, should Malaga move into Phase One of lockdown, reopen on Monday.

The website to book an appointment crashed when it reopened on Thursday morning and it remains to be seen how these centres will be able to keep up with demand after almost two months of the state of alarm.

Those whose ITV has expired must register on <https://notificaciones.veiasa.es/#/> to be notified about a new appointment.

The Spanish Association for ITV centres (Aeca-ITV) is calling for the Industry ministry to extend the validity of certificates for at least three months as centres will struggle to clear this backlog, especially with changes that need to be implemented to

FAQS

► **Can I drive with an expired ITV?** Yes, but only if ITV certificate expired during the state of alarm (after 14 March).

► **What if it expired before the state of alarm?** Special dispensation will not apply and you can be fined.

► **And if I already had an appointment?** Only if you can prove your appointment was for after the start of the state of alarm.

protect users' safety. Screens have been installed, only those with an appointment can be present (wearing a mask) and during the test itself, the inspector won't be allowed inside the vehicle so the driver will have to carry out certain parts under instruction.



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Police investigate spate of dog poisonings in Malaga

One dog died after apparently ingesting rat poison in a popular walking spot while several others required treatment

ÁLVARO FRÍAS / JUAN CANO

MALAGA. Local Police in Malaga have opened an investigation into several cases of poisoned dogs in the Malaga neighbourhood of Cerrado de Calderón during the past month.

The Nature Protection unit (Grupona) is leading the probe after one dog died on 18 April and several required treatment after having apparently ingested rat poison.

The owner of the golden re-

triever that died, Ida, told SUR: "We went out for a walk in the morning. I had her on a lead and didn't notice anything strange happening but everything changed a few hours later when she threw up three or four times so I took her to the vet. She was already dead by the time the vet arrived."

The owners of the dogs affected believe that the poisonings probably occurred in the upper part of Cerrado de Calderón, closest to the antennas - a common spot for taking dogs out for a walk.

The investigation has so far been unable to establish who is behind this nor whether the act was intentional or as a result of negligence. For the time being, residents are being warned to be vigilant when walking their dogs and to ensure they don't eat anything off the floor.

112 REPORTS

FUENGIROLA

Cowboy hat gives away alleged card thief

F. T. / Á. F. Police in Fuengirola were able to track down a man who allegedly stole various items, including tools and a wallet, from a building site because of his distinctive cowboy hat.

Police tracked the use of stolen credit cards and were able



A distinctive hat. SUR

to find the alleged perpetrator on CCTV. Despite not being able to see his face, the man was known to police and he was still wearing the hat and the same clothes when they arrested him.

MIJAS

Guardia Civil patrol car rammed by speeder

Á. F. / J. C. The Guardia Civil are looking for the driver of a grey Skoda Rapid which rammed a patrol car in Riviera del Sol on Wednesday after officers tried to pull it over for speeding. The abandoned car was later found.

CÁRTAMA

Marijuana plantation with 282 plants located

SUR. The National Police have dismantled a marijuana plantation with 282 plants installed in a warehouse on an industrial park in Cártama and have arrested the person responsible, a 30-year-old Spanish man.

Men in rabbit and penguin disguises rob delivery driver at gunpoint

Á. FRÍAS / J. CANO

MALAGA. Police are searching for a man after he and 35-year-old Spanish national, who was arrested, attacked a delivery man and stole 286 euros, while disguised as a rabbit and a penguin.

The events took place Malaga city on Wednesday morning. The victim was preparing to distribute across the city when the two thieves approached him and demanded his money at gunpoint.

The detainee, in whose house the two disguises used in the robbery were found, has already been handed over to the judicial authorities.



QUARANTINE STORIES

Coming out the other side

"Now more than ever we're feeding more data to Google"

Ellie Hurst
Estate Agent

JENNIE RHODES

VÉLEZ-MÁLAGA. For Ellie Hurst the lockdown has had its pros and cons. She says the pros have been spending time with her teenage daughter and adult son, who has been living in the UK and returned to Spain just a few months ago.

As she has been unable to work, Ellie explains she has been trying out new recipes and art as she has recently discovered a talent for painting.

The cons she says are that having too much time means she's become a "passive spectator" of the news and she's "numbed" by what she hears. "It worries me that our social and economic lives are governed by incoherent decisions taken by bewildered authorities who do not know where they are heading," she reflects. "Now more than ever we channel our lives through our screens, willingly feeding Google more data on our habits, likes and dislikes," she adds, concerned about how much control the internet and governments have over us.



"At dawn, I heard an airplane. I was really happy after only hearing birds"

Ilona Cichon
Studio owner

ALEKK M. SAANDERS

TORREMOLINOS. The containment didn't bother Ilona a lot as she is used to staying at home. However, on the eve of the lockdown, she went out to an Italian restaurant for the last meal. With the enthusiasm of others in the restaurant her dinner transformed into, as they called it, an apocalypse party. Ilona says, "From here we can see Africa though we don't want to notice how people live there. Our quarantine with the temporary restrictions is nothing in comparison what most of Africans have to experience every day and for years."

The lockdown has brought the neighbours in Ilona's narrow alley closer together. They started to communicate from balconies and help each other with shopping. From the first day of the confinement, Ilona has been writing a diary. On her last page she wrote the phrase, "So, the world hasn't gone under yet!" Ilona explains, "At dawn, I heard an airplane. I was really happy because for seven weeks I have heard nothing except the birds in the trees and the church bells."

SUR IN ENGLISH

COSTA DEL SOL. Week nine: we may not have gained as much freedom as we had hoped in Malaga province this week but

"Living in a studio apartment with no internet is the hardest part"

Steve Brunt
Waiter

T. BRYANT

BENALMÁDENA. Steve Brunt and his wife Julie live in small studio apartment, so confinement has been particularly difficult, but they fully back the strict lockdown rules.

"Whatever needs to be done to keep this epidemic under control we support, although coping with the boredom of living in a studio with no internet is the hardest part. Having a strong marriage when living in a small studio is a must, but I've also discovered a new liking for supermarkets, so I can escape for an hour."

Steve is not happy with those who flout the rules, as he is eager to try to get his life back on track, but he feels the future is not going to be easy.

"Some normality needs to resume soon, but the small minority of selfish people are hindering the process of going through the recovery phases quickly. I can't see the season recovering this year, so I will be out of work with no money. There are some very uncertain times ahead for us all," he said.



there's a general feeling that there's light at the end of the tunnel. Exactly when we consider we've come out the other side depends on what kind of "new normal" each of us would settle

for. Is this not over till we can fly round the world again? Or would sardines and a beer in a beach bar be sufficient normality for the time being? Meanwhile, more stories...



"Without lockdown I may never have found out about the family secret"

Richard Weale
Red Cross volunteer

J. RHODES

RIOGORDO. Richard Weale admits that the state of alarm "has not been too difficult" for him and his partner as they live in a relatively rural location with no immediate neighbours.

Richard has been a Red Cross volunteer in Vélez-Málaga for a number of years and his partner has also been helping with the response to the pandemic which has kept them busy.

Richard has spent his spare time going through boxes of family photographs "It has been interesting and moving to discover more about my late parents such as details of their service during and after World War Two, including in allied-occupied Germany and their return to civilian life in the late 1940s," he said.

He believes he has even uncovered a family secret: "I also uncovered what appears to be a closely guarded family secret about a close relative and without the lockdown it is unlikely that I would have found the time needed to carry out such a fascinating exercise."

"The battle indoors has been to stay positive, safe and sane"

Ria O'Brien
Councillor

J. RHODES

LA VIÑUELA. La Viñuela councillor Ria O'Brien says that while the town hall is closed at the moment, her role has been to "keep in touch as much as possible with information and help as needed" and adds that people in the village have been organising donations of food and other essentials for people who are "struggling to make ends meet".

When she hasn't been helping others, Ria says: "Indoors the battle has been to stay positive and stay safe. Add to that stay sane." She spent the first few days tidying kitchen cupboards and wardrobes. "Doing the things there was never time for."

She has kept active by following online stretching exercise classes and listening to audio books "for company and distraction while doing the mindless jobs".

"Putting a structure on the day is vital," says Ria, who has been baking, cooking, meditating and keeping in regular contact with friends and family back home in Ireland and elsewhere.



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HERE AND THERE

TORREMOLINOS

20 tonnes of essential supplies for the needy

T. BRYANT. More than 20 tonnes of non-perishable food and household products was collected during the 'Solidarity Food Collection' campaign held in Torremolinos last weekend. Organised by the Social Welfare

department of Torremolinos town hall, in conjunction with the Red Cross, the Civil Protection service and the Carmen religious brotherhood, more than 120 volunteers participated in the project.

The supplies will be donated to the most vulnerable families hit by the social, health and economic crisis caused by the Covid-19 pandemic.



Food and household supplies will be donated to vulnerable families. **SUR**

COÍN

Loving, forever home needed for rescue horse

T. B. Coín-based equestrian charity Search is appealing for a new home for a 21-year-old horse that was rescued after its owners had to relocate. The organisation has said that the "sweet-natured" mare is blind in one eye, but is not traumatised or in need of rehabilitation.

For more information, contact Sue Barns on 660 220 700.

Lockdown family time influences closure of long-serving Welsh bar

BENALMÁDENA

Welsh national Cath John has run the popular CJ's karaoke and cocktail bar since she arrived on the coast in 1995

TONY BRYANT



BENALMÁDENA. After 25 years of serving locals and tourists, the owner of one of Benalmádena's longest-serving British bars has decided not to reopen once the lockdown is lifted. Welsh national Cath John and her family have run the popular CJ's karaoke and cocktail bar since they arrived on the coast in 1995. Renowned for painting the town red during the St David's Day celebrations and lauded for being the place to celebrate a hen night, birthday or anniversary celebration, Cath, who is also a singer, has used the bar to raise thousands of euros for worthy causes.

Cath made the decision to leave the bar, which she announced on Facebook, because she only has 11 months left on the lease of the bar and she feels it would be pointless to reopen when the fu-



CJ's in Benalmádena has been a popular venue for celebrations. **SUR**

ture is so insecure. However, she had no idea that the response would be so overwhelming.

"Our lease for the bar runs out next May, so I just can't see that it is worth continuing for another 11 months the way things are. When I went live on Facebook to tell everyone, I had no idea it would go so mad. We have had thousands of comments and messages of good wishes. People keep thanking me, but I had as much fun as them," Cath explained to SUR in English.

Family time

Another reason that prompted

her decision is because she wants to have more time with her family, something that she realised she missed whilst confined to her home during the lockdown. Having worked tirelessly to make the bar a continued success, she rarely got time to see her husband and four children.

"I have realised how much I have missed just being with the kids and not being tired all the time, so I think it's the right time for a change. I think I have been scared to take the leap, but how can we know what is in the next chapter in the book if we are too afraid to turn the page?" she said.

Town hall to promote innovative restaurants

Reinventando-T supports Torremolinos bars and restaurants that have adapted to the new reality imposed by the Covid-19 pandemic

T. BRYANT

TORREMOLINOS. Torremolinos town hall has stepped up its campaign to retain the resort's status as a leading destination when the restrictions of the lockdown are lifted. One of the new projects in the campaign is Reinventando-T (reinventing yourself), an initiative that aims to help and promote establishments that have adapted to the new reality imposed by the Covid-19 pandemic.

Mayor of Torremolinos José Ortiz pointed out that the campaign is designed to encourage shops, restaurants and bars to install precautionary health measures in order to offer customers a sense of security when they reopen their doors. The mayor added that he had "no doubt" that Torremolinos would be able to turn the situation imposed by the virus around.

The town hall has been working closely with the local catering sector, which has shown concern about how the different phases of the easing of restric-

tions will affect their business.

Some owners have already installed perspex screens between tables and ozonised water sprays to disinfect people's clothing as they enter. Other measures adopted are special mobile apps to replace printed menus and temperature testing devices.

"We will do everything in our power to give help and support to those ready to face the new challenges that have been presented to us. Collaboration is essential to success at a time when unity is required. We will show Torremolinos remains an example of improvement," the mayor said.



Ortiz (r) with a bar owner. **SUR**

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Sewage treatment plant on track to enter testing phase

The closure of businesses and absence of tourists in the Burriana beach area of Nerja has meant that work has been able to advance quickly

EUGENIO CABEZAS

NERJA. Despite initial fears that the current state of alarm would further delay work on Nerja's long-awaited sewage treatment plant, it is now thought that the project will be able to go into test phase this summer, as planned. Work has been able to continue, apart from a two-week period in April when all construction work had to stop.

Furthermore, as there are no tourists on Burriana beach and local businesses have been closed



Installation of collectors at Burriana beach. **SUR**

in the area, work has been able to progress rapidly to the pumping station and underground collectors, which are located near the Ayo beach bar, as well as the

800-metre-long submarine sewage pipe which will pump treated wastewater into the sea when the plant is up and running.

Work on the sewage plant it-

self is complete, including the electricity connection. The other two sites where work is still ongoing are the Mirador del Bendito, where a 17-metre-deep hole is being dug to connect a collector, as well as the mouth of the Chillar river which is home to the other pumping station.

Delays and setbacks

Once the outstanding work is complete, the treatment plant will undergo a six-month test phase, meaning it won't be fully functional until early 2021.

Nerja's sewage treatment plant should have been up and running in 2016. However there was a series of setbacks including the company which was initially awarded the contract going bankrupt in 2017. A new company, Lantania, took over the project in October 2019.

Other setbacks have been caused by problems in obtaining licences to carry out different parts of the project and finding additional funding to complete aspects that were omitted from the initial contract.

Town hall installs bird feeding stations as bars and terraces remain closed

E. CABEZAS

TORROX. Torrox town hall has placed 20 bird-feeding stations in wetland areas, including river mouths, streams and the El Morche dunes around the town.

According to deputy mayor María de los Ángeles Ruiz there is currently an abundance of nests containing eggs and a greater number of species, which she says is due to the lockdown.

However, because bars and restaurants are closed, she added that there was less food for the birds. "We need to act now because the eggs will be hatching over the coming weeks," she said.

HERE AND THERE



Police stop a man with a goat in the Tomillar area of Torre del Mar. **SUR**

TORRE DEL MAR

No kidding around with man taking goat for walk

E. CABEZAS. A young man was fined by police in Torre del Mar last Sunday for walking a goat, which he claimed he had spent several days looking for after it escaped. However, the man was unable to prove that the animal belonged to him and police sources said that

they had not received reports of a missing goat.

The fine was issued for failure to comply with the state of alarm law regarding pets which only allows for dogs to be walked.

The incident happened in front of the El Tomillar Mercadona by the roundabout at the entrance to the town. It was recorded by a resident in a nearby block of flats who shared the video on social media.

TORROX COSTA

Surfers and swimmers may practise sport

E. CABEZAS. Professional surfers and swimmers may now practise their sports in designated areas of Torrox beaches, provided they can prove they belong to a federation.


Mayor of Torrox Óscar Medina announced that the town hall had passed a local law allowing people to use part of El Peñoncillo beach in the case of surfing and a sectioned area of Ferrara beach for swimming between 8am and 10pm every day. The bylaw came into effect last Monday.

NERJA

Villages to hold online San Isidro celebrations


E. C. / J. R. Both Nerja and Almachar will be holding virtual San Isidro celebrations this weekend. On Friday the Nerja town hall Facebook page will be showing a special mass and on Sunday the Almachar town hall Facebook page will be showing the 1988 Romería, followed by music, a photography competition and a virtual paella which will take place at 9pm.

According to Nerja foreigners' office, the San Isidro public holiday has been postponed until 29 September.



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More than 30,000 furloughed local workers have yet to receive payment

SEPE has now agreed with the banks that those affected will be able to draw benefit in advance as soon as their application is authorised

NURIA TRIGUERO



MALAGA. Throughout the month of April there was a huge avalanche of applications to furlough staff (the 'expedientes de regulación temporal de empleo', otherwise known as ERTE), and staff at the State Employment Service (SEPE) worked weekends and holidays to process the highest possible number of applications. The result is notable: nearly 90,000 people who were laid off in Malaga province have begun to receive their payments, according to sources consulted by SUR.

Unfortunately, even that amount of effort was not sufficient. The latest figures from the Junta de Andalucía show that 122,725 people in Malaga province, including the Costa del Sol, were put on an ERTE by the end of April, so more than 30,000 have still not received any money from the State. This newspaper has learned of several cases where workers have received no income since the end of March, the last time they were paid by their employers.

There are various reasons for these delays, according to SEPE. Some applications were lodged in March, as soon as the state of alarm was decreed, but their processing has been halted or delayed because of an error or the lack of necessary documentation being supplied.

Some applications have also needed to be checked by the labour authorities because an anomaly was detected, and in some cases, workers have appealed against the ERTE. All these circumstances have led to delays in processing. In some cases the hold-up is due to the sheer volume of work and technology required since the avalanche of applications began.

The delay in paying some workers caused conflict between the Comisiones Obreras union, the regional government's Employment Office and SEPE a few days ago. The union blamed the Junta for the delay, saying it should have taken on more staff to process the ERTE applications back in March, when the first wave occurred at the time the state of alarm came into force. The Employment office pointed out that it is SEPE that registers and makes the payments, as it does not have the power to do so.

It is also clear that, especially at the end of March, both administrations were overwhelmed by the sheer scale of applications, so processing and payments slowed down.

Advance payments from banks
Now, two months after being laid



Malaga province has the highest number of ERTes in Andalucía. NITO SALAS

THE FIGURES

122,725

people are on an 'expediente de regulación temporal de empleo' in Malaga province.

88,952

laid-off workers in Malaga province were authorised to receive payments in April. In March no such applications were processed in full.

off, thousands of local workers have still received no unemployment pay. Monday was a key date: this type of benefit is paid on the 10th of the month and, as that was a Sunday, many people checked their bank accounts on Monday to see if the money had arrived. Normally, those who had

not received it would have had to wait another month, until 10 June in this case, but given the dramatic situation many families are in, with no income for two months, SEPE has now set up a way for them to be paid as quickly as possible: it has agreed with all the banks that payment can be available in advance once the application has been officially authorised.

Sources at the government's representative office in Malaga say that from now on SEPE will send the payments to the banks as soon as they are authorised, either on a daily basis or every few days, so those expecting them will receive them as soon as possible during this month. This will be done automatically.

Also, given that the number of new ERTE applications has now reduced substantially, SEPE has been able to assign some of its staff to deal with the applications which contain an error or anomaly.

New Minimum Living Income benefit likely to apply to foreign residents too

SUR

MALAGA. Although final details have not been decided, more information has been emerging of the government's proposed new Minimum Living Income benefit.

The benefit, for those on very low or no income, has long been a policy of coalition partners Unidas Podemos and the government wants it to come into force in June. Estimates are that it will help one million people and cost the State three billion euros a year, although there will be strict criteria to apply.

In the draft, the payment would apply only to people aged 23 to 65 unless they were caring for a minor. They would need to have been living away from the parental home for at least three years and paid in at least a year to the Spanish Social Security system, although it could be over various shorter periods. The beneficiary would also have to have been a resident of Spain, but not necessarily of Spanish nationality, for at least a full year immediately before applying.

The benefit, to be known in Spanish as 'el ingreso mínimo vital' will cover the difference between the assets and income in a household and the minimum income that the forthcoming new law will set.

For example, according to provisional data reported by the media, the limit for a single adult would be 462 euros a month and for a family of two adults and two children, the limit would be 1,015 euros.

THE EURO ZONE
MARK NAYLER

Law and disorder



There were more signs this week that Spain's Socialist government is too attached to draconian confinement measures as a means of dealing with Covid-19, with parts of Andalucía, Madrid and Valencia inexplicably refused permission to move onto Phase One of the de-escalation process. But even more baffling is Pedro Sánchez's latest judicial decree, passed in congress on Wednesday by a typically random collec-

tion of votes, which aims to reduce the already substantial backlog of court cases resulting from lockdown.

The Spanish judiciary, of course, is being hit hard by the Covid-19 pandemic, just like every other sector. Judicial institutions have been functioning at around 20% of capacity during the prolonged lockdown, and the Ministry of Justice recently predicted a substantial increase in bankruptcy cases throughout

the rest of this year and in 2020. These are among the many consequences of an excessively long economic "hibernation", which Sánchez seems in no hurry to terminate. Indeed, in fiddling around with judicial bureaucracy, the government is doing little more than treating the symptoms of economic stagnation, rather than addressing its fundamental causes, one of the most egregious being over two months of near-total lockdown.

In any case, are there not more pressing matters to attend to? How about ensuring that the country's shuttered capital opens up for business as soon as possible, ideally next week; or that the tourism sector can return to some kind of normality in time for the peak summer

season? How about ending the stultifying state of alarm or, at the very least, offering a proper response to the opposition's objections to its continued extension, rather than just uttering empty platitudes about preserving "the unity of all to save lives, businesses and jobs" (as Sánchez said on Wednesday)?

The manner in which the judicial decree was passed also highlighted the constantly changing nature of support for the government's proposed legislation. The Catalan pro-independence party ERC, which was rightly critical of the fourth extension of the state of alarm last week, voted in favour, whereas Ciudadanos, which supported the latest extension, voted against. It did so, furthermore, for the most won-

derfully Spanish of reasons - i.e because the proposed catch-up period for courts is scheduled for prime holiday time, which the party said was completely unacceptable.

There's something admirable about this defence of Spaniards' rights to enjoy the sun and the beaches during the hottest month of the year, rather than slaving away in offices and courtrooms to deal with the backlash from a global pandemic. But unless Sánchez allows the economy to return to a semblance of normality soon, there might not be any places to holiday when August comes around. Reshuffling and overloading courtroom timetables isn't going to help him perform that essential task.

Gibraltar plans to test entire population for Covid-19 antibodies

It is possible that some people had coronavirus without knowing it because they suffered very mild symptoms and were not tested

DEBBIE BARTLETT



GIBRALTAR. The Gibraltar government looks set to become the first in the world to test its entire community for antibodies to Covid-19.

The testing will be carried out by consent but the greater the number of people who agree to the simple blood test, the more information the authorities will have about the spread and extent of the virus in Gibraltar and this will assist them in planning for any similar situations which could arise in the future.

Earlier this week, Acting Medical Director Dr Krishna Rawal said 35,000 tests have been ordered and will be delivered in



There is speculation that the first Covid-19 cases occurred earlier. **SUR**

the next few weeks. He indicated that as many as 500 people could be tested in a single day, although it would be an enormous task.

The antibody test can show whether somebody has had the virus, bearing in mind that many people will have suffered very slight symptoms and been unaware that they were Covid-19 positive.

The tests may also help the authorities to know when coro-

navirus first appeared in Gibraltar, as some people suffered what appeared to be an extremely unusual type of flu as far back as December, from which it took ages to recover and there is speculation that these could have been the first, unrecognised cases of the virus.

This week the Gibraltar government has also published its Unlock the Rock document, giving details of the phased easing of restrictions.

Art in Gibraltar can be enjoyed by all online

The 'walk-in tours' on Facebook take place every Friday this month at 11am and more are planned for June

D. BARTLETT

GIBRALTAR. Art lovers need not feel deprived by the lockdown restrictions as online tours are now available of the Mario Finlayson National Gallery, with special interviews and commentary.

The tours can be accessed at 11am on Fridays via the Gibraltar

Cultural Services Facebook page.

Today, 15 May, will feature Gustavo Bacarissas, while on 22 May it will be the turn of Mario Finlayson and on the 29th the artist will be Leni Mifsud.

GCS is also working on similar 'walk-in tours' featuring Jacobo Azagury and Rudecindo Mannia in June.

The chance to enjoy works of art online is something positive to have come out of the lockdown restrictions affecting so many countries, and Gibraltar is now planning to prepare similar online exhibitions in future.

Two senior officials at construction firm under investigation for alleged bribery

D. BARTLETT

GIBRALTAR. Two senior officials from a locally based international construction firm have been arrested on suspicion of bribery and perverting the course of public justice.

The Royal Gibraltar Police said this week that the arrests followed allegations that in April, during commercial discussions relating to payments for the construction works, a third party was offered 20,000 euros by one of the officials to approve disputed works on a particular project which has a value of around two million pounds.

Both senior officials were interviewed under caution and then released on police bail until 25 August while investigations continue.

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LETTERS
TO THE EDITOR

Bars reopening

Regarding bars to be allowed to open to serve drinks on their terrace, but with restricted capacity:

I understand that, even with the restriction raised from 30% to 50%, many bars with small terraces will struggle to justify opening because they will simply not be able to serve enough customers to cover their wages costs. Presumably, a larger terrace area would enable a larger capacity, so if a bar was able to spread their tables further onto the pavement, they would be able to serve more customers, and at the same time enable proper social distancing.

I think that, under the current circumstances, it would be sensible if local ayuntamientos encouraged bar and restaurant owners to apply for a temporary extension to their terrace area, and to grant such an extension in cases where road safety would not be jeopardised.

They might even consider pedestrianising roads, where that could help.

I am a regular and frequent tourist to Fuengirola, not a

bar owner. I look forward to returning to Fuengirola, and spending money, as soon as I can, but I would like to feel confident that the town is as "open" as it can possibly be.

MARTIN 'MAX' WARD

Vegetarian solution

If we look back over the most recent pandemics we'll see that the origin of them all lies in the intake of meat: Ebola came from eating bat meat and MERS from camels, not to mention bird flu or mad cow disease.

Perhaps this is a good time to consider a plant-based diet - how many pandemics have been caused by vegetables? Nature is wise and sends us messages; now through our confinement, the ecosystem is regenerating, pollution is falling and Nature is reclaiming her place.

Excessive intake of animal products is attacking the planet, destroying hectares, causing drought. Perhaps it's time for a global proposal. If we changed our diets and lifestyle in general, maybe we could avoid many of the world's current problems.

DAVINIA ROMERO

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THE MUSIC MAKER
PETER EDGERTON

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Knocking really matters

Oscar opened the door sporting the broadest of smiles and clutching a cup of coffee and sandwich in his free hand. It was Spanish lunchtime and, not having been in Malaga very long, I still hadn't got the hang of the eating at three o'clock in the afternoon thing.

"Hola," I ventured tentatively before realising I'd reached the limit of my linguistic possibilities. Luckily, Oscar spoke good English and invited me in to the local studio of one of the biggest radio stations in Spain. I got straight to the point while my host chomped heartily on his humungous butty.

"I was wondering if you could listen to this demo I recorded, please. I mean, I realise this kind of thing must happen all the time and so, only if it's no trouble..."

"Well, no, actually, I've worked here for the last twenty-five years and, as far as I know, nobody's

ever brought a demo in. Look, I'll give it a listen and if it's any good, I'll play it on my show which begins in... well in twelve minutes, actually."

He stuffed my arms full of promotional goodies and showed me to the door.

Blimey, I thought as I toddled off home, that's amazing: no-one has ever knocked on their door with a demo before. Just then, my reverie was interrupted - and this is really true - by the sound of my song coming from an open window of a car stopped at traffic lights. Good old Oscar had come up trumps. Subsequently, we became friends and, as a result of that first meeting and quite a bit of air play, I was offered work singing live on national Spanish radio, in theatres and at a couple of the most emblematic venues in Andalucía.

In the last few weeks, I've been thinking quite a bit about Oscar and that day in 1996. What with

the current circumstances and the the future of The Shakespeare firmly in the mix, I've been dusting down my old knocking-on-doors skills in a bid to maximise future professional possibilities in case it all goes the shape of a pear. Well, not literally knocking on doors obviously, rather pinging emails hither and yon and calling old contacts/complete strangers to see what's going down in the 'hood.

The gist is always the same.

"Dear ...

I was wondering if you might have any use for my writing / composing / voice over / translation / painting and decorating skills (ok, I made the last one up)."

It's actually quite enjoyable to flex the initiative muscles once again and, it appears, the odd door is slowly beginning to creak open.

Maybe I should give Oscar a call to hurry things along.

SANSÓN



SUR in English

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THE BOTTOM LINE
RACHEL HAYNES

Lost connections



I was asked earlier this week to briefly sum up the general mood among international residents in southern Spain in these unprecedented times of coronavirus lockdown.

It's interesting when someone thinks that you can put tens of thousands of people all in the same sack and make a sweeping generalisation when the only thing they have in common is that they're not Spanish.

The international/expat/foreign resident (however you like to call it) population is indeed diverse, with a wide range of nationalities, ages, backgrounds, fortunes, profes-

sions and myriad other circumstances.

I sat down and wondered how I could possibly speak for everyone in one simple statement, until I realised that there is one thing that links us all. One thing that the international community as a whole is missing now, which is what is perhaps producing more coronavirus-generated unease than among the population in general. Our connections with the rest of the world, including our home countries, have been lost. It's almost as if Covid-19 had eaten its way through the umbilical cord that links us to what was, and maybe for some still is, our home.

While we can keep in contact with anyone we like virtually, we have lost that security of knowing that dozens of airports in the UK and around Europe are just a couple of hours away.

We might not necessarily have wanted to go anywhere this spring, but the idea that we currently can't go beyond our municipal boundary, or that friends and relatives can't just come and see us, is unsettling to say the least.

Some have found themselves literally trapped at the wrong end of that cord, while for others its detachment represents a loss of livelihood. Thousands of jobs here on the Costa del Sol depend precisely on that ability for people to hop onto a plane and be in the sunshine in no time at all.

And now two months after this lifeline was lost there has been mixed news about its return.

First we hear that Spain, and the UK, is going to force anyone coming in from abroad

to go into quarantine for two weeks. Not such a big deal at the moment as few are able to come in anyway, but how long will that be in force?

At the same time companies such as Ryanair - responsible for the strength of that lifeline - are announcing that flights will resume from July. Meanwhile Brussels and the travel industry are doing their best to get things moving sooner rather than later.

Everything, though, at the moment, from what time we can go for a walk this evening to when we can fly to London, depends on the announcements the Spanish PM and his ministers deliver every so often on our TV screens, guided wisely - we hope - by those studying the behaviour of a virus.

Soon we'll get that connection back, albeit not quite in the same way, and with it that comfortable feeling that no one's really that far away.

Meanwhile we'll just have to take things one "phase" at a time.

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One of the areas where customers can find everything that they need is the Cleaning and Household section.

Disinfectants and hygiene products, as well as articles and items for cleaning and the home, by the

main market brands, both for multiple use and for specific areas of the home from the kitchen to the bathroom or outdoor areas. All presented in an orderly, accessible, easy to reach manner.

Likewise, as is the norm at the Carrefour centres in Estepona, Mijas, Fuengirola, Torremolinos and Valle del Guadalhorce, customers who require them have a range of bio products available which care for both the home and the environment.

Moreover, in the small electrical appliances section customers can find the most modern apparatus to clean and disinfect the home.



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IN THE FRAME

Turning experiences at home and abroad into literature

Sayalonga resident **Linda Decker** has written crime novels as well as a memoir of the time she spent living in the Middle East

JENNIE RHODES

Writer Linda Decker and her husband Christian should now be in their home in Sayalonga, which they bought three years ago. However, curtailed travel plans at the start of the lockdown meant that the couple have had to see it out at their Edinburgh home.

"Sayalonga suits us well as it retains its traditional Spanish character and is lively all year round. As we sit in the village square in the sun, sipping coffee and having impromptu chats with friends and neighbours, we are reminded of why we chose to settle here," she says.

Linda explains that having spent over 20 years living in Brunei, Jordan, Dubai, the West Bank and Jerusalem, the couple wanted to retire to the south of Spain.

Christian left his job running infrastructure projects as a contractor to USAID, the US development agency, in the Middle East in 2015 and their youngest child, Morgan, was at boarding school in Scotland to do his GCSEs and A levels without being moved around the world. "Morgan asked to go to boarding school- I blame the Harry Potter factor," Linda jokes.

The couple decided it "would

be fun to have a long Spanish and Portuguese road trip" to find areas where they might want to start looking for a second home. "Neither of us had done much travelling in Europe as we had lived in the Far and Middle East for over two decades."

They knew they wanted good weather but also to live in an area where the population was predominantly Spanish. "We love food, wine and walking. The Axarquía ticked all the boxes," Linda explains.

Linda and Christian share their time between their homes in Spain and Edinburgh, although Linda admits that "this might change in favour of Spain now that we have an empty nest".

Writing

Having been a lawyer "in a previous lifetime" in the UK, Linda started writing crime stories based on her experiences in the legal world for pleasure after moving to Brunei. She also wrote for a women's magazine called Family Flavours, which she says is "circulated widely" in the Middle East, while the couple were living in Jordan.

However, Linda says that when they moved to Jerusalem she became "totally fascinated" by the culture, conflict and the relationship between Israel and

the occupied territories and what life was like in Israel.

"I had moved 80 kilometres from Amman in Jordan, across the Dead Sea, but for the first time in decades I felt totally alien in the new environment," she explains, adding, "I wanted to record the strange new way of life, life on the edge but in an idyllic setting, living on a moshav, overlooking vineyards, before it became commonplace, so I put my crime novel to one side and wrote a memoir."

Bombs and Bougainvillea, a travel memoir, narrates the family's five years living in Ramallah and Jerusalem. Linda describes their experiences as "some interesting, others scary".

Her memoir was awarded nonfiction book of the year by the Scottish Association of Writers in 2018 when she entered the 15,000-word manuscript;

"It's said that if you can't change a situation then you should change your attitude towards it, so I decided to get back to my desk"

she then decided to publish it and she hopes it will be available this summer.

Linda has just celebrated her sixtieth birthday with a six-week trip to Myanmar, Vietnam and Cambodia. "A week away for every decade." They got back on 21 March, "just before Emirates stopped flying commercial routes".

She says she has been able to focus on writing during the lockdown, once she'd "recovered from the jet lag". She explains

that she has gone back to concentrating on her crime fiction series again: "I have many plot lines inspired by my time working in Glasgow's criminal courts and the first book, Not Proven, should be available at the end of this year.

On dealing with the lockdown, Linda says, "It's said that if you can't change a situation, you should change your attitude towards it, so I decided to get back to my desk, get some structure into my days and get busy." She confesses: "It works most of the time, but I must admit I'm less productive than normal."



Linda and Christian have been keeping in contact with their friends in Sayalonga in the form of virtual Friday-evening dinner parties, which she says have become "a highlight" and help them stay in touch with their Spanish "family".



Linda Decker on the banks of the River Teith, Callander, Scotland. L. DECKER



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

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WHAT HAPPENED TODAY?

15 MAY 1793

Farm labourer makes Spanish aviation history

Diego Marín had no scientific education, yet he built a flying machine out of wood, cloth and feathers

On the night of 15 May 1793, a farm labourer with no formal scientific education made Spanish aviation history with an invention that was purely the result of his own ingenuity, skill and courage. Although his achievements were often overlooked, today, he is recognised in Spain as the ‘Father of Aviation’.

Diego Marín Aguilera was born in Coruña del Conde (near Burgos) in 1757. His father died when he was a child and the youngster was forced to take control of his

seven siblings, working as an agricultural labourer in order to support the family. From an early age, Marín had dreamed of flying and it soon became an obsession.

Marín did not have any formal access to the trials and errors (or possibly even knowledge) of his early flying predecessors, such as Leonardo da Vinci, or Armen Firman, who, in 852, attempted to launch himself from the top of the minaret of the Great Mosque of Cordoba. Like them though,

Marín had an inventive mind, designing several labour-saving devices for working the land. However, he was forever intrigued by the eagles that soared overhead and he would spend several years building a flying machine out of wood,



Castle and monument in Coruña del Conde. SUR

cloth and feathers. With the help of a local blacksmith, the inventor produced sophisticated metal hinges that allowed the wings to flap. Marín studied the bodies of the birds, making calculations regarding the weight, volume and dimensions of the feathers.

On 15 May, 1793, Marín launched his flying machine from the top of the local castle, cruising for approximately 500 metres, crossing the river Arandilla, before crash-landing when one of the metal joints broke; he escaped with minor cuts and bruises. However, the locals

turned against Marín; they accused him of being a lunatic and set fire to his machine. The inventor never attempted fly again. He died six years later at the age of 44, depressed and almost forgotten.

In 1993, the Spanish Air Force installed a monument to Marín next to the castle from where he took off.

Bilingual crossword inside back page

LANGUAGE FOOTNOTE

Madera	Wood
Pluma	Feather
Aviación	Aviation
Volar	To fly
Águila	Eagle
Hermanos	Siblings
Obsesión	Obsession
Antecesor	Predecessor
Conocimiento	Knowledge
Saltar	To jump
Invento	Invention
Artificio	Contraption
Ingenio	Ingenuity
Alas	Wings
Herrero	Blacksmith
Castillo	Castle
Deprimido	Depressed
Cálculos	Calculations
Cruzar	To cross

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A passion for Andalucía inspires debut novel

Flamenco Forever is a love story set in Andalucía, London and the USA and focuses on ethical and social issues that confront modern society

TONY BRYANT



A Benalmádena-based British author with a passion for Andalucía has recently published her debut novel. The flamenco-theme love story, published in both English and Spanish, is set in Andalucía, London, Los Angeles and New York and focuses on the ethical and social issues that confront modern society.

Flamenco Forever: An Anda-

lusian Amor is the work of Julie Silverton, a former journalist who has lived in Benalmádena since 2015.

Julie studied English Literature and Philosophy at Warwick University and she discovered the beauties of Andalucía and the mysterious world of flamenco while holidaying in southern Spain. As a result of her fascination with flamenco,

Julie decided to enrol in a flamenco dance studio in the UK. She continued with her dance lessons when she arrived in Spain to care for her elderly mother, who has lived in Andalucía for most of her life.

Love of authentic flamenco

"It was during those early years when we holidayed in southern Spain that I discovered flamenco

and I was entranced. It was a combination of my love of the Andalusian region, coupled with my passion for the dance, that inspired me to write the book," Julie explains to SUR in English.

The book's central character is an English school teacher who, coping with the betrayal of her boyfriend, starts a new life in Spain. She finds herself hopelessly attracted to a celebrated

flamenco dancer and the story takes the reader on a roller-coaster ride through enchanting Andalusian towns and a collection of colourful Gypsy-flamenco characters.

"I have always had a love of flamenco ever since I witnessed authentic flamenco years ago in a Gypsy encampment in Seville. I knew I needed something more and always had a desire to write. When I arrived in Benalmádena this time round, the Andalusian culture and environment again filled me with wonder: it was the perfect soil to plant the story's roots," she declares.

Julie describes the book as contemporary women's fiction with deep social, spiritual and ethical issues underlying the whole story. She also focuses on the duende of flamenco, a phenomenon which is usually only experienced during a traditional Gypsy performance.

"I won't give away too many of the plots, but one of them concerns the scourge of people-trafficking throughout Europe, which has a central part in the story, as does the use of flamenco duende by my hero to resolve his deep emotional issues. A faith dimension is touched on," she says.

Ramón Ruiz, one of the UK's leading flamenco guitarists, describes the book as "a true immersion in what authentic flamenco is truly about".



Julie Silverton.
SUR

LEGAL ADVICE



International Lawyers
answers readers' queries

Please send your questions or contact us directly to arrange a personal appointment on:

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www.ilagoston.com
Offices in Málaga, Marbella and Cádiz

REF. G. O. R.

I have a plot of land in the countryside and last week the neighbour decided to burn off some stubble, but the fire got out of control. We managed to put it out quickly but my car, which I had parked nearby, suffered damage to the

bodywork. Despite having helped him to control the fire, my neighbour says that he will not pay for the damage to my car, because his home insurance does not cover it. What can I do?

The fact that your neighbour's insurance does not cover the damage does not mean that he is not directly responsible, as he has caused some material damage that he must compensate. In order to solve this issue, it will be necessary to ask for a report assessing the damages to your car, and if your neighbour does not pay voluntarily, then there will be no other option than to sue him at court.

REF. H. A. T.

I plan to buy a property in Spain but am waiting for the

bank to approve the mortgage. We have discussed signing a private contract in the meantime and then, when sorted, sign the title deed at the notary. However, the wife has gone to Venezuela for family reasons, and will not be back for six months. Since they are married, will they both have to sign, or can just one of them do it? In the nota simple, the husband appears as the only owner.

In order to answer your question properly, there is a very important detail that has to be checked, which is the economic regime that governs their marriage, since if they are married in community of property, even if the husband is the only one appearing on the nota simple, it will be necessary that the wife also signs.

Malaga prepares to host the Max Awards

The gala ceremony, which was due to take place at the Cervantes Theatre in June, has now been rescheduled for 7 September

FRANCISCO GRIÑÁN

MALAGA. The Max Awards for the Performing Arts are due to take place at the Cervantes Theatre on 7 September, and Malaga actor Antonio Banderas is hoping A Chorus Line, which he produced and co-directed and in which he played the lead role at his Teatro del Soho Caixa-bank project, will win the Best Musical award. His show is one of the three finalists for that category.

The awards ceremony, which is now in its 23rd year, was originally scheduled for 29 June but had to be rescheduled due to the coronavirus crisis. A total of 386 shows had been hoping for success, but this has now been narrowed down to 35 finalists in

the 19 categories. This ceremony will be a joint celebration in a way, as 2020 is the 150th anniversary of the Cervantes Theatre.

The finalists were recently announced by the Sociedad General de Autores de España, and A Chorus Line, which has one nomination, is the only finalist from Malaga.

Shock (El Cóndor y el Puma), by Andrés Lima and produced by the Centro Dramático, has the highest number of nominations (four), followed by Com els Grecs, by Josep Maria Mestres, with three. These two shows are competing for the Best Theatre Show award alongside Miguel del Arco's 'Jauría', based on the trial of the gang known as 'La Manada'.

Unusually, the theatre company La Maquiné from Granada, formed by Joaquín Casanova and Elisa Ramos, will not only be presenting the Max Awards ceremony but is also hoping for three of the awards for its show Acróbata y Arlequín.



Antonio Banderas

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DENISE BUSH

GARDENING

Thalictrum delavayi

With lacy fern-like foliage and clouds of lilac flowers during the summer, this pretty perennial is a stunning addition to a cool border.

Thalictrum delavayi is native to China and Tibet and was discovered in the nineteenth century by French missionary

and botanist, Père Jean Marie Delavay. It is a member of the Ranunculaceae family (buttercup) and grows to around one metre tall by about half a metre wide. It is commonly called Chinese meadow rue although

it is not related to rue the herb. The upright stems have a dark-purple tinge and the delicate leaves are a bluish green.

The dense panicles of purple-blue flowers, which have attractive long white stamens, form above the foliage, giving the impression of a purple cloud of blooms.

There is also a white variety, Thalictrum delavayi 'Album'.

After flowering, the stems can be cut back unless the seeds are being saved. Meadow rue will die back to the ground in the winter and resprout in spring when it is best to apply a thick layer of mulch. It needs a well-drained but moist, rich soil in a situation where it will receive dappled shade throughout the day during the summer. Thalictrum delavayi will not withstand fierce heat or humidity but will tolerate short periods of frost.

After two to three years, Thalictrum delavayi may form a large clump in which case it may be necessary to divide it to promote lots of new growth; the best time to do this is in the spring as soon as shoots start to appear.

Like clematis and anemones, meadow rue flowers don't produce nectar and are only visited by insects for their pollen.



Thalictrum delavayi and close up of the flowers (insert). WIKIMEDIA

READERS' PHOTOS



MARGARET WISHART

Cape daisies

This photo was sent in by Margaret Wishart who says, "Osteospermums, also known as Cape daisy, look wonderful in our garden in Alcaucín. They have been flowering now for several months and have also seeded themselves in other parts of the garden."



FREDDY VERLEYEN

Hard work pays off

SUR in English reader Freddy Verleyen spends three hours every sunny day tending his garden in Benalmádena Costa and it looks like his all his hard work has certainly paid off.

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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'Puerto Banús is for fun, beautiful people who know how to enjoy life'

Paolo Ghirelli Restaurateur

Puerto Banús, famous for its grand parties, will spend its 50th anniversary without celebration or celebrities. Restaurateur Paolo Ghirelli, currently trapped in Buenos Aires by the Covid crisis, looks back at those early years

ALEKX
M. SAANDERS



MARBELLA. Since its ostentatious opening on 18 May 1970, the luxury marina Puerto José Banús has become a jet-set playground framed with world renowned designer boutiques, stylish bars and restaurants and glamorous nightclubs. The legendary Marbella restaurateur, Italian Paolo Ghirelli, considers himself as a native of Puerto Banús. One of the picturesque corners of the iconic Ribera wharf is named after him by the locals.

Paolo, how did you come to settle on the Costa del Sol?

Quite suddenly. Just before Christmas 1969 I moved to Marbella. I fell in love with the place and settled in the Old Town - Casco Antiguo. But when the first apartment buildings in Puerto Banús were ready, I moved from the centre of Marbella and I have lived in this marvellous place until now. So, I would say that I am a native of Puerto Banús.

Did you ever meet José Banús?

Sure... I met him and his wife María del Pilar Calvo. He is like me; in the 60s he moved to Marbella to start a new life and a new business. However, he had come here seven years before I made the decision to leave Italy. In that period he was always busy with property developing the western part of Marbella. He bought the land which is known now as Nueva Andalucía. It is nice that José Banús managed to transform a small fishermen's village into the largest entertainment centre of the Costa del Sol for tourists from all over the world. I can't help admiring people who not only dream but also make their dreams come true.

What was your dream when you moved to Marbella?

I worked in gastronomy before moving to this country. I must stress that at that time Italian cuisine was exotic as it was almost



Modern day Puerto Banús. SUR

unknown in this part of Spain. That's why I am considered one of the first chefs to make fresh pasta on the Costa del Sol. And before I opened my restaurant, La Meridiana, I started an eatery in Puerto Banús in the most picturesque corner of the port, in my opinion. I ran the bar Da Paolo and later I moved my restaurant D. Leone from the Old Town of Marbella to Puerto Banús and I added just "del Puerto" to the name. Now the names are kept by current owners. So, the people and guests still call this corner on the first line of Ribera - "Corner da Paolo".

So you are, like José Banús, memorialised in the port...

Kind of... Actually there are more emblematic corners on the first and second lines where there are lots of boutiques, nightclubs and, of course, restaurants. One of the corners is named after the restaurant Los Bandidos - a pioneer of Puerto Banús gastronomy. Moreover, just at the main entrance there is a pleasant meeting spot called by many Corner Salduba-Sinatra. You know, these two bars have welcomed people since the very beginning. Salduba is an ancient name for Marbella given by the Romans. Sinatra... obviously, the bar was named after the famous American singer and actor. Lots of Hollywood actors and American singers have visited Puerto Banús. Most of them had breakfasts, lunches, dinners in my restaurant and my bar. Among them Rod Stewart, Joan Collins, Mick Jagger... Personally, I kept in contact with Sean Connery when he lived in Marbella for several years



Paolo Ghirelli. SUR

and we were close friends with the singer Prince, whom I considered a humble and very interesting person.

Lots of well-known personalities were spotted at the opening of Puerto Banús 50 years ago...

- Yes. The opening party was extravagant and, as they say, with no expenses spared. Frankly, I didn't pay much attention to the event. At that time I was focused on my business... in every sense of the word. As I mentioned I had moved just months before the opening of Puerto Banús. However, I heard that Prince Rainier and Princess Grace of Monaco, and my favourite ladies Sophia Loren and Liza Minnelli attended the event. I saw that Marbella in the evening of 18 May was crowded. Later I read that

HIS WORDS

JOSÉ BANÚS

"I can't help admiring people who not only dream but also make their dreams come true"

TODAY'S VISITORS

"Nowadays Puerto Banús increasingly attracts millennials from all over the world, especially from the UK"

about three hundred waiters from Seville went to Marbella to serve the guests. Sure, Marbella chefs were curious to find out what dishes were prepared. Everybody spoke about Beluga caviar.

The port is home to superyachts. Which yachts could you remember easily?

It is fair to say that the port took Marbella to the next level and helped to internationalise it. Its berths rapidly filled up with luxury yachts from different corners of the world. Among the many famous faces on yachts was King Fahd of Saudi Arabia. I knew him personally. La Meridiana is located very close to his palace. He was one of my clientele. So his yachts have always been of astonishing beauty. Even now you can see in

the most western berth the biggest yachts belonging to his successors and other Arab sheikhs. I remember the yacht of Onassis. Last year my countryman - the Italian fashion designer Roberto Cavalli - arrived here from Mallorca in his floating work of art.

Do you think Puerto Banús is a playground only for the rich and famous?

Since the inauguration, Puerto Banús has depicted the high life on the Costa del Sol. In the very beginning the resort was visited by exclusive personalities and noble families. That's why, it was synonymous with wealth, extravagance, sophisticated night life. In the 80s and 90s fairly high-toned nightclubs appeared in Marbella. Nowadays Puerto Banús increasingly attracts millennials from all over the world and especially from the UK. I know, crazy nights of Puerto Banús have been filmed for some UK TV shows. I think Puerto Banús retains its status as the all-year-round holiday destination but not only for the rich and famous. Probably more for... fun and beautiful people who know how to enjoy life. And life is always in motion.

The marina is always full of action. What would you highlight?

I like the moments when Puerto Banús rolls out red carpets for its events. One of them is Marbella International Film Festival. I am very interested in and enthusiastic about cinema as an art form. So I tend to attend it. And as an Italian for sure I love fashion. So, I was glad when Puerto Banús started hosting Marbella Fashion Week. On the catwalk "on the water," national and international designers present the latest trends. It is unique! In addition, it puts Marbella firmly on the map as a reference in the world of fashion.

Paolo, are you going to celebrate the 50th anniversary of Puerto Banús?

Definitely. For sure, we could have arranged something on a greater scale... if it weren't for this coronavirus pandemic. It's a pity I will not be in Marbella on the day, as I am stuck in Argentina for all these months of quarantine. In February I came to Buenos Aires to spend the hottest month here but the coronavirus changed my plans and made my return impossible. Anyway, I will celebrate the anniversary here... with a glass of my favourite inky dark Malbec.

Speaking of plans, what is the future of Puerto Banús?

I am sure the combination of beauty and functionality will make this marina famous and attractive for ages. I hope the main feature of Puerto Banús - quality - will be not decreased. As for me, next year I will celebrate my own Palladium jubilee. Believe me, I have relished my moments of glory and now it is a moment to relish life. When I was 70 I took the decision to leave my business and thereby to let the younger generation continue to make my favourite Puerto Banús prosper.

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OPERA AND DANCE

Nightly Opera Stream

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

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

15 May. Viewers' Choice: Donizetti's Lucia di Lammermoor. Starring Joan Sutherland, Alfredo Kraus, Pablo Elvira, and Paul Plishka, conducted by Richard Bonyngue. From November 13, 1982.

16 May. Verdi's Rigoletto. Starring Diana Damrau, Oksana Volkova, Piotr Beczala, and Željko Lučić, conducted by Michele Mariotti. From February 16, 2013

17 May. Verdi's Nabucco. Starring Liudmyla Monastyrskaya, Jamie Barton, Russell Thomas, Plácido Domingo, and Dmitry Belosselskiy, conducted by James Levine. From January 7, 2017. From April 25, 2015.

Ballet

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

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



Ballet. MALANDAIN DE BIARRITZ

Malandain de Biarritz on YouTube and Vimeo.

Ballet and contemporary dance

SADLER'S WELLS. Full length dance performances and workshops online. The website www.sadlerswells.com provides free access to Facebook premieres, family dance workshops, Company of Elders workshops, digital stage programmes and much more.

Full length productions

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

The programme includes both ballet and opera and the schedule can be found on [facebook.com/royaloperahouse](https://www.facebook.com/royaloperahouse) or <https://www.you->

[tube.com/user/RoyalOperaHouse](https://www.youtube.com/user/RoyalOperaHouse)
Until 17 May. Metamorphosis. A dark surrealist nightmare is conjured up in Arthur Pita's dance-theatre adaptation of Kafka's novella.

Until 24 May. Gloriana. Benjamin Britten's moving operatic portrayal of Elizabeth I caught between public duty and private passion.

Until 1 June. A Winter's Tale. Shakespeare's tale of love and loss becomes the most masterful of narrative ballets in Christopher Wheelton's inspired adaptation with music by Jody Talbot.

Until 8 June. La Traviata. Richard Eyre's production provides the perfect setting for Verdi's opera about a courtesan who sacrifices all for love.

MUSEUM TOURS

The MET 360° Project

THE METROPOLITAN MUSEUM NY.

The museum has six award winning videos of its three installations.

Now you can virtually visit the Met's art and architecture without stepping foot inside the buildings. The six 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. <https://www.metmuseum.org/art/online-features/met-360-project>

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 South Pacific 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/>

Natural History museum

SMITHSONIAN NATIONAL MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY.

Tours of past and present exhibits among others.

An easy to use website with access to past exhibitions, permanent installations and the museum's support centre. <https://naturalhistory.si.edu/visit/virtual-tour>

CONCERTS AND MUSIC

Take Me To The World

A SONDHEIM 90TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION.

A video of the concert tribute to Stephen Sondheim.

Sondheim is famous for many works including the lyrics for West Side Story and Gypsy to his full scores of shows including Sweeney Todd, Follies, A Little Night Music, Into the Woods and Sunday in the Park with George. Find it on YouTube Take Me To The World Sondheim 90th Birthday Celebration

Free concerts

ROYAL ALBERT HOME. The Royal

Albert Hall has a varied programme of concerts available to stream online.

The Royal Albert Hall will be streaming some of the world's most talented artists online at <https://www.royalalberthall.com/tickets/series/royal-albert-home/> or facebook Royal Albert Home

16 May, 2pm BST. Opera For Kids. Baritone Maciek O'Shea from Albert's Band will entertain with opera favourites by Mozart, Handel and Bizet, as well as some lesser-known arias and some traditional songs. Opera For Kids is a regular series of events perfect for children.

17 May, 7pm BST. Sea Shambles. Anchored by Robin Ince (co-host of Radio 4's Infinite Monkey Cage), Dr Helen Czerski (renowned physicist and oceanographer) and Steve Backshall (naturalist, explorer and wildlife presenter), the show will see a range of special guest scientists, comedians and musicians join the fun from their living rooms for a science, music and comedy show about the past, present and future of our blue planet.

21 May, 8.15pm BST. Scouting For Girls. Scouting For Girls shot to fame in 2007 with their chart-topping eponymous debut album, which spawned the singles She's So Lovely and Elvis Ain't Dead, and last year celebrated the release of their fifth studio album, The Trouble with Boys.

Live music

NTS. Live shows as well as some archives to listen to.

How coronavirus will change visits to museums and art centres

Individual or family visits with no audio guides, pamphlets or written material and two-metre markers on the floor to keep a safe distance

ANTONIO JAVIER LÓPEZ

MÁLAGA. The image of a museum gallery crowded with visitors is already history. At least, for a while. New regulations to prevent the spread of the coronavirus will affect cultural centres as then reopen after lockdown.

The order published by the Ministry of Health in the BOE (official state gazette), details the rules that these institutions must follow during the plan designed by the government to ease lockdown restrictions. This allows the reopening of museums (with restrictions) from phase 1, which the province of Malaga has not yet entered.

Among the new indications are the limitation of visits to individuals or family groups, the elimination of audio guides and printed materials and the placement of markers on the floor so that visitors maintain a two-metre safety distance.

There are also restrictions on museums during this first stage, such as a reduction in capacity to 30 per cent, the impossibility of organising any educational or cultural activities and the need to constantly monitor attendance to avoid crowding in the exhibition halls.

Sales online

The order "recommends" that ticket sales are made online, and payment by card encouraged. The Ministry of Health also establishes that museums may alter the usual route through their galleries, reorganise entrances and halls or even exclude exhibition areas that do not allow a



Phase 1 will allow the reopening of museums and art centres. NITO SALAS

minimum security distance of two metres between visitors.

The guidelines state that tactile information screens and elements designed for use by visitors should be switched off and "audio guides, leaflets in the hall or other similar material should not be made available to visitors".

When managing the capacity of the rooms, the order allows the possibility for museums to

limit the maximum number of tickets available and warns that the public, "including those waiting to enter the museum", must keep a security distance of two metres. "For this purpose, taped markers must be placed on the floor to mark this distance in access and waiting areas," it states.

The ministerial order also requires the installation of screens in places "involving direct con-

tact between workers and the visiting public" such as ticket offices and information counters, where sanitising or similar gel dispensers should also be made available.

In addition, museums should inform users through their websites and social network profiles of the health and hygiene measures "that must be complied with during visits".

Cat nightlight. RIJKSMUSEUM



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Online fashion Show

LA CALA DE MIJAS LIONS CLUB Raising funds during the pandemic. La Cala de Mijas Lions are inviting people to send in photos in two categories. Category 1: Wearing a favourite outfit, looking glamorous, for an evening out or special event (not a wedding dress) or category 2: a photo that reflects your sense of humour, for example a photo bomb, fancy dress party, beach, sport, funny accident ... No crowd scenes, just individuals. Each entry 10€. For how to enter or for more information call Sandie: 663529280 or email smtpackhorse@gmail.com Competition closes 22 May.

THEATRE / DRAMA

Online theatre productions

NATIONAL THEATRE AT HOME. Watch the best of British theatre every Thursday. The 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.nationaltheatre.org.uk/> **From 4 until 11 June, 7pm BST.** Coriolanus. Tom Hiddleston (Betrayal, The Avengers, The Night Manager) plays the title role in Shakespeare's searing tragedy of political manipulation and revenge. When an old adversary threatens Rome, the city calls once more on her hero and defender: Coriolanus. But he has enemies at home too.

Shakespeare online

THE GLOBE THEATRE. A series of Free-To-View archive performances are being released online by the theatre at <https://www.shakespeareglobe.com/watch#free-youtube-premieres>. **Until 17 May.** The Two Noble Kinsmen. **18 - 31 May.** The Winter's Tale. **1 - 14 June.** The Merry Wives of Windsor. **15 - 28 June.** A Midsummer's Night's Dream.

Theatre streaming

CHICHESTER FESTIVAL THEATRE. The theatre will be streaming productions, each one available for a month. Productions will be captioned for deaf and hard of hearing audiences. Audio introductions will help set the scene for blind and partially sighted audiences. There is also an archive of

talks and events and podcasts available on the following website: <https://www.cft.org.uk/> **Until 29 May.** David Walliams The Midnight Gang. **From 21 May - 19 June.** Anna Ledwich's adaptation of Beauty and the Beast.

Hallucinations

DEAD CENTRE. An experimental theatrical production. Lippy is the name of this gripping experimental theatre piece which is available on Vimeo.com. Just type in Lippy on Vimeo. if asked for a password, use 'context'.

The Shows Must Go On!

ANDREW LLOYD WEBBER. A different Andrew Lloyd Webber musical each week is live streamed on YouTube. Each show goes live on Friday at 7pm BST (8pm Spain), and remains viewable for 48 hours afterwards. YouTube The Shows Must Go On! **15 May.** Cats. The film is based on the 1981 stage musical Cats by Andrew Lloyd Webber, which is based on the 1939 collection of poetry Old Possum's Book of Practical Cats by T. S. Eliot. Andrew Lloyd Webber himself oversaw orchestration for the film and called on Gillian Lynne, the show's original choreographer, to choreograph the film.

Larger than life circus show

CIRQUE DU SOLEIL. Moments from the shows on its new digital hub. Every Friday at 8pm BST (9pm Spain), the troupe will share the most impressive moments from its larger-than-life shows on CirqueConnect, its new digital hub. <https://www.cirquedusoleil.com/cirqueconnect> Also for an hour of highlights see YouTube Cirque du Soleil One Night for One Drop.

MORE IDEAS

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

Aquarium tour

OCEANOGRÁFIC VALENCIA. A virtual, 360° tour of the aquarium. The Oceanogràfic in Valencia is the biggest aquarium in Europe. You can now visit thirteen different rooms, each one centred on a species or climate at <https://www.oceanografic.org/visita-virtual/>

Cultural Campus

WYSING ARTS CENTRE. Experimental residencies for UK and international artists. A critically acclaimed public programme of gallery exhibitions and events including conferences, symposia, workshops and music events. Broadcasts weekly Thursdays at 9pm and Friday at 9am BST. <http://www.wysingartscentre.org/>

Cabaret and comedy

JOE'S PUB. Scottish actor Alan Cumming in a series of shows filmed in America. Alan Cumming became an American citizen in 2008 and this 2018 Joe's Pub set explores his immigrant experience. YouTube Joe's Pub.

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

Space watching

STARLINK. Track satellites across the night sky with this online tool. Starlink is a satellite constellation being constructed by American company SpaceX to provide satellite Internet access. The constellation will consist of thousands of mass-produced small satellites in low Earth orbit (LEO), working in combination with ground transceivers. The satellites can be seen crossing the sky at certain times using the tracker www.findstarlink.com

Creative activities

FAMILY HOW TO. The Royal Academy of Arts suggest ways for the family to get creative. Inspired by the RA's world class exhibitions, leading artists and architects and Collection, this site includes a range of creative activities such as how to make a recycled sculpture, making stencils and vegetable prints etc. <https://www.royalacademy.org.uk/articles/tag/family-how-to>

Meet and Make

LEEDS MUSEUMS AND ART GALLERY. The adult art and crafts sessions linked to artworks on display. Last year Leeds Art Gallery held three craft workshops supported by the Arts Council England which are now on YouTube Leeds Museums Meet and Make.

Online choir

FIND YOUR VOICE One hour singing sessions every Wednesday at 5pm. Local opera singer Clarice Williams runs the Find Your Voice Vocal Studio which raises money for charities as well as allows people to get together for a chat and sing songs from a varied repertoire. Participants do not have to be competent singers. registration 5 euros. Facebook Find Your Voice Vocal Studio.

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/>

Photography Competition

MIJAS, CON OTRA MIRADA. Take a photo from your balcony or terrace

during quarantine.

Enter the competition with a picture that has inspired you taken from your balcony or terrace during quarantine and send it to cultura@mijas.es The rules, photo size, format and how to register can be found at: <https://mijas.website/mijas-con-otra-mirada/>

Online story reading

BEDTIME STORIES WITH DOLLY PARTON. A series of ten stories read by Dolly Parton. Goodnight with Dolly features Dolly Parton reading a series of Imagination Library books for children. <https://imaginationlibrary.com/good-night-with-dolly/>

Free Audio Books

LITERARY CLASSICS. A selection of classics and children's books. Besides Wuthering Heights, Shakespeare and The Curious Case of Benjamin Button are Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone and The Jungle Book among many others. <https://stories.audible.com/start-listen>

Indoor learning activities

U3A COSTA DEL SOL FUENGIRO-LA The association has turned to social media to continue offering a service to its members. Art history, bridge, quizzes and even a choral group are just some of the online activities being offered by the U3A. Anyone can become a member, contact www.u3afuengirolacostadel-sol.com/ for more information.

How To be Happy

THE SCIENCE OF WELL BEING Yale University has made this course completely free. The ten-week course, led by instructor Laurie Santos, will break down the science behind happiness, shining a light on common misconceptions and teaching you how to create better

habits for yourself. <https://www.coursera.org/learn/the-science-of-well-being>

RELIGIOUS SERVICES

Anglican church service

COSTA DEL SOL WEST CHAPLAINCY. Services available online from the website www.costachurch.com. Sunday morning services available at 10am every Sunday on YouTube Costa Del Sol West Chaplaincy. Pre-service prayers are at 9.45am <https://zoom.us/j/968525376> Sundays, Tuesdays and Thursdays, Tea at Five Live (5pm-6pm on Zoom). Wednesday night prayer Compline: link is on the website.

Sunday and Wednesday Services

ANGLICAN CHAPLAINCY OF NERJA AND ALMUÑECAR Regular services on Zoom app. Every Sunday at midday and on Wednesday mornings at 9.30am. People wishing to access the service E-mail details to Fr Nigel Thomas (Chaplain): cofenerja@gmail.com or John Hodgson: hodgsonjbp@gmail.com.



Clarice Williams. FIND YOUR VOICE

Benalmádena story-telling marathon goes online

T. BRYANT

BENALMÁDENA. Benalmádena town hall has announced that this year's Maratón de Cuentos will take place online. Under the banner of 'Tales from Home', the digital story marathon will take place on Saturday 30 May between midday and 8pm.

The initiative, now in its 25th year, invites participants to narrate a story, this time from home, either by live streaming or pre-recorded video. Those interested in taking part must register via e-mail (casadelacultura@benalmadena.es) indicating whether they want to participate live or by video. The town hall will contact

each participant to arrange time schedules. Participation is open to all age groups and there is no restrictions on story subject, although the organisers reserve the right to omit any material deemed unfit for family viewing.

The programme will also include 'Draw Your Favourite Story', aimed at artists who wish to submit a drawing or painting of a particular theme.

The registration deadline is midday on Thursday 21 May.

The event will be broadcast live on the Benalmádena town hall's YouTube channel and Facebook page.

More information, www.benalmadena.es



The harvesting of wild asparagus is a deeply rooted practice in Andalucía. **sUR**

Once a delicacy for kings, asparagus is low in calories and packed with nutrients

The popularity of green asparagus waned when a method of producing aromatic, white stems of blanched asparagus was developed

ESPERANZA PELÁEZ

MÁLAGA. Cultivated asparagus has the honour of having been one of the few vegetables considered a delicacy on aristocratic tables in times when the passion for red meat dominated.

Louis XIV, the Sun King, ordered the planting of a field of *Asparagus officinalis* in Versailles in the 17th century to ensure supplies. Although today white asparagus is more highly regarded, the French monarch knew only of green asparagus because the technique of blanching or covering the tender stems with earth to prevent the development of chlorophyll that gave rise to white asparagus was not developed until the 19th cen-

tury, allowing this plant, which originated in the eastern Mediterranean, to be productive in cold climates.

More delicate and aromatic than its predecessor, white asparagus displaced the latter from the preferences of more refined palates, and the green one remained mainly for the farmers' own consumption, in temperate zones such as the plains of the rivers Genil or Ebro, where the Moors had introduced the plant. Here it had also spread into the wild (main photo), producing a rather more bitter but delicious product.

It was on the Granada plains where, in the 1960s, a group of farmers organised themselves to farm green asparagus for commercial purposes, and today the Huétor-Tájar asparagus is protected by a designation of origin.

Open-air cultivation and chlorophyll make green asparagus less sweet, but the sun allows more nutrients such as vitamins

and folic acid to develop.

It is low in calories and is often relegated to be added to salads as part of 'operation bikini' but try frying it in hot oil. Less diet-worthy but with a little coarse salt it's delicious.

Wild asparagus was once an important dietary supplement in rural environments and the harvesting of wild asparagus is a deeply rooted practice in Andalucía. Its local and marginal trade is tolerated, but asparagus does not normally reach stalls and fruit shops. With a bitterness absent in cultivated asparagus, it is delicious in scrambled eggs, purées and casseroles. If you are lucky enough to pick a good sized bunch and are not going to use all of it, wash, dry and freeze it raw to add to stews.

When buying asparagus, look for local produce and freshness. Always check the origin and when you get home, wash it, dry it and wrap it in kitchen paper before putting it in the salad drawer of the fridge.

'Restaurant' dining while in confinement

ANDREW J. LINN



Judging from what is currently offered by restaurants to ease the effects of confinement, memories appear remarkably short. Have we really forgotten what it is like to enter a restaurant, be guided to a table in the bar area for the purpose of spending a relaxing half-hour with a pre-dinner aperitif accompanied by some nibbles? These anticipatory moments are probably the most enjoyable of the evening. At this stage we are dreaming of a perfect meal and expectations are high. Then, on to the table. This is all part of the experience.

While it is understandable that restaurants currently prevented from welcoming customers through their doors need to keep the money coming in, I have yet to hear about a successful fine dining experience at home, courtesy of a local hostelry.

While we would prefer all restaurants to be making enough to survive, don't let them promote the experience as if it were in some way equivalent to eating out. For takeaway customers there is no personal contact, no appetizing smells from the kitchen, no wine tasting ritual, so why should we pay the same as we

would pay on their premises? We have to wash up afterwards, and although they will argue that the cost of delivering the meal is expensive and the loss of wine sales hits their bottom line, these are unconvincing arguments.

The cost of the raw material is not usually a major factor in any establishment's cost column, so it is hard to justify restaurant menu prices for takeaways.

WINE OF THE WEEK

Castillo de San Diego

Love it or hate it, this wine has an unusual background. Originally produced from surplus Palomino sherry grapes by the great Barbadillo bodega, the price ensured it a place on wine lists. Allegedly the best-selling white wine in Andalucía, you have to get a taste for it, being unlike any other white wine. Excellent value for money at around 3.90 euros.





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ELENA MARTÍN



What exactly goes into all those sweets?

When you read this headline, and think of the typical gummy, stretchy sweet, some may think they are all petroleum jelly, but no. The main ingredient in all sweets, even the jelly kind, is sugar. And this is usually added in large quantities, although under different names, such as glucose syrup, fructose and sucrose. That's why people like them so much.

Sugar, as well as giving food a sweet flavour, activates the dopamine and opioids system of the brain, which are associated with wellbeing and pleasure, and creates an addiction similar to that of drugs, according to research by the Aarhus University in Denmark, which was published recently in the Scientific Reports magazine.

For that reason, and the consequences it can have on health (obesity, diabetes, caries, hypertension, cholesterol), sugar should be consumed with caution.

The World Health Organisation (WHO) has warned on several occasions that free sugars, the type that is added to sweets, should not account for more than 10 per cent of a day's calorie consumption, for children or adults. That means around 25 grammes for a diet of 2,000 calories, but a handful of sweets easily contains more than the recommended amount.

"For every 100 grammes of sweets we eat, we take in between 50 and 80 grammes of sugar and between 400 and 500 calories," warns Teresa Cenarro, vice-president of the Spanish paediatricians association AEPAP and a member of its working group on Gastroenterology and Nutrition.

The WHO directives do not apply to intrinsic sugars, in other words those present in whole, fresh fruit and vegetables, but they do apply to juices, which some sweets contain.

The Spanish Royal Decree 348/2011, which regulates the quality and composition of these products, divides them into different categories. Sweets can be hard (lollipops), soft (toffees), compressed or gums, and the definition also includes gels, liquorice, foams and fondants, candies, lozenges, sugared almonds, caramelised nuts and chewing gums.

The recipes vary between the brands of sweets, but their labels all say they contain "sugar or added sweeteners". The latter are those that appear with the letter E followed by a number, such as

Little goodness. The kids' favourite gums contain gelling agents, juices, artificial colours, aromas... and vast quantities of sugar

sorbitol (E-420) or saccharine (E-954).

With regard to what they are made of, to quote a few examples, hard sweets "are the result of a highly concentrated crystallised mass which is principally composed of a minimum of 80 per cent sugar, glucose syrup and/or inverted sugar," explains Silvia del Lamo, a doctor in Food Science and collaborating lecturer in Health Science Studies at the Oberta Catalunya university.

Sweets such as gums contain gelling agents like gelatine, which is a collagen principally obtained from the cartilage of a pig or from fish; and gums, such as arabic or xanthum gum. There are also gelatines suitable for vegans, such as agar-agar and pectin, and some which are not suitable for coeli-

acs, such as some modified starches. They usually all contain bees wax, to make them shiny and stop them sticking together.

In some fruit jelly sweets, the gelling agent is partly substituted by fruit pulp. "That is a more natural alternative, but it is not really healthier, because the calorie value is similar," says Del Lamo.

Chewing gum is "made with a chewable plastic or elastic base, which may be natural rubber or synthetic, and is insoluble in water," she says.

Smaller portions

Given that people are becoming increasingly more interested in what they are eating, the food companies have found themselves obliged to develop formu-

Experts encourage people to look for alternatives, because sweets "provide nothing in the way of nutrition", just lots and lots of sugar

las adapted to changing demands, including sweet manufacturers.

As a result, there are now mini-sizes, whose portions are smaller to reduce calorie value and sugar intake. Others have focused less on the amount and more on the content, such as 'sugar-free' options which "contain polyalcohols" in its place, warns dietician and nutritionist

Lujan Soler.

These are non-digestible carbohydrates which, although they have fewer calories than sugar, can produce gastro-intestinal problems if consumed in excess.

New products also include sweets which promise extra health benefits, by incorporating some healthy ingredients like ginger, collagen, Omega 3 or essential oils.

Soler, however, recommends that anyone who wants an occasional treat should look for other alternatives, because these "provide nothing in the way of nutrition".

She suggests options such as such as home-made cake made with cane sugar, or bars of dried fruits and nuts mixed with pure cocoa.

WARNINGS FROM THE EXPERTS

Teresa Cenarro
Vice-president of the Spanish paediatricians association

"Don't give bags of sweets at birthdays"

"Sweets contain around 400 to 500 calories per 100 grammes, but they are empty calories. They have no nutritional value and eating too many increases the risk of dental caries and obesity - 35 per cent of children between the ages of eight and 16 in Spain are overweight. Also, the high

amount of refined sugar is absorbed very quickly and produces peaks of insulin which could lead to diabetes in the future. That's why children should think of them as something very special, only for exceptional occasions, and not part of their regular diet. It is also not a good idea to give bags of sweets to half the school when it's someone's birthday, because that isn't the way to educate children in healthy eating habits," she says.

Luján Soler
Dietician-nutritionist and food consultant

"The problem is that so many people eat too many sweets"

"From the point of view of healthy eating, I think some products should not even be allowed on the market. Sweets are one example, because they provide no goodness, no nutritional value whatsoever. If people only ate them occa-

sionally, I could accept that, but the problem is that they eat far too many of them, and too often. What we need to do is educate people about healthy eating when they are still young, and teach them to choose healthier snacks when they fancy a treat. That isn't to say nobody should eat any sugar at all, but there are healthier ways of doing it, such as fruit, pure cocoa, home-made cake, for example. The nutritional quality is essential to prevent health problems," she says.



ILLUSTRATION ELENA MARTÍN



Some of the photos posted by participants in the Walkahome. SUR

Cudeca Walkahome raises 11,000 for hospice charity

With the annual Walkathon event thwarted by coronavirus, the virtual alternative got 1,140 supporters moving at home

SUR IN ENGLISH

MALAGA. The Cudeca Walkahome event held on Saturday raised more than 11,000 euros for the hospice foundation.

The virtual initiative, brought in this year to replace the annual seafront Walkathon, attracted 1,140 supporters, who all did some form of exercise in their homes or neighbourhoods during the day.

Participants who signed up were sent a numbered bib to download, print out and wear as they exercised.

Community spirit was raised by a full programme of activities held throughout the day and broadcast by the cancer care charity on its YouTube channel.

These included numerous classes to help with the exercise, including yoga and pilates, as well as a variety of entertainment, all presented by Salva Reina and Lu-

isa Machen.

Chef José Carlos García gave a cooking demonstration, Mago Luigi added a touch of magic while musicians took turned to perform live, all from their own homes. Performers included Lee Townsend, Bárbara Pereda, Joe Eceiza, David Sanz, Cristina Alba Padial, Rodrigo Orrego, Pepe Torregrosa and Agustín Sánchez of Jarillo lata, Diez Negritos, Revoluta / Free Soul Band, Tarifa Plana, Dry Martina and Javier Ojeda.

Funds were raised through do-

nations from participants as well as a raffle with prizes given by top athletes and businesses.

While Covid-19 prevented supporters enjoying the usual atmosphere at the Walkathon in Benalmádena, the funds raised will help the foundation to continue caring for patients in the advanced stages of cancer and other terminal illnesses.

More information :
www.cudeca.org

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The 'granny of Spain' beats coronavirus at the age of 113

María Branyas, who survived Spanish Flu in 1917, is soon to appear on a TV programme in Catalonia, where she lives

CRISTIAN REINO

BARCELONA. María Branyas was born in San Francisco, California, 113 years ago. She is the oldest person in Spain, a grandmother and great-grandmother, and she has now beaten the coronavirus at the Sant Maria del Tura home in Olot, where she has lived for the past 20 years. On 4 May she was cleared of the illness that ended the lives of over 11,000 people in Catalonia and 14 companions in the same residential home.

People learned about her from a friend of the family who posted it on Twitter: "María Branyas, of Olot, the super-centenarian of Catalonia and the whole of Spain at the age of 113, has survived the Covid-19, congratulations," it said.

She has now fully recovered from the illness, during which she suffered slight symptoms, and confirmed this feat herself on a Twitter account managed by her family. "The manager of the home asked me if I want to talk to TV3 next week on the Primera Línea programme. I don't know which day it will go out. I expect it's because I have survived Covid-19," she said.

The vice-president of the Generalitat, Pere Aragonés, who has also had the virus, has congratulated her. "113 years of strength and bravery. Sending



María Branyas. EFE

María, who lives in a residential home, was diagnosed with the illness in April and was given the all-clear on 4 May when another test result proved negative

a big hug for you, María. Seeing your victory gives us energy. We will continue to work tirelessly for more good news like this," he said.

María was born in the USA in the year 1907. She only has slight vision and hearing problems. A year ago, she was interviewed by ACN and looked back on her life. Her father was from northern Spain and when she was a child the family moved to Barcelona, crossing the Atlantic on a ship during WW1. She now has three children, 11 grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren.

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Gloves. Keidi Bare trains on the field at La Rosaleda, following the strict guidelines. **LALIGA**

Sergio Pellicer: "We can start to see the light now, after so much darkness"

BORJA GUTIÉRREZ

MALAGA. Malaga coach Sergio Pellicer gave a positive summary of the first day back at work on Saturday. He said: "The most important thing is that we can see the light after so much darkness. We can start over again."

Pellicer also praised the work of the club's maintenance staff: "We've moved from the Ciudad de Málaga athletics stadium to La Rosaleda in record time. We have everything we need to comply with the security protocols and carry out our work so hats off to them. Without them, it would have been impossible; they are real heroes."

On Tuesday, Pellicer also confirmed that the results for all of the players and staff that took PCR tests came back negative. He said: "With all the information we're receiving, we have peace of mind."

Despite things being "strange because of the circumstances", Pellicer praised his players for having arrived back in good shape despite being confined for almost two months.

An exciting first day back

A new routine. Malaga's players returned to the training pitch as La Liga plans to restart in mid-June



▲ Fitness coach Julio Rodríguez gives instructions to Juande in the Annex. **SALVADOR SALAS**



► Coach Sergio Pellicer walks between the two pitches. **SALVADOR SALAS**

BORJA GUTIÉRREZ



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Despite the absence of a specific date for professional football in Spain to restart, La Liga, headed by Javier Tebas, is confident that there will be no setbacks in this period of accelerated preparation as players from the top two divisions gradually returned to training over the last week.

Malaga returned to individual training on Saturday after all players tested negative for the coronavirus (five tested positive across Primer and Segunda), according to coach Sergio Pellicer. The sessions, organised in groups of four players per pitch (the main pitch at La Rosaleda and the Annex) to better ensure social distancing, are carried out in shifts of 45 minutes, spread throughout the day, significantly increasing the workload of the coaches.

These first sessions, with a focus on running and coordination

(but also some touches of the ball) are overseen by Pellicer who moves between the two pitches to monitor the sessions and share instructions with the fitness coaches (Julio Rodríguez in the Annex and Enrique Ruiz in La Rosaleda).

The training programme is very similar to those used during pre-season, though in some cases with a lower intensity given that the players are returning from 57 days training at home and all of its consequent limitations.

All activity around La Rosaleda is also being closely supervised by maintenance staff at the club, responsible for disinfecting all equipment and areas used by the players. What's more, as soon as you enter the stadium, everyone must have their temperature taken, disinfect their hands and put on gloves and a mask. Once

on the field, players can take off their masks and while the use of gloves is recommended, some prefer to take them off.

"It's strange," said defender Juankar following the first session. "You're with your teammates, but you're not. You can't have contact with them and you can't joke around or hug them. It's an unusual situation but we have to adapt for everyone's well-being."

Midfielder Renato said: "We're all very happy to be back, even if it's in strange circumstances. It's going to be like pre-season. Some will adapt fast, others will take longer, but we will all be ready in time to play."

Start date

La Liga wants to resume on 12 June (mainly to avoid losing ground on the Premier League, which is also scheduled to start



on that day) but not all clubs were able to start training at the same time so 19 June looks the most viable option at present.

Javier Tebas confirmed on Sunday that there will be matches every day of the week but with the high temperatures expected in June and July, games will have to start from 8pm onwards. Furthermore, in order to comply with the strict sanitary measures, only one match per day will be analysed in each of the eight VAR control rooms which means that there will be a maximum of eight games played per day between Primera and Segunda.

The league already has designed a schedule for all match days which takes into account the distances that must be travelled by each team. Primera sides will all travel by chartered plane and, as far as possible, Segunda teams too.

To ensure the health of the players, the Spanish Federation (FEF) and La Liga are also in favour of temporarily increasing the number of substitutes permitted from three to five per match - in accordance with the move made official this week by the International Football Association Board (IFAB).

Play-offs and next season

While UEFA has insisted that domestic seasons must finish before the end of July, special dispensation will be made for Segunda's play-offs to take place in the usual format, with two semi-finals and a double-header final finishing on 9 August. As these are not top-flight matches, UEFA will allow them to take place on dates reserved for the Champions League and the Europa League.

The date for the start of the 2020-2021 season has also been set: 12 September. This would give the players a two-week holiday before a five-week pre-season. Talks are still ongoing over scrapping the winter break in order for all campaigns to finish in time for the European Championships in summer 2021.



A LOOK AT LA LIGA
ROB PALMER
Commentator, Sky Sports

35 fun-filled days

In some ways, it could be one of the best things to happen to this edition of the Primera División. After all, it had been a pretty unremarkable season



Television remotes at the ready, iron out those football scarves, professional football is very close to returning - in Spain at least.

La Liga is a few weeks ahead of the Premier League and the decision makers are on a mission to get the competition back up and running by 12 June and completed by the end of July.

It's an ambitious plan which most clubs and officials have bought into with the understandable caveat that health comes first.

Footballers and support staff are going through rigorous testing with the intention of getting the top two divisions back functioning, bringing entertainment to a frustrated public and returning to some kind of normality.

It won't be normal to have a 98,000-seater stadium empty, apart from essential personnel. It won't be normal to cram eleven games into six weeks; it won't be normal for players to nod to each other when a match-winning goal is scored instead of a ten-man pile up.

The decision has been made after weeks of debate. Of the first 2,500 tests, only five proved positive for the coronavirus. The authorities were expecting five times that number. Squads have started to train with players giving each other a respectable distance and sessions will slowly be ramped up.

However, there are some who legitimately think that it may not be a priority to get sport operating but the argument for bringing the game back is multi-faceted.



Real Madrid's Luka Modric (foreground) and Marcelo in training. EFE

As an industry, like any industry, it needs to generate finance again. If they cancelled the season, they'd break sponsorship and broadcasting contracts meaning that the millions they depend upon will not be forthcoming and they'll struggle to pay bills and wages.

So, clear the diary (that's not difficult) and prepare for back-to-back football. La Liga president Javier Tebas is promising a top-level game every day for 35 consecutive days.

In some ways, it could be one of the best things to happen to this edition of the Primera División. After all, it had been a pretty unremarkable season. Now they steal a march on their rivals in the European football markets.

As the Premier League struggles to reach a consensus, La Liga will be back up and running and providing the fix to genuine fans of football. Previously, given a choice of television viewing, most would go for the subplots of

the English product opposed to the Spanish version. Now could be a pivotal time for La Liga.

Ok, it's pretty much the same story at the peak with Barcelona and Real Madrid contesting the title, but elsewhere it's very competitive. Five clubs - Sevilla, Real Sociedad, Getafe, Atlético Madrid and Valencia - are competing for the other two top four places.

It's a battle for Champions League qualification, assuming the elite European competition returns as it seems to have gone very quiet at UEFA headquarters.

At the bottom, Espanyol looked doomed but did sign the enigmatic Raúl de Tomás who is capable of guiding them out of trouble. Valladolid, Eibar and Celta are just above the drop zone and scrapping to stay with the big boys.

It's all very intriguing and promises to be a fun-filled 35 days of much-needed escapism for us all.

IN BRIEF

BASKETBALL

Unicaja players return to training

J. CALDERÓN. After having passed their coronavirus tests, the Unicaja squad returned to training at the Los Guindos pavilion last Friday morning.

Players are permitted to use the facilities three or four at a time, with one player per half a court, to do physical training as well as practise shooting during 45-minute shifts, after which the facilities are disinfected.

Meanwhile, testing for coaches not required during this period continues.

CYCLING

The Vuelta won't pass through Portugal

EFE. Stages 15 and 16 of the Vuelta a España will not take place in Portugal as originally planned, organisers have said.

Because of complications caused by the Covid-19 pandemic, these stages (around Porto and Viseu) will be moved to new locations in Spain.

The tour, originally scheduled for August, will take place from 20 October to 8 November. The first three stages, due to take place in the Netherlands have been cancelled too, reducing the Vuelta to 18 stages.

MÁLAGA

Malaga, Capital of Sport until June 2021

M. RIVAS. Malaga city hall's petition to have the European City of Sport distinction extended was accepted this week by ACES Europe, the body which awarded it.

The city, which has seen numerous sporting events either cancelled or postponed because of the coronavirus pandemic, will retain the status until June 2021, sharing it with Lisbon during the first half of next year.

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Basketball camp celebrates 20 years with stellar line-up

JOSÉ MIGUEL AGUILAR

MALAGA. Campus Wob, one of the most prestigious summer basketball camps in Spain, will, conditions permitting, host a spectacular 20th anniversary edition from 5 to 11 July.

Its founder and creative director, David Fernández, says that it will be “full of surprises” and that measures will be taken to ensure the welfare of all children (between 4 and 18 years) and monitors participating in the camp.

The first guest stars confirmed this year are Anna Cruz and Marta

Xargay, two of the greatest female players in Spanish basketball history with 17 medals between them. They will be joined by another major name, to be confirmed, as well as the cast of the 2018 film Campeones.

Organisers have decided to offer a reduced price of 495 euros this year (a 150-euro discount) in support of families that have been affected by the pandemic. What's more, scholarships are also awarded to dozens of children at risk of social exclusion or extreme poverty so they can participate and enjoy the experience.

Djokovic swaps court for the sand

After getting a slap on the wrist for his training session in breach of lockdown rules at Puente Romano tennis club early last week, world tennis number one Novak Djokovic chose to go for a run on the beach early on Thursday morning for his exercise instead. Despite stopping to splash himself with water, he never entered the water which would have constituted another lockdown breach.



JOSELE



A player prepares to strike the ball at Aloha Golf in Marbella. **EFE**

When will we be able to play golf again?

Some courses in Andalucía were able to open this week, but the 72 in Malaga are still waiting to find out when they can do the same and some fear they will not be ready

to need more time to ensure that they are complying with the new rules,” he says.

Some keen to reopen

It comes as no surprise that some golf clubs are very keen to open as soon as possible, because the two-month closure, during which staff have been laid off on the grounds of force majeure, has led to losses which will be almost impossible to make up this year. In addition, the courses still have to be maintained even when nobody can use them.

“I would say there is a 75 per cent chance of my members being able to play golf again as soon as we are allowed to open,” says the president of the Real Guadalquivir Club, Ángel Gancedo, optimistically. “Of course, we would have to be completely ready, with everything in place in accordance with the new protocol, and if we're not, then we will wait,” he says.

The presidents of other clubs who we consulted feel the same, such as Carlos Pitarch, of Lauro Golf. “Our intention is to open, but there is a risk that there won't be many clients. We want to give players the opportunity to play their favourite sport again. The course has to be maintained anyway, whether anybody comes or not. There is still a great deal of uncertainty about everything,” he says.

Different business models

The 72 golf clubs in Malaga province are divided between those who base their business model on members' fees and those based on the ‘pay and play’ format which is mainly aimed at international tourists (90 per cent of the visitors who come to play golf) or those from Spain, who make up the remain-

ing ten per cent.

The Guadalquivir club is clearly in the first group, and has 625 members. “The crisis in 2007 meant that there wasn't enough income to maintain the club and led to a dependence on external green fees, but those account for about 20 to 25 per cent of the business,” explains Ángel Gancedo.

Lauro Golf, with about 300 members, follows a mixed model and will suffer more from the pandemic crisis. “Our perspective in the medium term is bad, but for the long term I am optimistic. We are a fantastic golf destination with top quality courses, but we can't drop our guard and one of the problems is the IVA, which is not set at the rate for tourism services (10 per cent) but the normal 21 per cent,” says Carlos Pitarch.

Torrequera Golf is the opposite case, says its president, Francisco Ruiz. “We don't think we would be able to open next week. We need to know how the ERTes will work out and will want to ensure all the hygiene and safety regulations are complied with. Also, as we are 100 per cent commercial, we are the most badly affected by the closure.”

A key sector for tourism

It is a revealing figure: around 650,000 tourists come to Malaga province a year just to play golf. “We are the first to be able to help get the economy going again,” says Pablo Mansilla, although he is fully aware that there may be no international tourism this year. There is another key factor: golf is not a contact sport and the courses have as much as 600,000 square metres of space, which is plenty to ensure that there is no crowding.

PEDRO LUIS ALONSO



It's a very simple question. When will people be able to play golf again in Andalucía, a region with 100 courses and 45,000 federated players? The answer is that it depends on where they are. Golf courses have been able to open again from this week in provinces which are in Phase One of easing the lockdown, although many have decided not to, but in Malaga and Granada, which were kept in Phase Zero, golfers are going to have to wait a while longer. Another factor is that not every golf course will decide to open, even when permitted to do so.

Too many unknowns

The president of the Real Federación Andaluza de Golf, Pablo Mansilla, says that even if the courses in Malaga are able to open soon, it is likely that some will not have had enough time after receiving the health and safety protocol to put it into effect. “They are going



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Taurus
April 21st - May 21st
This week do be aware that something that seems too good to be true probably is. You are always thorough when deciding on a course of action. Be doubly so now.




Gemini
May 22nd - June 21st
Things are changing so quickly at the moment that taking that short cut could cost you dear. It is hard, now, not to just jump ahead. After all, you know where you are going, don't you?




Cancer
June 22nd - July 23rd
A sudden bout of optimism this week makes you realise that you could be going in a better direction. Of course that would take a lot of courage and good finances, right?




Leo
July 24th - August 23rd
Even though you seem to move a step or two ahead this week you won't find everyone doing the same. Make home your priority as things are moving fast there too.




Virgo
August 24th - September 23rd
Something that you thought was a done deal seems to be taking a long time. However, if you feel that something is not right then look into it.




Libra
September 24th - October 23rd
Being one of the more flexible signs it is not in your nature to ruffle feathers. Feeling too strongly about something to stay silent? Let your voice be heard



Scorpio
October 24th - November 22nd
There are tensions around at the moment that you do not often feel. When patience runs thin however, remind yourself that it is not with a person you are upset but by a situation.



Sagittarius
November 23rd - December 21st
A good idea that came to you some weeks ago has now found its time. Review what you were thinking about as a way of moving things forward.

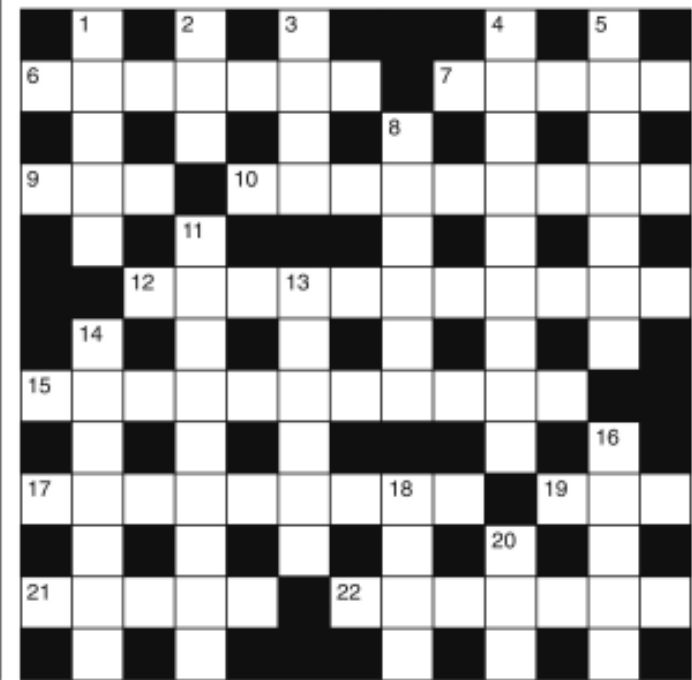


Capricorn
December 22nd - January 20th
This is a good week for getting any misunderstandings sorted out. Talking will make things better. Stay calm and resist the urge to complain about small things.

THE SEVEN DIFFERENCES



CRYPTIC CROSSWORD N° 11409



Across

- 6 100 girls in student groups (7)
- 7 Start with a half of beer and spirit (5)
- 9 Study a trick (3)
- 10 Giving out that I am getting a separation (9)
- 12 Give attention to having to provide a percentage on loan (3,8)
- 15 Advice to hitchhiker wanting to get up? (4,3,4)
- 17 They give judgments about cake in tests (9)
- 19 Old priest of 15, the Spanish one (3)
- 21 Give tuition in vehicle (5)
- 22 It settles the issue when half the side have a drink (7)

Down

- 1 Not getting involved with an idiot standing on his head .. (5)
- 2 .. or another in his pyjamas stroking an animal (3)
- 3 Paper seen about in the morning (4)
- 4 The gambler gets away, becoming wealthier (6,3)
- 5 It's news for the person testifying (7)
- 8 Lament round the fireplace? (6)
- 11 Document returned without hard cover (9)
- 13 Where the cards not yet used are (2,4)
- 14 Country lover unfortunately apt to brawl (7)
- 16 Worked and told stories at Peterhead (5)
- 18 It's cooked the Welsh emblem (4)
- 20 A cover for the eye (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

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

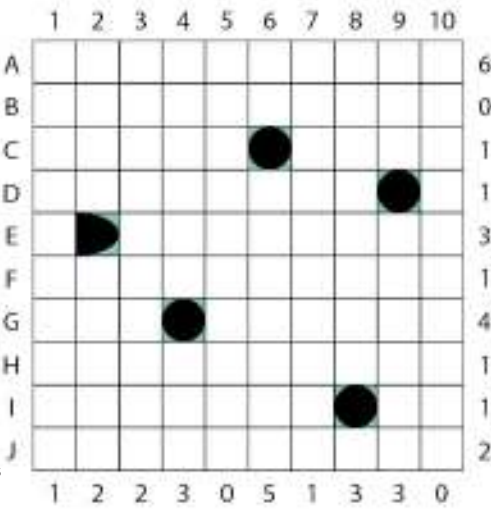
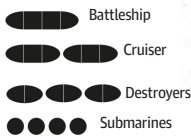
THE WORDPUZZLER

I	D	L	E	R	F	A	T	I	C
N	I	C	K	E	L	L	A	R	D
O	M	I	D	R	A	G	N	O	M
V	E	L	E	G	R	A	N	D	Y
I	N	E	M	I	S	H	E	R	S
U	S	C	O	P	P	E	R	T	H
S	Q	I	N	Z	O	M	I	D	O
B	U	C	K	I	N	G	B	O	B
E	I	A	E	V	Y	N	O	R	A
L	D	L	Y	O	E	S	L	N	U

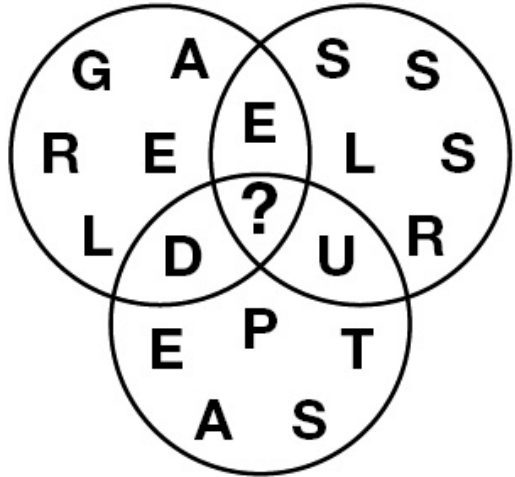
- Can you identify the slang monetary terms for the amounts listed below?
- 1. Shilling
 - 2. Sixpence
 - 3. Dollar
 - 4. 1,000 pounds
 - 5. 5 cents
 - 6. 25 pounds
 - 7. Pound
 - 8. 10 cents
 - 9. 1p or 2p
 - 10. 500 pounds

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



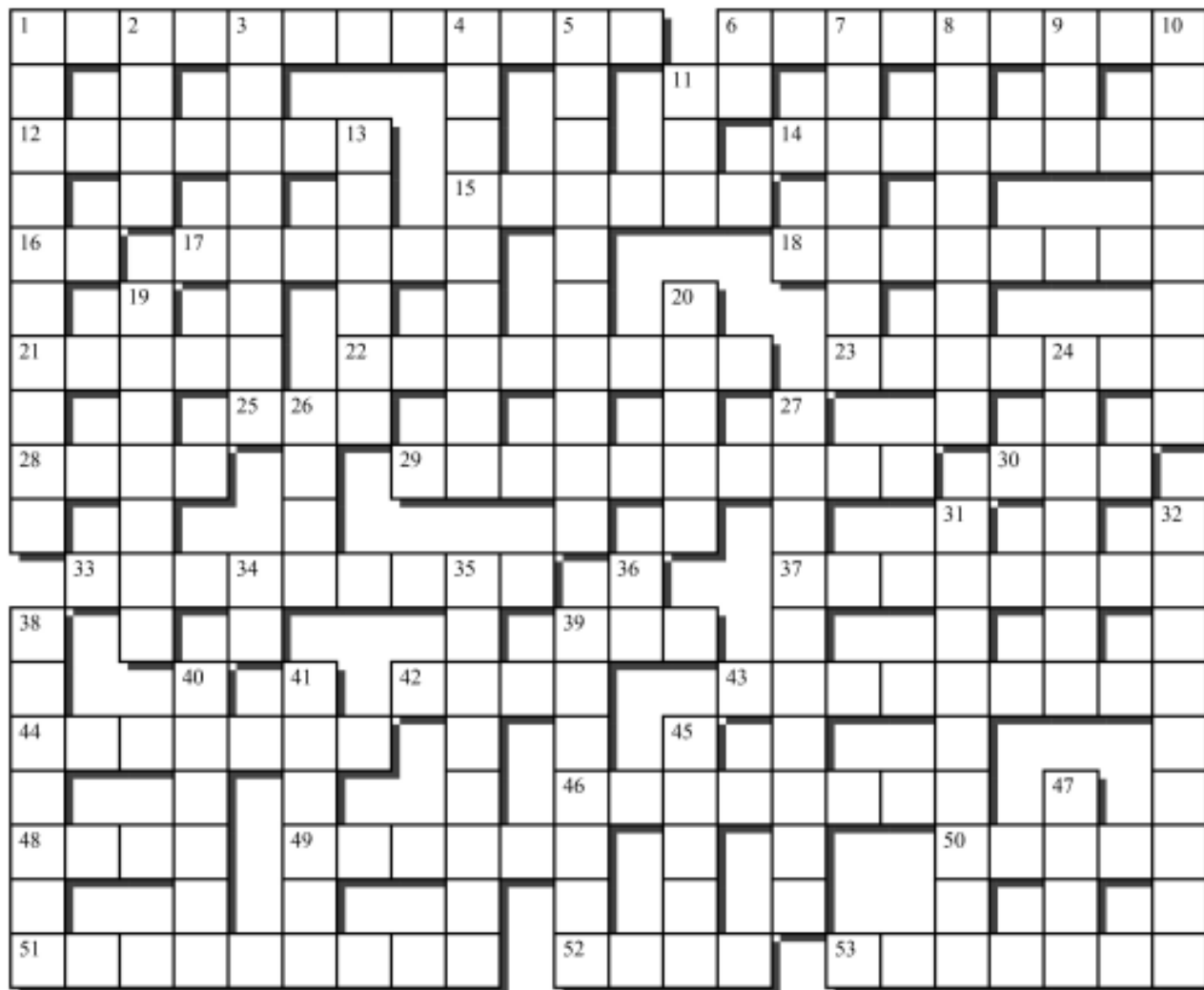
Instructions
Replace the question mark with a letter so that the letters in each circle can be arranged to form words, names or terms on a common theme. What are the three words, and the letter represented by the question mark?

Across

- 1) Knowledge (12)
- 6) Contraption (9)
- 11) The (m) (2)
- 12) Excuses (7)
- 14) Siblings (8)
- 15) Baskets (6)
- 16) You (2)
- 17) Bible (6)
- 18) Inventions (8)
- 21) Ending (5)
- 22) Aviation (8)
- 23) Villager (m) (7)
- 25) To hear (3)
- 28) Hundred (4)
- 29) Festooned (m) (10)
- 30) South (3)
- 33) Historical (m) (9)
- 37) I patrolled (8)
- 39) It was (3)
- 42) Avalanche (4)
- 43) Predecessor (m) (9)
- 44) To hide (7)
- 46) To correct (8)
- 48) This (4)
- 49) She uses (6)
- 50) I felt (5)
- 51) Forgotten (m.pl) (9)
- 52) Wings (4)
- 53) Blacksmith (7)

Down

- 1) Scientific (m) (10)
- 2) Nape (4)
- 3) Castle (8)
- 4) Education (9)
- 5) To stay up all night (10)
- 6) To the (2)
- 7) Thirty (7)
- 8) Licking (8)
- 9) Gene (3)
- 10) Obsession (8)
- 11) That (f) (3)
- 13) To jump (6)
- 19) Ingenuity (7)
- 20) To fly (5)
- 24) Eagles (7)
- 26) I devise (4)
- 27) Carpenter (m) (10)
- 31) Precursor (9)
- 32) Depressed (m) (9)
- 34) Your (2)
- 35) Calculations (8)
- 36) To go (2)
- 38) Pioneer (7)
- 39) Polite (f) (7)
- 40) Garlic sauce (6)
- 41) Wood (6)
- 45) He crosses (5)
- 47) Eleven (4)



ANSWERS

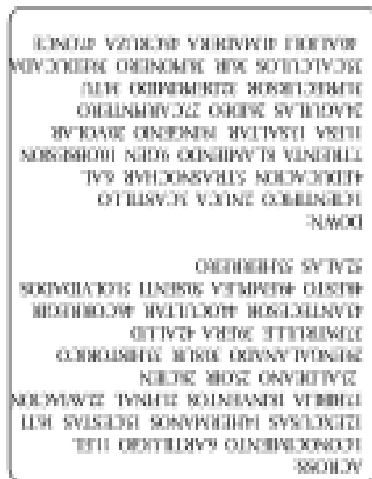
Quiz answers

Of interest: Schrödinger's cat was an experiment devised by Austrian physicist Erwin Schrödinger. It presents a hypothetical cat that may be simultaneously both alive and dead, as a result of being linked to a random subatomic event that may or may not occur.

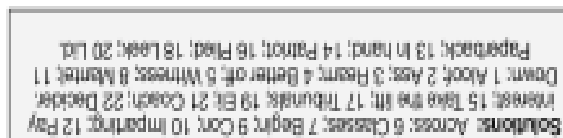
Answer: A dog

Of interest: Russian physiologist Ivan Pavlov discovered that dogs learned to associate an object, noise or event with food and developed classical conditioning, the basis today for many aspects of behavioural training methods.

Language Crossword



Cryptic Crossword



Wordpuzzler solution

1. Bob
2. Tanner
3. Buck
4. Grand
5. Nickel
6. Pony
7. Quid
8. Dime
9. Copper
10. Monkey



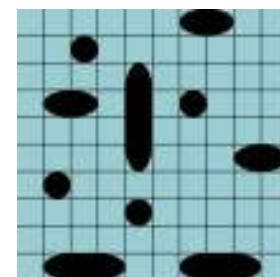
Sudoku solution

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

Circlegram

The letter represented by the question mark is B. Belgrade, Brussels, Budapest, all European capitals.

Battleships



WHERE IS THIS?



Last week:
Algarrobo

This stone plinth with the statue of a young boy is found on a roundabout on the Avda. del Arroyuelo in the village of Algarrobo.



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 symp-
toms **test**



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

Coronavirus information

955 545 060

El Tempranillo and El Bizco de El Borje are the nicknames of two of the most controversial characters of the romantic Andalucía of the 19th century, times that inspired many a foreign writer.

Although there are exceptions, such as the feared and bloodthirsty Pasos Largos and Flores Arrocha, who committed their crimes in the first third of the last century, most of the bandits who left their mark on the inland areas of the province of Malaga did so between 1815 and 1890.

In some cases, they were even regarded as heroes of the people for challenging the absolute power of King Ferdinand VII. This is what happened to José María Hinojosa, better known as El Tempranillo (1805-1833). He was born in Jauja (Cordoba), but he left his mark in villages in the north of the province of Malaga, especially Alameda, where he died.

He challenged the power of Ferdinand VII to the point that the writer Prosper Mérimée named him the 'King of the Sierra Morena'. But the most curious thing about this historical character, known by the alias El Tempranillo (the Early One) due to the young age at which he went into the mountains, was his change of role after being pardoned by the king.

He went from being an outlaw to chasing other bandits. This radical change to his life led to him being ambushed and killed by a former companion El Barberillo at the Buena Vista farmhouse in Alameda.

Today El Tempranillo gives his name to a tourist route which, as well as Alameda where his remains are kept, takes in other towns such as Badolatosa in Seville and Benamejí in Cordoba, as well as his own native Jauja.



The tomb of El Tempranillo in the Ntra Sra de la Inmaculada church in Alameda. J. A.

The most famous local villains

Malaga history. El Tempranillo and El Bizco de El Borge are two of the most famous bandits who left their mark on the province from the beginning of the 19th century to 1934

JAVIER ALMELLONES



► The last bandit. Bloodthirsty Pasos Largos, in a photo taken in 1916. SUR



▲ Ronda has a museum devoted to local bandits. SUR

Moving east of Malaga city into the Axarquía, the most famous of this area's bandits is El Bizco de El Borge, feared for his strength and his corpulence. Despite the sight defect to which his nickname alludes (bizco means cross-eyed), Luis García, his real name, was said to be a very good marksman with a blunderbuss. He led a much-feared band who moved around the region.

Malaga province was home to the two men considered to be the last bandits in the country, Francisco Flores Arrocha and José María Mingolla known as 'Pasos Largos'. The former, a native of Igualeja, like the legendary Zamarra, was active for barely three years, between 1931, when he committed his first murder, and 1934 when he died in an encounter with the Guardia Civil. The bloodthirsty 'Pasos Largos', born in El Burgo, came to a similar end that same year.

Another famous bandit linked to Malaga is Tragabuches. Although he was born in Arcos de la Frontera in Cadiz, José Ulloa (his real name), is especially linked to Ronda. Of Gypsy ethnicity, he was also a bullfighter and even a singer and was part of the dreaded gang known as "The Seven Boys of Ecija".

Similarly, the much-feared Luis Candela left his mark when he passed through the Antigua Venta de Alfarnate. The inn now has a sign to remind visitors that the bandit spent a night there in a cell during his transfer from Madrid to Malaga.

The area's list of historical "baddies" can be completed with Salvador González, Luis Artacho, El Chato de Benamejí, El Vivillo, Pinales, Juan Caballero 'El Lero', Diego Corrientes and Juan de Serrallonga.

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