



SUMMER SEASON

## ON PATROL MAKING SURE BEACHES ARE SAFE

Andalucía's 3,000 Covid beach informers started work this week **P2**

# Spain to open its frontiers to visitors from other EU countries this weekend

The Costa del Sol has called for clarity amid talk of quarantine being imposed on visitors from UK

Prime minister Pedro Sánchez brought some relief to the tourism industry when he announced last weekend that Spain's borders with

other EU countries would open on 21 June, instead of the 1 July date first given. The Foreign minister said this week, however, that the

government was considering imposing quarantine on visitors from the UK. The president of the Costa del Sol tourism authority, Francisco

Salado, called for clarity on Wednesday and accused the government of being unaware of the importance of the tourism industry. **P3**



Brave defensive play kept Tenerife at bay on Monday.

AGENCIA LOF

## Malaga off to a slow start as the season resumes

**The Blue and Whites** are facing a relegation battle but have a chance to turn it around against Extremadura tomorrow night

After a break of almost 100 days, Malaga restarted their Segunda campaign this week, picking up one point from the six available. A goalless draw in Tenerife on Monday, after going down to ten men, followed a disappointing 3-1 home defeat to Huesca last Friday. The pace will not relent; Sergio Pellicer's side are in action again tomorrow night (Saturday) as Extremadura visit La Rosaleda (kick-off 9.45pm). **P30&31**

## British man arrested over death of his neighbour in Estepona

The autopsy showed that the man, 36, did not die from a blow to the head as thought, but most probably due to drugs he had taken

A British resident in El Paraíso, Estepona, has been released with charges, after being arrested on Monday night in connection with the death of a neighbour, also British. Security camera foot-

age showed how the arrested man was apparently trying to stop his neighbour from going into his property. The autopsy suggests that drugs the man had taken caused his death. **P6**

## Bar terraces will be able to open at 100% capacity from Sunday in Andalucía

Spain's state of alarm comes to an end on Saturday night, leaving practically all Covid-19 regulations in regional hands. Andalucía's president has announced further relaxation of restrictions. **P2**

## MORE INSIDE

**More single-use plastic and badly discarded PPE** are all part of the fallout of Covid-19 - to the dismay of local environmental groups **P10**

**Costa del Sol hospital's last intensive care coronavirus** patient is moved to a ward after 87 days **P4**

**Investors abandon water-bottling plant** scheme near Antequera after protests from the mayors of surrounding towns **P7**

**Marbella's Starlite Festival will go ahead** with a shorter programme of concerts throughout August **P23**



# Andalucía will have the safest beaches in the country this summer, says Junta

Officials were in Marbella on Monday to launch the new beach monitoring plan with 3,000 extra workers patrolling the region's coastline

H. BARBOTTA / F. JIMÉNEZ

MARBELLA / MALAGA. Andalucía will have the safest beaches in Spain this summer according to regional minister Elías Bendodo, who was in Marbella on Monday to launch the 34-million-euro beach monitoring plan.

Accompanied by the Andalusian tourism minister and regional vice-president, Juan Marín; the mayor of Marbella, Ángeles Muñoz; and the president of the provincial authority, Francisco Salado; Bendodo said that the region's Safe Beach Plan was pioneering in Spain, helping to guarantee health and safety as the country emerges from the coronavirus crisis.

Of the 34 million euros invested in the plan, 24 million euros are being spent on hiring of an extra 3,000 summer workers who will be on duty on the beaches to ensure that safety precautions are respected.

The remaining ten million euros has gone towards the purchase of equipment, including vehicles, quad bikes, surveillance towers, boats, jet skis and rescue equipment, distributed among the 61 coastal municipalities.

"This equipment is here to stay and will be very useful for the next few years," said Bendodo.

The 3,000 workers taken on for the summer, from an unemployment register, will help keep the numbers of beach users under the permitted capacity and inform bathers of health precautions. Of them, 902 are in Malaga province.

They will be in addition to the lifeguards and Local Police patrols provided by the town halls.



Some of the new beach informers in Marbella this week. JOSELE

## Reservations at Costa hotels already at 46% for July and August

Bookings at hotels along the Andalusian coastline were already at 46% for July and August said regional vice-president, Juan Marín, on Monday.

Marín said he was optimistic that the state of the tour-

ism industry would improve as health concerns are reduced, and he was optimistic that figures would continue to rise, bearing in mind that the majority of reservations are made around 20 to 25 days in advance.

He added that reservations for the peak season in rural accommodation were already at 70% in many Andalusian provinces.

## Only half of community pools have opened due to high costs of Covid-19 precautions

IVÁN GELIBTER

MALAGA. So far this summer only just over 50% of community swimming pools have opened to residents, due to the extra costs involved in complying with new Covid-19 prevention regulations.

According to Luis Camuña of the association of property administrators, opening a pool this summer could cost communities of owners an extra 3,500 euros a month. The Covid-19 preventive

regulations brought in by central government this summer include establishing a reservation system to avoid overcrowding and disinfecting fully three times a day.

Camuña called for the Junta de Andalucía to relax restrictions and allow at least 75% capacity in community pools.

Meanwhile only some local town halls have decided to open their municipal pools, among them Benamocarra, Frigiliana and Casares.



A lifeguard provides hand sanitiser at a pool in Malaga. SALVADOR SALAS

## Bar terraces can fill to 100% capacity from Sunday and interiors to 75%

SUR

MALAGA. The president of the Junta de Andalucía, Juanma Moreno, announced on Thursday that as from Sunday, bars will be able to fill their outdoor terraces to 100% normal capacity and serve 75% of their usual tables in their interiors.

Communal areas of hotels and other tourist accommodation will still be restricted to 50% capacity, "not the 75% imposed in other regions, as a precaution".

Cinemas, theatre and concert halls will be able to fill to 65%, while open air events such as concerts can take place with a maximum audience of 1,500, providing safety measures are complied with.

### End to state of alarm

The Spanish government's final extension of the current state of alarm, declared on 14 March as an emergency measure against Covid-19, comes to an end at midnight on Saturday.

This means no more restrictions on movement within the country, even between regions currently at different stages of lockdown easing, due to their Covid-19 statistics.

Health Minister Salvador Illa said last weekend that without a state of alarm it was legally impossible to restrict the fundamental right to freedom of movement. In the case of a new outbreak, he said, regional authorities could only restrict movement with a court order.

From Sunday the only central government order in force regarding the "new normal" is the decree approved last week, which maintains the obligation to wear face masks and to keep social distance.

All other regulations concerning lockdown easing are now in the hands of the regional authorities.

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# Costa del Sol calls for clarity amid talk of quarantine for British tourists

Spain is due to open its frontiers with EU countries this weekend, ahead of the July date originally announced

EFE

MALAGA / MADRID. The President of the Malaga provincial authority, Francisco Salado, called on Wednesday for "messages of reassurance and certainty" from the government with regard to the arrival of British tourists in Spain.

He referred to the suggestion made by Foreign Minister Arancha González Laya on the BBC's Hard Talk programme on Tuesday that quarantine could be imposed on British tourists if the UK government does not relax its own Covid-19 isolation rule on visitors from overseas.

"We will be looking at what the UK does and we will be in dialogue with the UK to decide whether or not we should introduce reciprocity, as they have different measures from the rest of the EU," said González Laya.



Tourists from EU countries can visit Spain from Sunday. M. FERNÁNDEZ

On 8 June, the British government imposed a 14-day quarantine on travellers arriving in the country from any international destination but Chancellor Rishi Sunak said on Sunday that the rule was being reviewed and that the authorities were looking at "all options", including opening air bridges with other countries.

González Laya described the current situation as "fluid" and insisted that both countries will remain in contact to make deci-

sions in accordance with the "health situation", which, she said, is now "a little better in Spain than in the United Kingdom".

Salado, who is also president of the Costa del Sol tourism authority, accused the central government of not being aware of the importance of the tourism industry for Spain: "In these recent months, the government has shown that it doesn't know how to manage the tourism industry," he said.

He added that the minister had created "uncertainty" with her words and urged her to listen to the recommendations of the sector, made "based on experience".

"This is not the time for games of chess," he said, "but time to ensure that tourists come to Spain with necessary health guarantees". Frontiers should be opened both with the Schengen area as well as with the "great ally" that the UK has always been, he added.

When asked about the possibility of quarantine on Wednesday, the government delegate for Andalucía, Sandra García, said that "nothing is definite" and that the issue was "being studied".

The Spanish government had first planned to reopen its borders in July but announced on Saturday that tourists from the EU and the Schengen area could visit from 21 June.

This included visitors from the UK, the British Embassy in Madrid said the Spanish government had confirmed on Monday.

Borders with third countries outside the Schengen area could also open from 1 July if those countries meet certain criteria.

## Searches for flights to Malaga increased by 70% in one week after phase change

N. TRIGUERO / A. PELÁEZ

MALAGA. Searches for flights to Malaga between 5 and 11 June, coinciding with the Costa del Sol's move from Phase 2 to Phase 3 of lockdown easing, increased by 70%, said the CEO of the area's tourist authority, Margarita del Cid, this week.

The figure was "encouraging", she said.

"We're surprised and happy that interest in coming to the Costa del Sol has shot up in our main source markets and we believe the increase will be even greater this week, following the announcement of the opening up of frontiers with the EU on 21 June," she said.

Meanwhile Norwegian has announced this week that it is to resume flying to the Costa del Sol this summer. From 1 July routes between Malaga and Oslo, Copenhagen and Stockholm will start to operate, opening the doors wider for tourists from Scandinavian countries.

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# Last coronavirus patient leaves intensive care at the Costa del Sol hospital after 87 days

On Thursday there were 49 patients with the illness in different hospitals in Andalucía, and 14 of them are in Intensive Care Units

IVÁN GELIBTER /  
ALBERTO GÓMEZ

MÁLAGA. There were no Covid-19 patients in the Intensive Care Unit at the Costa del Sol hospital this week. The last one (Manolo, aged 66) left the ICU last weekend after 87 days. This hospital in Marbella has been one of the epicentres of the fight against coronavirus in Malaga province, and during the peak of the pandemic it was registering an average of one death a day from the disease.

At that time the number of intensive care facilities at the hospital was doubled by the addition of a new unit which occupied the whole surgical section on the first floor and the area for outpatient surgery.

These new spaces were cre-



Manolo was transferred from the ICU last weekend. SUR

ated for seriously ill Covid patients who needed to be isolated within critical care units, and were equipped with ventilators and monitoring equipment. An operating theatre on the same floor was also adapted for these Covid

**Manolo, who is 66, had been in the Costa del Sol hospital's Intensive Care Unit for 87 days**

**The number of Covid patients in intensive care in Andalucía has dropped to 14 in the past few days**

patients in case they needed urgent surgery or an operation which could not be postponed.

## 14 patients in ICUs

The good news continued on Thursday when it was announced that in Andalucía only 49 patients were in hospital with an infection caused by SARS-CoV-2, of whom 14 were in intensive care units and 35 in wards.

These figures show that the number of people in hospital with Covid-19 has reduced by over 98 per cent compared with 30 March, the date when the number was highest at 2,708.

There were 11 patients with an infection caused by SARS-CoV-2 in hospitals in Malaga province on Thursday, of whom nine were in wards and two are in intensive care, according to the latest update from the Junta de Andalucía's Ministry of Health.

In Malaga province, including the Costa del Sol, eight new cases reported by PCR testing were announced on Thursday.

## Small spike in Covid-19 cases detected in Spain

The Ministry of Health has refused to rule out the risk of a second wave this summer if social distancing guidelines are not adhered to

SUR

MADRID. National data on Covid-19 cases in Spain appeared to confirm a small spike on Thursday, reversing the steady downward trend of recent days.

The national Ministry of Health figures came against a background of reports of unexpected isolated outbreaks and government scientists refusing to rule out the possibility of a second wave this summer if people didn't follow social distancing guidelines.

The number of new cases reported in the previous 24 hours on Thursday (18 June) was 143, the highest since 12 June when it was 155 up on the previous day. After three consecutive days this week with fewer than 100 cases (48, 40 and 76), on Wednesday 141 cases were reported, which increased slightly on Thursday.

The number of deaths in the



PCR test in Pamplona this week. EP

previous seven days was also the highest it had been since 8 June. According to Thursday's data there were 52 deaths in the last week. This is double what the ministry had been stating since the previous Friday, however there was still ongoing inconsistency with separate data from the different regions.

This week small outbreaks were reported at different points of the country, including at two seniors' homes in the northern city of Valladolid and at a hostel in Algeciras, Cadiz province, where a 78-year-old man died.

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# The 30 June Brexit deadline

By Steven Langford, Partner, Blevins Franks

Although the UK formally left the EU on 31<sup>st</sup> January, the transition period means little has changed for citizens and businesses so far. It was meant to provide 11 months for the two parties to negotiate the new trade deals that will determine their future relationship. Even under usual circumstances, many spectators argued this was insufficient time given the scale of negotiations – and we now know that these are far from usual conditions.

When the coronavirus pandemic escalated, local health issues were naturally given priority. In spite of the delay, the UK government has repeatedly expressed its unwillingness to extend the transition period beyond 31<sup>st</sup> December. And so far, if reports are to be believed, the talks are not going too well, with two major stumbling blocks being the level playing field rules and fisheries policy.

June is considered a key month in the negotiations, since its talks will provide a clearer indication of whether a deal can be reached, but the meetings the first week of June finished without significant progress.

After further talks later this month both sides will assess if enough progress has been made.

30<sup>th</sup> June is also the last day Prime Minister Boris Johnson can request an extension to the transition period. EU Chief Negotiator, Michael Barnier, has said the EU “remains open” to a delay of one or two years, but a No. 10 spokesman reiterated that “there is no change to the Government’s position. The transition period will end on 31<sup>st</sup> December”.

Both sides say that they want to break the deadlock and find a mutually beneficial solution, but if they cannot reach an agreement on time, the UK could leave the bloc without a deal.

## What do you need to do now?

The clock is fast ticking down to the end of the transition period, so now is the time to review your situation and strategic financial planning and take action where necessary.

### Residence

If you are not yet officially resident in

Spain, you need to take all the necessary steps before the end of the year. UK nationals who are lawfully settled in an EU state before the transition deadline can lock in a lifetime of citizens’ rights under the UK/EU Withdrawal Agreement.

There are currently no protections for UK nationals arriving after 2020.

### Tax planning

When taking up residence in Spain you become liable for tax here, so you need to prepare for this too.

When it comes to the taxes you pay in your country of residence, there is no reason for anything to change post-Brexit as double tax treaties are independent of the EU. However, if a country already taxes non-EU assets or residents differently to EU ones, you could be affected in future.

### Pensions

If you are considering transferring UK pensions into a Qualifying Recognised Overseas Pension Scheme (QROPS), you need to start soon or run the risk of paying a 25%

tax.

Currently you can transfer to EU/EEA-based QROPS tax-free, but this could change after the Brexit transition ends. The UK already levies 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.

The first step though, is to take qualified, regulated advice to confirm if a QROPS would be the best move for your circumstances.

### Investments

It is also sensible to review your investment portfolio to ensure it is suitable for your life in Spain, and that you have suitable diversification in place and are not overweight in UK assets. Consider what is the best currency mix for you as a UK national living in Euroland.

### Take advice now

It’s worth talking to a specialist financial adviser now, to ensure you have everything in place in plenty of

time. The procedures – particularly involving local systems, third parties and bureaucracies – can take time. And whether it is a matter of securing residence or checking your pension funds are in the right place for the future, it is likely that others will be making the same requests which may slow things up with authorities.

Acting now can make things easier later and give you peace of mind.

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## Brexit and pension transfers. A ticking clock?

Transferring your UK pension into a QROPS can provide significant benefits. With the Brexit transition period set to end on 31 December 2020, time may be running out to do so without paying the 25% ‘overseas transfer charge’. The UK already imposes this tax on EU residents who transfer to QROPS outside the EU/EEA; after Brexit it could easily start charging EU transfers too.

Pensions paperwork takes time, so do not risk leaving it too late. Contact our specialist advisers to find out if a QROPS is suitable for you, what the benefits are, and what you need to do now.

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# Autopsy suggests death of British man in Estepona was drug-related and not caused by a blow to the head

Witnesses say that a neighbour, arrested on suspicion of negligent manslaughter, was trying to calm the man down when he was trying to go into his home in El Paraíso on Monday night

ÁLVARO FRÍAS / CHARO MÁRQUEZ

ESTEPONA. A British man, 46, resident in Estepona has been released with charges following the death of his 36-year-old neighbour, also British, on Monday night.

Sources consulted by SUR said that a security camera filmed how the man died when his neighbour was apparently try-

ing to stop him from entering his home in El Paraíso.

Footage showed the dead man, half dressed, dragging himself along the ground and wanting to go into his neighbour's house, sources explained. It appears that the owner of the property pulled the man's arm back, trying to move him away, when the younger man fell, hit his head and started to have convulsions, after which he died.

Sources added that the man had difficulty standing and that his neighbour did not apparently use much force.

After National Police officers arrived on the scene, they arrested the neighbour on suspicion of negligent manslaughter.

The autopsy carried out on Wednesday at the Malaga Forensics Institute concluded that the



The estate where the events took place. CHARO MÁRQUEZ

cause of death was not the blow to the head as originally believed but was most likely drug-related. The body tested positive for different substances, although further toxicology tests are needed to confirm that these caused his death, which occurred just before 11pm.

Reports of the man's behaviour earlier that day support the theory that drugs were behind his death.

Earlier on Monday evening the 36-year-old was apparently causing a disturbance in the neighbourhood. Sources said that he had been going in and out of his neighbour's home, jumping over a fence.

At one point he apparently crossed the main dual carriageway and the Local Police were called to the scene to take him

home after he was reported to be running around the streets in his underwear.

Neighbours said on Wednesday that they couldn't understand what had happened. The events occurred on a small estate formed by just seven villas, where all the neighbours know each other. In fact the dead man had apparently installed the security camera that was later to record his death, and had been working on the arrested man's internet connection.

One resident explained how, on the day in question, the dead man had been running around from one side of the street to the other "like crazy" in his underwear. He told SUR that the owner of the property was not arguing with him, but "on the contrary, was trying to calm him down".



WHERE DOES  
ALL THIS WATER  
COME FROM?

## Police investigate deaths of elderly couple within hours of each other in Nerja home

An autopsy showed that the woman, 84, had taken morphine pills after her husband, 90, had been found dead earlier that day

ÁLVARO FRÍAS / EUGENIO CABEZAS

NERJA. Guardia Civil officers are investigating the case of an elderly married couple who died within hours of each other, in their home in Nerja.

The 90-year-old man and his wife, 84, were both British and had lived in Nerja for several years. They were both apparently oncology patients and by themselves in the property where they both died.

The first death was registered on Monday morning after the couple's children, who are in the UK,



The couple lived in the Capistrano area of Nerja. EUGENIO CABEZAS

had been trying to contact them for several days and eventually contacted the community of property owners.

The emergency services received a call at 9.30am on Monday and went to the property on

the San Juan de Capistrano estate. According to sources, the man's body showed no signs of violence and his death could have been due to natural causes.

Several hours later, however, officers were called back to the

property, as the man's wife, who had been accompanied since her husband was found, had also died.

Due to these circumstances both bodies were taken to the Malaga Institute of Legal Medicine where post mortem examinations were carried out on Wednesday. Results showed that the woman had taken morphine pills, although toxicology reports are needed to confirm the cause of death.

Sources had stated that the couple had expressed their intentions of taking their own lives. Initial findings point, therefore, to the natural death of the man and the later suicide of his wife. Inside the property officers found morphine and a letter.

The British couple had lived in Nerja for 20 years. They were well-loved among their neighbours who remember them with affection.

## Three Brits arrested as criminal drugs gang is dismantled in Marbella

C. MÁRQUEZ

MARBELLA. A criminal gang, British in origin, has been dismantled with the arrest of three men aged between 26 and 29.

The group operated across Marbella and Mijas, where they rented large-scale properties which they adapted to grow, package and distribute marijuana. They also frequently changed rental cars in order to avoid detection.

In Guadalmina, the man responsible for the main plantation was arrested and 400 marijuana plants, 18.5 kilos of buds and material for packaging and growing the plant were seized. The other two were arrested in Mijas at the same time.



# Bottling plant project near Antequera cancelled after pressure from local mayors

The project has all the necessary permits from the Junta, but councils in the area fear it would negatively affect their water supplies

ANDREA JIMÉNEZ /  
ANTONIO M. ROMERO

MALAGA. There will not, after all, be a new water bottling plant in the Sierra de Camarolos, in Antequera. The company, Inversiones Domago S.L., announced on Wednesday that it is cancelling the 15-million-euro project, which would have created around 100 direct and indirect jobs, despite having been granted all the relevant permits from the Junta de Andalucía. The decision came after pressure from several may-



The site is one kilometre from Villanueva del Rosario. A.JIMÉNEZ

ors in the area who joined forces to try to have the project stopped because of fears that the water supply in their municipalities would be negatively affected. The company said this has given the bottling plant an incorrect and damaging reputation.

Domago first embarked on this

project in 2009 and in the 11 years since then the regional government, first in the hands of PSOE and then PP and Ciudadanos, has given all the authorisations needed. In fact, in 2016 the environmental report on the potential impact of the plant said that the amount of water that would need to be

pumped was much lower than the resources available and there was no reason to believe that supplies would be affected or over-exploited.

## No previous opposition

The company also explained that the water to be used by the bottling plant was not the same as that which supplies Villanueva del Rosario and the other villages whose mayors were opposed to the project. In the statement announcing that it would not now go ahead, the company said that during all the years of administrative processes, nobody had opposed or criticised the plans and all the permits and authorisations are in order.

The mayors who have spoken out against the bottling plant are Juan González of Villanueva del Rosario, José María García of Villanueva del Trabuco, José Martín

of Colmenar, Juan Jesús Gallardo of Alfarnate, Daniel Benítez of Alfarnatejo and José María García Fernández of Casabermeja. One argument they put forward was that in 2018 the authority responsible for planning and managing public water supplies had said the project was incompatible with the intended use of the water, but the project was reactivated when the government of the Junta de Andalucía changed.

## Political differences

There are claims that the disputes over the project are politically motivated. The regional government's delegate in Malaga, Patricia Navarro, has described the mayors' opposition to the bottling plant as a "political operation", and has asked the company to reconsider because cancelling the project would be "very negative for the area". The president of the Malaga provincial authority, Francisco Salado, has also expressed support for the plant.

The mayors say they are "very pleased" the project is not going ahead.

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# Fuengirola's new marina will be an open space with views to the sea

## FUENGIROLA

The mayor says the ambitious project will cost over 70 million euros but will be a major tourism hub and is "vital" for the town

IVÁN GELIBTER

Details of the long-awaited project to create a new marina in Fuengirola have been announced this week. This infrastructure, which mayor Ana Mula says is "vital" for the town, is to be built on the same level as the seafront promenade and will therefore be open to the rest of the town, with large shopping and pedestrian areas.

Earlier this week the mayor met officials from the Andalusian Ports Agency and representatives of Bereguer Ingenieros, the company which has designed the project, to discuss progress. She said afterwards that things are going well so far and described the new port, which has the full support of the Junta de Andalucía, as a "major tourism hub" for Fuengirola.

This is the most ambitious project for the town so far, and the innovative plans drawn up by Berenguer Ingenieros are for a space which is completely open. Mula pointed out that local people have been waiting a very long time for this new facility to come to fruition, and it will resolve the problems which have occurred over time with the existing port.

The Andalusian Ports Agency agrees with the council that this design is the one which is most

viable from all points of view.

The new marina will have 730 underground parking spaces, and the central square will be at the same level as the seafront promenade. This means that the view of the sea will not be obstructed, and in fact even from the lowest part of the marina it will be visible behind the sea wall. "One really important thing, and the one which really struck us about this design, is that not a single lorry will have to drive through the town when the sea wall is being constructed, because the materials will arrive by sea. That will save a great deal of work on a project as big as this one," said the mayor.

## Cruise ships

With regard to the cost of this new project, Mula said it is expected to be in the region of 71



Mula explained the details of the project earlier this week. SUR

million euros, and that will include 30,000 square metres of covered spaces for different uses, including commercial, a nautical centre and areas reserved for sailing. "In addition to all that, there will of course be a fishing area, which is very important for our town," she said.

Cruise ships of up to 180 metres in length will also be able to visit, although careful thought

has been given to the environmental aspect of this.

"When a cruise ship arrives, we want all journeys between the ship and the town to be made by electric vehicles to avoid emissions. This is going to be the project that everyone in Fuengirola has been dreaming of and it is thrilling to see it beginning to take shape," said the mayor.



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# Four new boutique hotel projects to transform the old town's tourist accommodation offering

## MARBELLA

A Swiss investor has purchased the schemes, all in historic buildings, three of which will be ready after summer

### HÉCTOR BARBOTA

Despite the uncertainty shrouding the imminent high season, new hotel projects have not come to a standstill in Marbella. A Swiss private investor has just acquired four boutique hotel projects located in the old town, all with the aim of attracting visitors with high purchasing power.

The establishments, some of which are set to be completed relatively soon, are located in historic buildings in the town centre. Although some are in areas that are inaccessible to traffic and the buildings' characteristics mean they don't qualify for the highest hotel classifications, they nonetheless aspire to offer a high-end service. The aim is to target a market that still has a relatively small share in Marbella: tourists that are more attracted by culture and gastronomy, rather than nightlife.

The four properties belonged to a Swiss investment fund and were recently acquired by an individual investor. However, the vision and management of the construction is being carried out by the Rhone company, specialists in the residential and luxury hotel sector. Although the administrative and commercial management of the four hotels will be carried out jointly, these



Rhone CEO Miguel Cerván at the hotel on Calle Ancha in Marbella. **JOSELE**

are projects at varying stages of development.

The first one to be set up is located in a palatial house on Calle Ancha. At the end of the 19th and beginning of the 20th century it was the residence of the Ardois family who exploited one of the mines in operation in the area. In fact, one of the walls of the building that has been preserved was built with quartz ore from that operation, explained Rhone CEO Miguel Cerván.

This establishment, which will open after the summer under the name of My Zone Ardois, will have nine rooms and a restaurant with at least 25 tables.

At the same time, also in October, a second establishment is scheduled to open in a historical palace located in Plaza del Santo Cristo, in the northern part of the old town next to the chapel of the

same name. This hotel will have 15 rooms.

Another part of this project will see the old El Castillo hostel converted into a high-end establishment. It's also a historical building, located in Plaza San Bernabé, which in the 18th century served as a bodega and offered accommodation to travellers. As a new hotel, it is scheduled to open to the public with 16 rooms between November and December.

The last of the four establishments is the one that will be built in the old conservatory, another historical and emblematic building of the old town located in Plaza Puerta de Ronda. This project, which already has its building permit, will consist of 12 rooms, 50 square metres each. It's the only one of the four on which construction has not yet started.

## Reserva del Higuerón, first five-star hotel in the region under new points system

The Fuengirola hotel earned enough points in its inspection to gain the Grand Luxe label

### PILAR MARTÍNEZ

MÁLAGA. The Higuerón Hotel Málaga Curio Collection by Hilton, in Fuengirola, has become the first hotel in Andalucía to be given five stars under the new hotel classification system.

The hotel has risen category after obtaining 943 points during the inspection, enough to earn the Grand Luxe label.

The hotel's director, José Navas, however explained that the hotel will remain in the five-star category, which requires 650 points, in line with its marketing strategy. He expressed his pride by saying: "The presentation of the plaque is the culmination of years of hard work and continuous improvements."

## Works licence granted for El Fuerte Marbella improvements

### H. BARBOTA

MARBELLA. The Fuertehoteles group this week obtained the licences necessary to carry out improvement works on the El Fuerte hotel, located in the centre of the city, to convert it into a five-star establishment.

The investment, worth up to 20 million euros, will take up to two years to carry out and will take place across 13,300 square metres of the property.



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# Single use plastic: a Covid-19 hero with devastating environmental consequences

Olive oil companies have seen a huge increase in demand for individual sachets and discarded PPE has become a blight on the landscape

JENNIE RHODES

MALAGA. Local environmental groups have warned of the increase in single-use plastic and other waste as a result of the Covid-19 crisis.

Events like beach and river cleanups, which were gathering momentum across the province in 2019, have not gone ahead due to the restrictions. However, with the obligatory use of masks, and gloves as well in some places such as supermarkets, protective equipment discarded on the streets, beaches and countryside, has become an all too common sight.

While the Covid-19 lockdown was good news for pollution levels, with Spanish environmental organisation, Ecologistas en Acción reporting a 55 per cent drop in levels in urban air pollution in the second half of March, the pandemic spells disaster for levels of plastic and other waste.

While nobody could dispute the need for personal protection against the virus, a World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) report stated, "if just one per cent of



A protective mask discarded on a beach. EFE

masks are disposed of incorrectly and dispersed in nature this would result in as many as 10 million masks per month polluting the environment."

As PPE, which has the added risk that it is potentially contaminated with the virus, cannot be recycled, it should be incinerated. Spain's ministry for Health released a protocol on 19 March for disposing of masks, gloves and other garments which may have come into contact with the virus. The protocol stated that it must be placed

into a separate bag and put into the grey organic bin, not the yellow plastics one and this should apply to masks and gloves.

## Single use plastic

Another issue which has resurfaced since the relaxing of restriction is the use of single-use plastics.

According to Antonio Pérez, manager of Aceites Málaga, the company has seen a "boom" in demand for individual sachets of olive oil. The advice from health

authorities in Spain is that bars and restaurants should not use self-service oil and vinegar bottles and instead either provide single use sachets or only provide condiments upon request.

Aceites el Niño told SUR that before coronavirus, only 0.8 per cent of their sales were individual sachets of oil, whereas they now account for eight per cent.

Another consequence of the pandemic has been falling crude oil prices, making 'virgin', or new plastic, cheaper to buy than its re-

cycled alternative.

According to Natasha Wegloop, who is the founder of Mi Moana beach cleanup project in Mijas Costa, "People are afraid of the virus." Her view concurs with the website [www.plasticexpert.co.uk](http://www.plasticexpert.co.uk) that "many manufacturers prefer to buy new, as there's an assumption that new is better".

With the European Union Single Use Plastics (SUP) directive due to be enforced in member states in 2021, there have been petitions from the plastics industry to delay it. However, the EU has responded to the industry to say it has "no plans" to postpone the law and stressed that it does not cover PPE.

On 2 June 2020 Spain's Environment ministry gave the green light to a draft plan to write the EU SUP directive into national law, with objectives to achieve a circular economy, manage waste better and reduce pollution.

For Wegloop, it feels like all the "good work" to educate people on recycling, reducing and reusing has "been undone" and that "we will have to start all over again".

The good news is that Mi Moana has permission from Mijas town hall to organise a beach cleanup in July on El Chaparral beach and Ann Jenkins from Playa Patrol in La Herradura is confident that she will be able to start up again in late summer. "I don't know what the effect of Covid-19 will be on our oceans, but I am positive that people will adapt again when this is all over," Wegloop concludes.

**Agustín Peláez, Susana Zamora and José Antonio Guerrero** contributed to this article.



## Notable increase in wet wipes in sewage systems during lockdown

F. JIMÉNEZ

MALAGA. Sewage plant operators in Malaga province have reported an increase in wet wipes present in waste water systems since the coronavirus crisis began. Malaga's provincial authority, Diputación, which manages a number of sewage plants in smaller towns in inland Malaga through a consortium, has reported a "notable increase" since the lockdown began in mid-March. Unlike toilet paper, which decomposes in a matter of hours, wet wipes take up to two weeks to biodegrade. They are one of the main causes of blockages, faults and leaks in sewage systems and 90 per cent of the 400 tonnes of non-organic waste which are removed from sewage systems each month is wet wipes.





## Leonte death still unsolved one year on from her disappearance

A femur and vertebrae have been linked to the victim through DNA testing but police say discovery of skull would provide a vital clue

**E. CABEZAS**

**ARENAS.** June 22 will mark the first anniversary of the disappearance of 31-year-old Romanian woman, Dana Leonte, whose case has remained a mystery since she went missing from her home in Arenas.

Although DNA tests have linked bones located in land around the Axarquía town between September 2019 and March to the mother-of-one, police have been unable to find answers to her death.

On 25 September 2019 a femur



Sergio Ruiz and Dana Leonte. **SUR**

bone was found on land some six kilometres from the house Leonte shared with her partner, Sergio Ruiz and their baby daughter. DNA checks proved it to belong to the

victim. Other bones including vertebrae, fingers and toes have also been linked to Leonte. However, the search had to be called off at the start of the coronavirus lockdown in mid March.

Police are still hoping to find the woman's skull as they say it should provide vital clues as to how died.

Ruiz is currently the only suspect in the case and remains in Albolote prison in Granada as his family have been unable to raise the 17,000 euro bail money needed for his release. He has maintained that he is innocent since he was first arrested last September.

The woman's brother, Florín Leonte, is fighting for custody of the couple's daughter, who is currently in the care of Ruiz's brother, Estanislao.

### HERE AND THERE

**NERJA**

#### Nerja cave international festival cancelled

**E. C.** Nerja cave foundation announced last week the decision to cancel this year's international music and dance festival. The announcement came as the

cave celebrated the 60th anniversary of its opening, on 12 June 1960.

The foundation cited financial problems due to the three-month closure of the cave during the coronavirus lockdown. The foundation has applied for a 900,000 euro loan to pay the salaries of 40 members of staff.

**RINCÓN DE LA VICTORIA**

#### 250 kilos of rubbish removed from cliffs

**E. C.** A team of professional cleaners removed 250 kilos of rubbish from Rincón de la Victoria's El Cantal cliffs last week. Environment councillor, Sergio Díaz, referred to the disposal of rubbish in the area as an "emergency" as the cliffs are home to protected wildlife including plant species and birds such as plovers and cormorants.

**VÉLEZ-MÁLAGA**

#### Real-time capacity App for Vélez beaches

**SUR.** Vélez-Málaga town hall is using the GECOR App which allows users to see how full its beaches are using a traffic light system. Green means that there is space, yellow means limited space and red means a beach is full. The app can be downloaded onto smart phones and a search of Vélez-Málaga will bring up a list of its beaches.

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## HERE AND THERE

The fountain has been in storage for the last ten years. **S. SALAS**

## MALAGA

**Gitanillas fountain is finally put back**

**J. HINOJOSA.** Several years later than planned, the iconic Gitanillas fountain was returned to its place on Manuel Alcántara roundabout in Malaga city on Monday. The fountain, which was in

Plaza de la Constitución until it was pedestrianised in 2003, has been in storage for ten years during works to extend the Malaga Metro network into the city centre.

Its installation, which will include cleaning and the replacement and updating of its electrics and plumbing, will be complete by the start of July.

## MALAGA

**Virtual food festival to raise money for charity**

**J. RHODES.** The Food Experience Malaga website, run by British and Irish residents Hanni Martini and Jessica Baker Daza, will be hosting a free virtual lifestyle festival from 23 to 25 June. Participants will experience Malaga beer, wine and coffee tasting as well as show cooking and tapas tours. The festival is raising money for the Casa Ronald McDonald in Malaga which forms part of Spain's Ronald McDonald Foundation. Martini told SUR in English this week that over 1,000 euros had already been raised. To register for free, visit [www.foodexperiencemalaga.com](http://www.foodexperiencemalaga.com)

## MALAGA

**Statue to be erected in tribute to healthworkers**

**P. R. QUIRÓS.** Mayor of Malaga Francisco de la Torre announced on Wednesday that Plaza de la Solidaridad, in front of the Larios Centro shopping centre, would be the location for a new monument being created to honour healthworkers and their efforts during the Covid-19 pandemic.

The Macael marble workshop is currently creating eight different statues which will be installed across the Andalusian provinces.

The statue will be placed in the middle of the roundabout which is currently empty and will complement the 'donor's monument' by Elena Laverón in the same square, according to De la Torre.

# Torremolinos scales down summer schedule

Although large-scale festivals have been cancelled, more than 100 smaller events will take place throughout the summer

## TONY BRYANT

**TORREMOLINOS.** Torremolinos town hall has announced the cancellation of almost all of the large-scale events planned for July, August and September. Suspended events include San Juan, the Festival of Santa María del Mar, the Latin Music Festival, the open-air summer cinema season, and the Romería de San Miguel, one of the biggest pilgrimages in Spain.

The decision has been taken in order to prevent further outbreaks of Covid-19. The suspension of these events will save the town hall around 400,000 euros, which, as councillor for Culture David Tejeiro expressed, "will be used to bolster the aid given to the most vulnerable".

The councillor went on to say that the town hall is currently studying the possibility of adapting events such as the procession of the Virgen del Carmen and the

The romería will not take place. **SUR**

Feria de San Miguel. The councillor said he hoped that these popular festivities could be "scaled down", although he stressed that a final decision was yet to be made.

However, the town hall has given permission for more than 100 smaller events to be held in various outside locations in Torremolinos. These events, which will be monitored, will include exhibitions, shows, street theatre and classical music, jazz and flamenco recitals.

# Coín town hall bans bathing and leisure activities at Barranco Blanco pools

## ANDREA JIMÉNEZ

**COÍN.** The town hall in Coín has moved to ban bathing and other leisure activities in the Barranco Blanco pools, in the Cerro Alaminos area, as a precaution to prevent the spread of coronavirus.

The measure, which came into effect on 12 June, will remain in place until further notice and was driven primarily by the impossibility of imposing hygiene protocols in the area.

Councillor for the Environment Antonio Lucena said: "We've taken this decision after witnessing the crowds in the area in the last few days and seeing that it's very difficult to maintain social distance and capacity control in spaces like this."

Lucena said that this was not a decision taken lightly and referred to the report published by the Health ministry which stated that the survival of SARS-CoV-2 in water from rivers, lakes, ponds and untreated freshwater bodies of water may be higher than in swimming pools and salt water.

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**REF. G. O. O.**

My girlfriend and I want to get married in a civil ceremony. We are both single and have never been married before; we have lived in Spain for five years and are residents. What paperwork do we need to submit and where would the wedding be

**held?**

You have to go to the Civil Registry and fill in an application form, providing originals and photocopies of your passports and residency cards, birth certificates, 'certificado de empadronamiento' accrediting your address for the last two years (from the town hall), as well as an affidavit of your marital status. You will also need two witnesses (relatives or friends) who will also have to sign a form. If you provide documents obtained abroad, they will have to have a special stamp called the "Apostille of The Hague", as well as an official translation. Once the Civil Registry approves the paperwork, they will contact you to choose a date for the wedding, which can take place at Court or the Town Hall. At the wedding, you will also need two wit-

nesses (not necessarily the same who signed the form), and the judge will provide the family book, which proves your marriage.

**REF. D. P. R.**

A few days ago I left my car double parked while I collected a letter in the post office. When I came back, the car had been towed away, and I had to pay the parking fine and the cost of the tow truck. However, my car was not blocking traffic. In which cases can the car be towed? Whenever it is parked illegally and represents a danger or seriously disrupts traffic or the correct operation of a public service, or when it is thought to have been abandoned in the street. In any other case, the car could not be towed away.

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# Handouts up to 4,000 euros for new cars as part of green government scheme

The vehicle replacement stimulus package targets vehicles over ten years old and includes diesel and petrol models but larger subsidies are available for electric cars

JOSÉ M. CAMARERO

MADRID. The Cabinet has given the go-ahead to a huge scheme of incentives to encourage people to scrap cars over ten years old. To take advantage of the scheme a purchaser (private individual or self-employed) can consider new cars up to 35,000 euros (45,000 for those with reduced mobility or those buying purely electric cars).

The government's new vehicle replacement stimulus package



Car dealers must contribute. EFE

includes traditional diesel and petrol models as well as more advanced technologies. Carbon emissions on the new purchase however will need to be below 120 g CO2/km.

Starting from this week, there

is an 800-euro subsidy for a petrol or diesel model if its energy class is A and 400 if it is B-rated.

Hybrids ('Ecos') qualify for 1,000 (A) and 600 euros (B) and fully electrics (Cero) receive a 4,000-euro subsidy.

The rules say that car makers and dealers need to match the discounts (up to 1,000 euros), so a 800-euro government handout becomes a 1,600 euro saving to the purchaser, for example.

An extra 500 euros will be given for vehicles over 20 years old, to people with reduced mobility and households on income under 1,500 a month.

Separate reductions apply for small and larger companies, although these are for smaller amounts.

Money will also go to help local authorities and governments renew their fleets.

## INVESTMENT FIGURES

3.75

billion euros is the size of the overall plan to help the automotive sector.

550

million euros will go to subsidise the scrapping of older public and private vehicles.

## SUBSIDY FOR BUYING A NEW CAR

Figures in euros

### Private buyers and 'autónomos'

Rating	Class A / B
'CERO' (electric)	4,000 / 4,000
'ECO' (hybrids)	1,000 / 600
C (combustion)	800 / 400

### Small firms

Rating	Class A / B
'CERO' (electric)	3,200 / 3,200
'ECO' (hybrids)	800 / 500
C (combustion)	650 / 350

## The national tribute to Covid-19 victims will take place in Madrid on 16 July

SUR

MADRID. The national tribute to the victims of coronavirus will be held on 16 July outside the Royal Palace in the centre of Madrid.

The prime minister made the announcement in parliament on Wednesday. The ceremony will be led by King Felipe and will take place in the Plaza de la Armería courtyard.

"This civil ceremony will be the farewell to all those who have lost their lives in Spain during the pandemic and recognition for their families and those who, having suffered the illness, have fortunately survived," said a government statement.



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## Granada's Alhambra opens again to visitors

After three months closed to the public due to the coronavirus health crisis, members of the public once again were able to admire the courtyards and palaces of the Alhambra in Granada on Wednesday. Visitor numbers are limited to half the monument's usual capacity and face masks and distancing are among the new rules.

## Multi-billion support plan announced for coronavirus-affected tourist industry

The government's measures total over four billion euros and include loans for firms, training and a new quality-control seal

EDURNE MARTÍNEZ

MADRID. The tourist industry in Spain will get a 4.26-billion-euro injection from government funds in an attempt to soften the blow of the Covid-19 outbreak. Prime minister Pedro Sánchez presented his plan on Thursday, stressing how important tourism was for economic and social cohesion.

The funds will be divided into different types of activity, which Sánchez outlined in his speech.

Firstly, there will be a quality-control seal for firms to show they

are taking the right precautions to prevent coronavirus.

Secondly, the PM announced loans for the tourism industry, through the ICO scheme, of 2.5bn euros. A break on paying rent or leasing will also be allowed. He also stressed that airport-operator Aena is reducing landing fees.

In addition, the "need to improve the competitiveness of the sector, thinking medium and long term" was also addressed with a planned 850-million investment in increasing use of new digital technologies

There will also be a plan for mentoring and training as well as a new centralised information centre to monitor the strategic direction of the tourist industry.

He explained it was important to "position our country as a safe and sustainable destination".



# Gibraltar reports zero active Covid-19 cases for first time

The news was welcomed by people on the Rock but the government says nobody should drop their guard, even though this might be "boring"

DEBBIE BARTLETT



GIBRALTAR. Wednesday 17 June 2020 was a red-letter day for Gibraltar, as it was the first time the daily Covid-19 statistics showed that there were no active cases on the Rock. There was no change to the figure on Thursday, either,

but the government was quick to urge people not to drop their guard.

The figures on Wednesday confirmed that there have been 176 cases of coronavirus in Gibraltar since the pandemic began, and all have recovered. At present, 51 people are self-isolating, because underlying health problems put them at risk or because they have been in contact with someone who previously tested positive with the disease.

Some cases were identified through checks on people coming across the border, and in this case they are self-isolating at home in Spain and the Spanish authorities have been notified.

Gibraltar has now moved into



The busy Main Street in Gibraltar before the pandemic. **SUR**

Phase 4 of its Unlock The Rock plan to ease the coronavirus restrictions. Making the announcement, chief minister Fabian Picardo said it may "sound repetitive and boring" but "we

have to continue to exercise self-control and to observe the new rules of social distancing, respiratory and hand hygiene we have been banging on about". He said there is plenty of rea-

son not to relax and to be conscious of the fact that the virus is still out there.

The importance of this was highlighted by news from nearby Algeciras on Thursday that a man who was staying in a hostel in the town had died from Covid-19 and three of the other 16 guests were found to be infected.

The border between Spain and Gibraltar reopened for official residents last week, but reports from people who have crossed say that border officials are not always checking proof of residency and sometimes only want to see passports.

Several residents of Spain who have taken the opportunity to visit Gibraltar have said that it seems like another world, with very few people in the town wearing masks or social distancing and all the shops open. In Spain, masks are compulsory indoors and outdoors if 2-metre social distancing cannot be maintained, but in Gibraltar, although the government strongly recommends masks, they are only obligatory in some situations, such as on public transport.

## GIBRALTAR IN BRIEF

### ENVIRONMENT

#### Meet 'Star', a plastic-eating aquatic container that protects the environment

**D. B.** It may not be immediately obvious, but this is 'Star', an environmentally-friendly, plastic-eating, aquatic device that now resides at Camp Bay in Gibraltar. Like 'Bubbles' on Eastern beach, 'Star' aims to encourage beach users to recycle plastic, while helping to keep the beaches and the sea free from plastic contamination.

It is a metallic frame structure, four metres by two metres in size, which is being deployed at Camp Bay as the ideal receptacle for all plastic items. Beach users are encouraged not to use disposable



'Star' is at Camp Bay. **SUR**

plastic, but if they do then this is a way to get rid of it in an environmentally friendly fashion. In other words, 'Star' has quite an appetite. Luckily, it can be easily emptied and its contents are sent for recycling.

### NEWS

#### New governor visits Royal Gibraltar Regiment

**D. B.** Vice Admiral Sir David Steel, who was sworn in as Governor of Gibraltar last week, has lost no time in getting down to work and one of his first official engagements was a visit to the Royal Gibraltar Regiment, of which he is now Commander in Chief. Wearing uniform, the Governor watched a parade by different teams of the Regiment, before addressing the troops and signing the visitors' book.

### PORT

#### Cruise visit was a technical call

**D. B.** The cruise liner Jewel of the Sea came to Gibraltar early on Thursday morning, but the authorities are keen to stress that in line with their policy to suspend all cruise ship visits because of the coronavirus crisis, she was carrying no passengers and this was just a scheduled call to take on fuel and supplies. As usual, no crew members were permitted to disembark from the ship.



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# Eurofund offer breathes new life into huge leisure complex planned for Torremolinos

The majority shareholder in the proposed 235,000-square-metre complex is currently Intu, which has recently had to sell assets to reduce debt

ALBERTO GÓMEZ

MALAGA. The planned giant leisure and shopping complex on the outskirts of Torremolinos could be about to take a big step forward towards being built.

After years of red tape and waiting for the resort's PGOU master town plan to be rewritten, which was completed in January, the recent financial problems of developers Intu had been calling into question its viability again.

The British shopping-centre developer has an offer on the table from its partners on the project, Spanish-based Eurofund, to acquire Intu's shares in the project.

According to sources, the negotiation to buy the shares is likely to be successful. The head of Intu in Spain, Salvador Arenere, is also a group director of Eurofund, a company headed by Ian Sandford that is also in the retail and leisure development sector. Both are linked to the planned project in Torremolinos and share the vision of a complex built like a small town with smart technology and themed areas. Eurofund is currently the minority shareholder and would take complete control of the scheme if the sale goes ahead.

The construction project for the



Model of the future leisure development. **SUR**

site has consistently failed to meet the planned timescale.

This year, according to Intu, the building works should definitely start, although initial steps are still being taken at Torremolinos town hall, which has received the final project plan and details of the new access roads that will need to be built.

It was a condition of planning permission that Intu pay for improved access to the complex from the town centre and the adjacent motorway.

In recent months Intu has sold the rest of its shopping centres in Spain to reduce its debt. In addition, Intu is also suffering from the effects of coronavirus and a failed attempt to increase its capital.

The project for the land to the north of the Palacio de Congresos will cover 235,000 square metres with shops and restaurants, as well as attractions such as a big wheel and wave park. The current plan is to have it open in 2023.

## Government and employers fail to reach consensus on keeping ERTes beyond 30 June

**SUR**

MADRID. The government failed to reach agreement with unions and company bosses this week to extend the special ERTE furloughing conditions beyond the current expiry date of 30 June. Employers had called for an extension of the emergency terms to December to give stability. While a compromise of September was muted, no deal was done and the government has insisted that any extension cannot be on the same generous 'force majeure' terms as now.

## Los Barrios power station set to close with the loss of 91 jobs

**EFE**

ALGECIRAS. The Viesgo generating plant in Los Barrios municipality, near to Algeciras, has asked for permission to stop operating, as part of EU-wide targets to reduce carbon emissions.

The mayor of Los Barrios, Miguel Alconchel, confirmed the news, saying that he was against the move as the plant was originally earmarked as one of the only five in Spain that would be left running after July 2020. Ninety-one people work at the site.

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THE EURO ZONE  
MARK NAYLER

## Spending spree



This week saw some big numbers being thrown around by the Spanish government. Prime minister Pedro Sánchez announced that his leftist coalition plans public investment of €150 billion throughout 2021 and 2022, a level of spending that heavily depends on Spain receiving an EU bailout package of €140 billion, €74 billion of which would be in grants, the rest in repayable loans. This hefty injection of funds into the country's post-

Covid economy, according to Sánchez's administration, could in turn act as a stimulus to private investment worth €500 billion.

You wouldn't necessarily guess, staring goggle-eyed at these enormous figures, that Spain is currently weathering a global health crisis with the potential to become, at least in its own case, an economic crisis too. But Sánchez maintains that increased public spending is the best way to bolster the

country's fragile economy, which was still recovering from the global recession when the pandemic hit.

So, where's that €150 billion coming from and where will it go? This is the point at which the government's plans become hazy. Sánchez has promised to raise existing taxes and to create some new ones, measures that won't sit well with a population that's been so badly affected by the pandemic and resulting lockdown. But apart from that, there's little evidence that the potential sources of this miraculous amount have been carefully examined. One also wonders if the wildly ambitious figure of €500 billion, which seems to have been snatched out of thin air, takes into account investor

caution in the post-Covid financial world.

The Socialist leader's proposed approach is not the only one available to governments faced with vulnerable or tanking economies. Mariano Rajoy's conservative Popular Party tackled the fallout from a burst property bubble in 2008 (a situation both similar to and importantly different from the Covid crisis) by slashing rather than increasing public spending. In many ways, that strategy was enforced by Brussels in exchange for a €40 billion aid package, which it provided to rescue Spain's stricken banking sector. Rajoy defended the deeply unpopular austerity measures by arguing that, although unpleasant, they were necessary in reducing the gap

between the country's income and its public spending.

Where Sánchez's hypothetical €150 billion is directed will determine its economic impact and, in turn, the amount and type of private investment it stimulates. If I gave you €10,000 and asked you to refurbish my flat, I wouldn't be impressed if you spent it all on a new sofa - nor, presumably, would a potential buyer. Here, again, the government's plans are vague: some of the money will go to tourism, some to healthcare, some to unemployment benefits, but the details in each case are sparse. We're led to speculate, as we often are with Sánchez's government, how much substance and detail supports its attention-grabbing announcements.



LETTERS  
TO THE EDITORAppointment  
disappointment

Re: Telephone appointments to continue at public health centres. I know that I am not alone in being very disappointed to read in your article that telephone appointments are to continue at the health centres. The Salud Responde phone app is something that I have always thought was such an advantage to living in Spain where you can easily and quickly make a doctor's appointment online. We have told friends and family in England what a brilliant system we have here, particularly as there has usually been an appointment available for the next day.

I do not go frequently but do need six-monthly check-ups and just knowing I can easily arrange my appointment was so useful. I do always manage to speak to the doctor without an interpreter, but then that is face to face. On the telephone I find it very difficult, not only as they speak so fast but also due to the fact I have some hearing difficulties. If the doctor needs to phone me then another problem arises as I live in the campo where there's no land line and no mobile phone signal in the house. I tried to call into the clinic the other day but was told to phone, so if it is to continue that we cannot even go in person to make an appointment, the whole process of trying to see the doctor will be increasingly difficult. **BARBARA WICKER**

## Let's not forget

The other day it was sunny, warm, people were out and about, in the bars, on the beach, in the shops... Everything seemed almost normal, so much so that when I bumped into an old friend, I automatically launched into the two-kisses routine. We both then took a step back-

wards, looked sheepish and touched elbows. Later at home I happened to cough and I was left imagining how awful it would be if my irresponsible behaviour had led to another outbreak of Covid-19. It didn't, but we must resist falling into the trap of thinking everything is exactly as it used to be.

**JULIE DANIELS**

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THE MUSIC MAKER  
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## Let's work together

**A**mid the unveiling of Dexamethasone as a life-saving drug and the bizarrely dramatic scenes involving historical statues and the corresponding antics of their attackers/defenders, each utterly convinced of the veracity of their opposing arguments, you may have missed the news that The Shakespeare pub, Malaga, opened its doors again this week after three months' closure.

We didn't have a clue what to expect on the first night back but it soon became clear that it would be a wholly heartwarming experience and it was a real joy to see so many people making the effort to pass by on a roasting Tuesday evening when every terrace within a ten-mile radius must have seemed a much more inviting prospect than our little bar. The good will on display lifted our spirits no end.

Actually, it's been generally

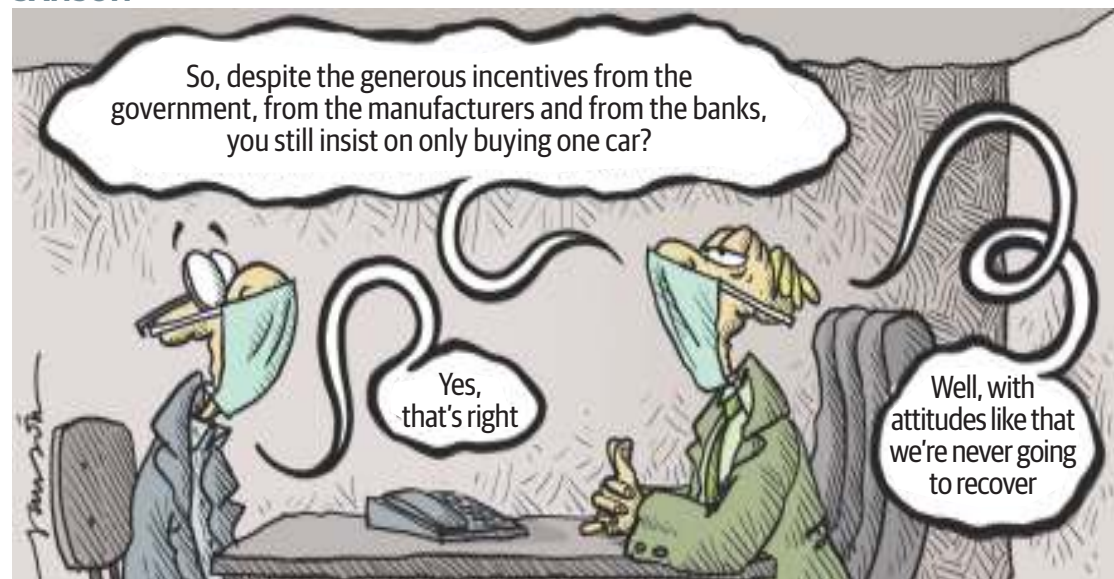
wonderful to witness people supporting local businesses around Malaga city centre recently, as the town tentatively awakens and edges its way back to some semblance of normality. I've had three coffees, a fruit juice and a coke already today, only two of which I really wanted or needed. I'm not the only one. Pass by any small business and you'll almost certainly see a customer in there - the few people knocking about are clearly conscious of the need to cooperate and collaborate if we're to maximise our chances of emerging from all of this with minimal damage.

Malaga's principal problem currently is one shared by many cities around the world: it has relied far too heavily for far too long on tourism for its economic survival. Like a small business that depends too much on one big client, the city has been vulnerable for years to the damage a decline in foreign visitors would cause.

So what's to be done? Well, maybe nothing. It's certainly an option to let things take their natural course. It's possible this would result in a gradual return of Malagueños to live in their own city centre once more, as landlords found themselves compelled to reduce rents in a saturated market. There'd be something rather poetic about that, especially if online working flourished and a worthwhile percentage of those local residents were gainfully employed. It's also possible that tourism will recover and it won't be long before swathes of trundling suitcases return to the city's historic streets to provide the soundtrack of our lives once again. The trouble is nobody really knows and so we're left to try to adapt as best we can to wildly unpredictable circumstances.

While I sit and contemplate the future, I'll order another coffee. And a cake, even though I'm not in the least bit hungry.

## SANSÓN



**SUR** in English

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THE BOTTOM LINE  
JOSEPHINE QUINTERO

## The future of the guidebook

**I** was on the metro in Mexico City, my eventual destination the Frida Kahlo museum, when a dishevelled looking guy entered my near-empty carriage. I inadvertently caught his eye, then looked down, and intently studied the hem of my skirt. Next moment he was towering over me "dame unos pesos por una cerveza"; the tone was aggressive, the voice, slurred. I noticed an elderly woman sitting opposite get up and discreetly move away. "Ok," I mumbled and tossed a few

coins into the grubby plastic mug that was close to brushing my chin. He didn't move. Fortunately, we were drawing into a station and I rushed past him and off the train. I soon calmed down and continued my journey, eventually arriving at wonderful Coyoacán and Frida's famous cobalt-blue former house.

For guidebook writers, precarious situations are commonplace. Ironically, mine generally arose from merely getting lost, ensuring maps were marked up correctly

was always a major challenge for someone with little sense of direction.

Lonely Planet was founded in 1973 and during my 20-plus years with the company, I witnessed countless changes: new owners; new editorial directions; new digital demands and increasingly complex technology. But nothing came close to the effect of Covid-19. Early in April, authors were told that there were to be mass layoffs, office closures and LP's myriad travel publications, including inspirational titles, a magazine and themed books, were to get the axe.

Destination guidebooks were possibly going to continue, however there was no assurance as to how, if, and when, and all commissioning (and communication) abruptly stopped. Authors contacted each other in panic-stricken desperation as the entire travel industry collapsed

around them with a depressing domino effect.

Will Lonely Planet return? Although I am now retired, of course I sincerely hope so. Pre-corona and against all digital odds, guidebook sales were slowly on the rise, despite the increased competition from such user-generated platforms as Trip Advisor. It seems there is nothing to replace that battered LP guide, researched by writers on the ground, and which tends to stay on the bookshelf as a dog-eared memento, long after your trip.

When travel starts again - which it will - hopefully people will travel less and more simply, with reduced tech and more environmental conscience.

And just maybe there will, once again, be a place for that faithful Lonely Planet guidebook.

I certainly hope so.



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## IN THE FRAME

# A unique understanding of nature and the human body

**Jeff Roope.** The natural healer says he discovered his gift as a child and has since used it to help celebrities and royalty

TONY BRYANT

**H**ealer and herbalist Jeff Roope has been helping people overcome ailments and diseases for many years and has worked with some of the world's biggest celebrities and sports personalities. These have included footballer Ronaldinho and singers Anastasia and Robbie Williams, to name just a few. He was also employed by two major European football clubs, and by Saudi royals, offering his skills to several sheikhs and crown princes.

After spending the last ten years working in Dubai, the 73-year-old has recently settled in Mijas, where he is now offering his services to the local community.

Jeff says that he was just a child when he realised he possessed a special gift - the ability to take away pain solely by using his hands. This was something that he kept quiet at first, although he claims he would sometimes remove a friend's headache or heal someone who had injured themselves. It was not too long before rumours of his ability to relieve pain began to circulate and Jeff says he soon found his skills in great demand.

"I was a youngster when I realised that I had the power to heal. I began to gain a reputation as someone who could relieve migraine and arthritis, but I couldn't go around saying I could heal people at that time because they would have locked me up," Jeff explains to SUR in English.

To Jeff's knowledge, there is no prior history of this in his family, although one of his five daughters possesses the gift, "but chooses not to use it".

However, Jeff says that his gift at first scared him, as there were some aspects of it that he didn't truly understand.

"I knew when I was around seven years old that I was different. I could see things that other people couldn't see. I don't say that I saw dead people, but I would see something I couldn't explain and it was frightening. I later realised that this was the aura, or human energy field, which emanates from the human body with layers of colour," he says.

Originally from Hull, Jeff left the UK when he was 16 and travelled around Europe. He had no idea at this time what lay ahead, but he would soon



Natural healer Jeff Roope relaxes at his home in Mijas. SUR

develop his gift and use it to good cause. He began professional healing about 30 years ago. At the time, he was living in Denmark.

"A Danish friend asked me if I could help his wife, as she was suffering with arthritis. After just one day with her she indicated that her pain had gone and she started doing things she hadn't done for years. It was around this time I realised that I could actually use this gift to my ability," he says.

## Power of natural medicine

Jeff says he first discovered the power of using herbs in conjunction with his healing powers while living Asia, where he took the opportunity to study the practice of traditional Chinese herbal medicine.

"I was invited to Singapore and China. As I had never been to South East Asia before, I decided to go. I went to the old traditional herbalists in China and

**Jeff says that he was just a child when he realised he possessed a special gift - the ability to take away pain solely by using his hands**

I met a couple of people who claimed to have been cured of cancer and multiple sclerosis. I knew I had to look into this and this is when I began studying natural remedies," says Jeff.

Through his own understanding of how the body works, Jeff takes a holistic approach to health and healing, bearing in mind mental and social factors. He spent many years travelling around Asia in order to gather information and data about natural medicine and its use in curing diseases.

Once back in Europe, he be-

gan developing his own herbal recipes and within a few years his range comprised several herbal products, all of which he says have proven to significantly improve health in specific areas.

The media began to refer to Jeff as "The man with the magic hands", although the humble healer feels that they sometimes went a little over the top when referring to his ability to heal.

## Working with the stars

His talents started to become well-known among celebrities and he explains that he has been commissioned by a variety of fashion models, pop stars and sports personalities. He has been asked to use his gift at the Brit Awards on several occasions, he explains: there, he would use his ability to "adjust the aura" of the stars before they went on stage.

Because his products are herbal, Jeff says they have also been used by sports personalities, including Tour de France cyclists and a few Premier League footballers.

"I was employed as a healer by Barcelona and Chelsea football clubs and I have also worked at the Brit Awards. I would help sports personalities and pop stars relax by adjusting their aura. When the aura sits tight on the shoulders it causes stress and I would help lift this so they could relax before a performance," he explains.

Jeff is currently concentrating on a new herbal anti-ageing formula, which, he claims, is capable of restoring youthful health by activating an enzyme responsible for rebuilding the telomeres.

"The gradual shortening of the telomeres, the protective end pieces of the chromosomes, is now considered to be a key factor in the ageing process, and rebuilding the telomeres is therefore believed to be integral in reversing this process," Jeff concludes.

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## WHAT HAPPENED TODAY?

# The death of the girl 'born out of science'

19 JUNE 1980

María del Carmen Enriqueta became the first baby in Andalucía to be delivered by caesarean section after the death of the mother

**T**he morning after 15 July 1898, news of María del Carmen Enriqueta filled the newspapers; when she died on this day in 1980, it was barely mentioned. She has almost been erased from the collective memory now, but 'La Niña de la Ciencia' (the science girl) wrote her name into the history books when she became the first baby in Andalucía to be born alive after her mother died, and only the fourth in Europe.

Gynaecologist Dr José Gálvez Ginachero, medical specialist to Maria Christina of Austria, the mother of King Alfonso XIII, who was queen regent at the time, gained global fame for perform-



Inside the asylum where she died. **SUR**

ing the procedure. His path crossed with that of the girl's mother just two days earlier when she was admitted to the San Juan de Dios Provincial Civil Hospital, while heavily pregnant and with a complicated medical history.

María González Enríquez was 28 years old and known on the streets of Malaga because she lived from begging, accompa-

nied by her husband, a very popular blind man called Antonio Sánchez. María had a prominent hump on her back, although her most severe ailments were associated with her breathing and the violent crises she used to suffer.

Once María went into labour, Dr Gálvez did what he could to stabilise her condition, but in the

early hours of 15 July, because she had reached a critical state, he decided to induce the birth. Minutes after she had her last breath, the baby was born by caesarean section, weighing 1.2kg.

She may have survived, but María del Carmen faced further difficulties: her mother had died, her father also died when she was very young and her only sister had no means of caring for her. This meant that she grew up at the San Manuel asy-



La Niña de la Ciencia. **SUR**

lumn, where she was admitted in 1901 when she had hardly begun to walk. Those who knew her said that, like her mother, she was hump-backed and had difficulty speaking but also developed senility at an early age.

Dr Gálvez helped her financially all through her childhood and adolescence but 'La Niña de la Ciencia' was unable to work and she remained in the asylum.

## LANGUAGE FOOTNOTE

Ciencia	Science
Cesárea	Caesarian section
Medicina	Medicine
Fallecida	Deceased
Ginecólogo	Gynaecologist
Nacer	To be born
Alumbramiento	Delivery/Birth
Limosna	Alms
Embarazo	Pregnancy
Ciego	Blind
Joroba	Hump
Madrugada	Early morning
Biografía	Biography
Peligro	Danger
Obispo	Bishop
Hija	Daughter
Suerte	Luck

She was also forgotten by the city, which was fascinated by her story during the first months of her life but very quickly lost interest in what became of her.

Seventy years after entering the asylum for the first time, 'La Niña de la Ciencia' was moved first to the Hermanitas de los Pobres and then to the Nuestra Señora de los Ángeles asylum, where she died on 19 June 1980, at the age of 82.

**Bilingual crossword inside back page**

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DENISE BUSH

GARDENING

# Calodendrum capense

Malaga's parks and gardens are looking wonderful at this time of year with many shrubs and trees in full bloom. The La Concepción botanical gardens has recently reopened to the public and they have some stunning examples.

One particular specimen in flower in the gardens at the moment is the Cape chestnut, Calodendrum capense. Native to

the Cape region of South Africa, as well as Tanzania and Ethiopia, Calodendrum capense is a member of the Rutaceae, the citrus family, and the leaves are pleasantly aromatic when crushed.

In its native habitat it is found growing in for-

ests and ravines and occasionally among shrub. In coastal areas it may remain evergreen but inland it is more likely to shed its leaves in the cooler autumn months but not before the leaves turn a beautiful golden yellow.

A mature tree, in ideal growing conditions it can reach twenty metres but around seven metres is more usual.

Calodendrum usually form a single trunk with a dense, spreading canopy giving lots of welcome shade in the summer. The dark-green leaves can get quite big, up to 22cm long by up to 10cm wide.

Calodendrum capense (from the Greek 'kalos', meaning beautiful, and 'dendon', meaning tree) blooms in late spring, early summer and becomes smothered in pink flowers. Each large, sweet-scented bloom consists of five, ribbon-like petals surrounding five, long, sterile stamens which are also pink but dotted with maroon spots.

After flowering is over, a five-lobed, knobbly seed capsule forms which splits open in the autumn to deposit the large black seeds which look a little like horse chestnuts, hence the common name for this tree.

The Xhosa tribe believes the seeds bring good luck and extracts from the bark and seeds are used in skin ointments and to make soap.



Calodendrum capense in flower and fruits (inset). WIKIMEDIA

READERS' PHOTOS



ANDREW SLOAN

## A favourite plant

Reader Andrew Sloan sent in this photo and says, "The coral plant, Russelia equisetiformis, looks great right now and has responded well to some earlier pruning and compost feeding. In Mexico and Guatemala it is used as a hanging plant in a pot in patios. A favourite plant."



ANN PENNINGTON

## Colourful corner


This lovely bright bougainvillea provides a shady corner for Ann Pennington and her husband to enjoy a quiet gin and tonic during the hot afternoons.

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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# Walkers raise much-needed funds for Parkinson's charity

Locals and their dogs raised 570 euros for vital equipment for an Estepona-based association

## SUR IN ENGLISH

ESTEPONA. A group of fundraisers are celebrating after raising 570 euros for the Asociación Parkinson Sol de Estepona last Sunday. A total of 60 people and 10 dogs took part in the sponsored seven-kilometre family walk around El Colmenar.

It was hoped the event would raise 934 euros for new gym equipment for the charity's members - but the group fell 364 euros short of the amount required. Organisers are now appealing for more donations from the public to help reach their total.

Event organiser Michele Yanez-Bowker, 50, whose mother Violet Bowker has Parkinson's, told SUR in English: "We had a lot more walkers than normal, probably because everyone had been locked in for so long, and we did a sterling job!



Walkers were split into groups to comply with distancing regulations. **SUR**

"The equipment is so important for people with Parkinson's as they really have to fight for their mobility. So this apparatus, which helps them practise going up and down stairs, is really important for them.

"We are quite close to reaching the amount we needed to raise, so I thought we would appeal to the public to help us."

Michelle, who is originally from London and has lived in Spain for 10 years, added that during the event the walkers adhered to social distancing rules

by going out in three groups of 20, with 30 minute gaps in-between each group.

Michele has organised multiple walks in the past 18 months that have raised money for local causes including Heart Animal Rescue Estepona, The Royal British Legion and Asociación Gatos de Manilva.

## To donate :

[www.facebook.com/funandfund](https://www.facebook.com/funandfund) or direct to Asociación Parkinson Sol ES85 2100 7827 4323 0002 3058

## OBITUARY

# Stephen Brooksbank 1946 - 2020

## SUR IN ENGLISH

Stephen Brooksbank was born in Barton-on Sea in Lymington (Hampshire) in 1946. He spent his early life in Allbrook and Eastleigh near Southampton.

After qualifying as a mental health nurse in 1968 he started his general nurse training in 1969 at St Stephen's Hospital, Chelsea. In 1972 he joined Allied Medical and ran their International Division for about four years, as he spoke fluent French and Spanish and some Italian.

Stephen met his long-term partner Paco in London in 1970, who at the time was working in the wine cellars at the Houses of Parliament.

The couple moved to Spain in 1977 and settled in San Pedro Alcántara.

Stephen was a religious man and a member of the congregation at the Iglesia Cristiana Evangélica in San Pedro Alcántara. He also taught English to the congregation and was re-

sponsible for setting up the local branch of Age Concern, a charity that he devoted his time to until his death.

According to friends he will

be remembered for his acts of kindness and charity work.

In December 2014 he was reunited with his daughter Rosie, whom he had last seen 46 years previously when she was given up for adoption. Stephen and Rosie had developed a close relationship over the past few years and he became a grandfather to Calum, 19, and Alex, 15.

Stephen passed away on Sunday 31 May following a stroke. A memorial service is due to be held during the first week of July.



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## Málaga Gira offers a series of pop, flamenco and rock concerts

TONY BRYANT

MÁLAGA. Live music is set to return to the Cortijo de Torres municipal auditorium in Málaga next month. A series of rock, pop and flamenco concerts have been organised to take place from July to September. With a limited capacity of 800 people, Málaga Gira was born with the aim of reactivating the city's live music scene and organisers guarantee that all the necessary requirements will be met in order to ensure the safety of the audience, performers and staff.

The series will start on Saturday 25 July with a concert by

Lebanese violinist Ara Malikian, who will perform songs from his latest recording Royal Garage. Indie singer Carolina Durante will take to the stage on 31 July, while flamenco singer Miguel Poveda will perform on 1 August.

Among other concerts lined up are Granada-based rock band 091, famed for working with Joe Strummer of the Clash during the early 80s; and Latin Grammy Award-winning rapper Mala Rodríguez.

For information and tickets: [www.malagadeporteyeventos.com/instalaciones/auditorio-municipal-cortijo-de-torres/](http://www.malagadeporteyeventos.com/instalaciones/auditorio-municipal-cortijo-de-torres/)

### EXHIBITIONS

#### Gallery Art Club

**FUENGIROLA.** Until June 19. Calle Quemada.  
Finnish artist and former gallerist Tehri Pesonen is exhibiting about 40 artworks. [www.galleryartclub.com](http://www.galleryartclub.com) also on Facebook.

#### Francisco Martín Molina

**NERJA.** Monday to Saturday 10.30am - 2.30pm. C/Pintada 27.  
The exhibition of art by Francisco Martín Molina has re opened to the public. More information on Facebook: Exposición Francisco Martín Calle Pintada.

#### Diálogos con Picasso

**MÁLAGA.** Museo Picasso Málaga.  
The exhibition Diálogos con Picasso. Colección 2020-2023 includes 120 works by the artist among which is the cubism sculpture Copa de absenta (1914) and the painting Susana y Los Ancianos (1955). [www.museopicassomalaga.org](http://www.museopicassomalaga.org).

#### Centro Pompidou

**MÁLAGA.** Muelle Uno.  
The semi-permanent exhibition is entitled De Miró a Barceló. Un siglo de arte español. Pablo Picasso, Joan Miró, Salvador Dalí and Luis Buñuel were precursors of new ways of seeing and creating and their legacy still lives on. This chronological journey through a century of Spanish art shows that the generation of contemporary artists has kept alive the spirit of the avant-garde with extraordinary energy.

#### Gustav Klimt

**MÁLAGA.** Until 30 June, 11am - 10pm every day. Muelle Uno.  
An immersive multimedia experience which demonstrates the works of the Austrian artist through modern tech-

nology. Tickets: [info@elorodek-limt.es](mailto:info@elorodek-limt.es) Find them on Facebook.

#### Centro de Arte Contemporáneo MÁLAGA.

Until 23 August.  
The CAC Málaga reopens with a new exhibition called Opus Nigrum by the Mallorca artist Pep Girbent. The display includes drawings and paintings inspired by film clips.

#### Cela - Picasso

**MÁLAGA.** Until 4 October. Museo Casa Natal Picasso.  
The exhibition entitled Trozo de Piel demonstrates the relationship between two geniuses, Pablo Picasso and Camilo José Cela. It consists of documents and photos symbolising the shared affinities and passions of the two friends.



#### Thyssen Museum

**MÁLAGA.** Until 13 September.  
During a brief stay in a sanatorium, Henri Toulouse-Lautrec created 39 drawings in crayon about the circus. These works were conserved after his death by his friend Maurice Joyant and reproduced in two stages using a photographic technique in 1905 and 1931. The reproductions were bound in two folders entitled Au Cirque. Thirty-nine prints of these drawings are on display in the museum until 13 September. The museum also has a permanent exhibition of paintings by famous artists.

#### José María Córdoba

**FUENGIROLA.** From 25 June until 20 September. Weekdays 6-10pm except Mondays. Museo de la Ciudad  
The exhibition Odiseo consists of paintings and drawings created by José María Córdoba and influenced by James Joyce's books. It will be inaugurated at 8pm on 25 June.

### LIVE CONCERTS AND MUSIC

#### Chamber music

**MÁLAGA.** Museo Picasso Málaga.  
27 June, 8pm, 9.15pm. A piano concert by Javier Perianes playing works by Manuel de Falla, Claude Debussy and Isaac Albéniz.

### CHARITY

#### ARCH

**ALHAURÍN EL GRANDE.** Open every Sunday 9am - 2pm.  
The ARCH team at the Rescue Centre for Horses and Donkeys has resumed its popular Sunday open mornings. Visitors can come and meet the volunteers and the current residents. More information on Facebook: Centro Andalusi de Rescate de Caballos or [www.horserescuespain.org](http://www.horserescuespain.org)

#### The Lions Charter Night Dinner

**LA CALA DE MIJAS.** 27 June, 7.30pm. Restaurante El Olivo. 40€.  
The Lions Club Charter Night Dinner to celebrate the foundation of the Lions International on 7 June 1917 will include a four-course meal and a half bottle of wine / soft drink / beer and a coffee per person. Dress code: smart. Tickets available from the Lions shop. Call 637185533.

### MORE IDEAS

#### 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.

#### Indoor learning activities

**U3A COSTA DEL SOL FUENGIROLA** The association has turned to social media to continue offering a service to its members.  
Art history, bridge, quiz nights 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/](http://www.u3afuengirolacostadel-sol.com/) for more information.

#### Free Spanish courses

**NERJA.** Nerja Cultural Centre, Calle Granada, 45.  
Free Spanish courses for beginners, basic and conversation levels. Limited spaces. To enrol call 671567105. Classes run from mid September 2020 to June 2021.

#### Ice cream tour

**TORRE DEL MAR.** From 19 until 28 June. Participating ice cream vendors.



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#### VISITS / ATTRACTIONS

##### The Dolmens

**ANTEQUERA.** Open from 24 June. The World Heritage site, the prehistoric Dolmens of Antequera will be reopening to the public from 24 June.

##### Nerja Caves

**NERJA.** From 9.30am - 4.30pm. From 23 June until 8 September 9.30am - 7pm. Entry is restricted and family units must retain five metres between



José María Córdoba, Fuengirola.

them. A thermal camera measures the temperature of every visitor and gloves and hand sanitiser is made available. <http://www.cuevadenerja.es/>

**Ornithological park Loro Sexi ALMUÑECAR.** From 10.30am - 2pm, 6-9pm. C/Bikini, 1.

Just 100 metres from the Castillo San Miguel, the Loro Sexi park has held an important collection of exotic birds for over thirty years.

#### O. V. FILMS

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

##### Yelmo Cines, Plaza Mayor

**MALAGA.** Centro de Ocio, Plaza Mayor, Avda Alfonso Ponce León. Tel: 902902103. [www.yelmocines.es](http://www.yelmocines.es)  
**The Gentlemen:** 17.40 (every day).  
**The Invisible Man:** 20.50 (Tues).  
**Onward:** 18.30 (Tues).

##### Yelmo Cines, Rincón

**RINCÓN DE LA VICTORIA.** C/ Arroyo Totalán. Tel: 902220922. [www.yelmocines.es](http://www.yelmocines.es)  
**The Invisible Man:** 18.00 (Tues).  
**Onward:** 20.00 (Tues).  
**The Gentlemen:** 20.30 (Tues).

##### Yelmo Cines, Vialia

**MALAGA.** Centro Comercial Vialia. Tel: 902220922  
**The Invisible Man:** 20.40 (Tues).  
**The Gentlemen:** 21.00 (Tues).

## Starlite Festival to go ahead after months of speculation

The most important boutique festival in Europe will take place between 30 July and 29 August

T. BRYANT

MARBELLA. Organisers of the Starlite Festival have announced that its ninth edition will go ahead this year.

Following months of uncertainty caused by the coronavirus pandemic, a shortened version of the festival, billed as 'The most important boutique festival in Europe', will take place in the emblematic Nagüeles quarry in Marbella.

This year's event will present a programme of concerts by some of Spain's top rock and pop artists, including El Arrebato, David Bisbal and Pablo López. Other acts to appear are celebrated comedy duo Los Mornacos, and iconic flamenco performers Diego El Cigala, Estrella Morente, Sara Baras and



Starlite returns to the emblematic Nagüeles quarry. SUR

Miguel Poveda.

There will be restrictions on crowd capacity and so organisers are advising early reservation of tickets. Many of the shows that were originally booked for July, including Bonnie Tyler, Lionel Richie and Tom Jones have been rescheduled for 2021. Tickets purchased for concerts that have been postponed will remain valid for the rescheduled dates, or they can be exchanged for any of the other concerts. In

addition, a full refund for tickets can be requested before Friday 26 June.

"It's important to get everything going again," said Starlite creator Sandra García-Sanjuán, adding, "Music's the medicine of the soul and right now we need it more than ever."

Tickets and information are available from [www.starlitemarbella.com](http://www.starlitemarbella.com). Tickets can also be obtained from Ticketmaster and El Corte Inglés.



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# An embrace for nature during the pandemic

**Exhibition.** Illustrator José Luis Ocaña is behind a collective project which began during lockdown and is now on display at Finca El Portón in Alhaurín de la Torre

ANTONIO  
JAVIER LÓPEZ



He likes to go out running, but because of the coronavirus lockdown he had to swap the street for a running machine at his partner's home in Seville. "I was fascinated to see animals coming into towns while people were confined indoors. It was rather bittersweet, though, because it showed that animals run away from human beings. So, I had the idea of ingratiating ourselves to them through a gesture that Covid-19 has deprived us of, namely

a hug".

The person speaking is Malaga illustrator José Luis Ocaña, who is behind the 'Abrazo de oso' project, meaning 'bear hug'. The idea graduated from his mind to social media, and from there to the exhibition room at Finca El Portón in Alhaurín de la Torre.

More than 20 artists from different countries have participated in this collective display which presents a delightful diversity of styles and can be vis-



Illustration by José Luis Ocaña, who devised the 'Abrazo de oso'. SUR



A work by Pachi Idígoras. SUR



Marta Sarmiento's 'Fall in me'. SUR

ited until mid-September. "Each artist has created an illustration of someone hugging an animal of their choice. We posted it on the abrazodeosocovid19.com website without any other plans

for it, but when I saw the response it was receiving I suggested holding an exhibition at El Portón and they were delighted to host it," says José Luis. The exhibition will remain at Finca El Portón for the summer, and may then go on to other venues in Malaga province and elsewhere in Andalucía. "It could be a mobile exhibition. We are in discussions with other entities in Malaga and Granada," says José Luis, who is thrilled that

"something that started as a game, just a vague idea in someone's head, has ended up as an exhibition".

Some of those who took part, from countries such as Estonia, Greece, Chile and Mexico, are professionals, others are training or are just enthusiastic amateurs, including students from the virtual workshop which he held during lockdown.

## Diversity of style

The exhibition 'Abrazo de oso' includes examples of understated colour, such as Pachi Idígoras' delicate sepia, the serene palette of José González Ruiz, the coppery re-encounter between Red Riding Hood and the wolf at the hands of Viive Noor; the economy of expression of Javier Longobardo and the virtuosity of brush strokes of Marta Parejo and María del Carmen Cebrián. The variety of ideas on the same theme and the use of colour is a major attraction of this exhibition but as José Luis Ocaña himself says: "In the end, the idea behind the project is that nature is the best anti-virus we have."

Illustrations in the exhibition are for sale and half the money raised will be donated to the Patitas Andaluzas and Equinac associations, which are dedicated to caring for abandoned animals and the recovery of cetaceans and turtles, respectively.



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The team at Vida Sana CBD wanted to have a brick and mortar location in order to educate customers about CBD. Many people have heard of the product and it has been in the news, however, most companies have only an online presence.

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Pop into the Vida Sana CBD shop for advice.



can go in and explore what products are out there and they can ask questions on what CBD can do to help the body.

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# More people have sought medical help for sunburn since lockdown restrictions were eased

Weeks of confinement meant our skin missed the chance to adapt gradually to exposure to the sun, says an expert from Malaga University

ÁNGEL ESCALERA

**MÁLAGA.** During the strictest weeks of lockdown most people hardly saw the sun. This has had a double consequence now that there is more freedom, according to Enrique Herrera, who is a professor of Dermatology at Malaga University (UMA) and the head of the Dermatology department at the Clínico hospital.

On one hand, our skin didn't have a chance to get used to ultraviolet radiation progressively as it would normally have done at that time of year; and on the other, when

we were able to go out for a walk or even to the beach, many people overdid it and suffered from sunburn. Doctors say they are seeing more patients with this problem than usual this year.

Sunburn favours the apparition of skin tumours, as well as leaving marks on the skin and accelerating the ageing process, said Dr Herrera, during an event to mark European Skin Cancer Prevention Day on 13 June. The incidence of this type of tumour is increasing, partly because people are spending too much time sunbathing and also because life expectancy has increased.

The doctor said lockdown proved to be an excellent tool for stopping the spread of Covid-19, but unfortunately it also deprived our skin of the chance to adjust to the sun.

During those weeks of confine-

ment, together with María Victoria de Gálvez Aranda and José Aguilera Arjona, he wrote a guide with recommendations about sun protection. All three of these experts work at the Photobiology Laboratory at the Medical-Sanitary Research Centre (CIMES) at the university.

In the guide, they say that the pandemic brought with it "a socially anomalous situation because there was a sudden and dramatic change in people's normal lifestyle habits".

They also point out that our relationship with our surroundings outside the home was affected during the period of lockdown. Because we had to stay indoors for weeks, the spring months were hardly any different to the winter ones in terms

of exposure to the sun.

The guide also explains that cutaneous synthesis of vitamin D, which is the most effective way of obtaining this vitamin, was also affected by the lockdown.



Enrique Herrera

That can be dangerous, because it is known that low levels of vitamin D in the body can increase the risk of infections; this was a cause for alarm because there was a possibility that the lack of sunshine could result in greater susceptibility to infection from coronavirus.

The booklet also says those weeks of confinement represented "an unprecedented alteration in our physiological mechanisms to adapt to exposure to the sun". As our skin was not able to prepare gradually to receive solar radiation, when the restric-

tions began to be eased and people started going out again, there were many more cases of sunburn than usual and more people consulted their doctor as a result. When the restrictions were eased, the weather on the Costa del Sol was sunny and warm and, due to the unusual circumstances, that has had a more negative effect on our skin than usual, the doctor explained.

He warned that our skin needs to adapt gradually to exposure to the sun, and stressed that it is best to avoid the sun in the middle hours of the day. He also said it is important to cover up when the sun is especially hot and to move out of it when necessary.

"We have to use our own shadow as an indicator of solar radiation: if our shadow is shorter than our actual height, then we need to be in the shade," he said.

## Cases of melanoma have more than doubled in the past ten years

A. ESCALERA

**MÁLAGA.** The aim of European Skin Cancer Prevention Day, which is on 13 June, is to make people aware of the risks of too much exposure to the sun and how essential it is that they consult their GP if they notice any changes in their skin.

This type of cancer, if detected at an early stage, has a survival rate of over 90 per cent. The most dangerous type of skin tumour is melanoma, and cases of that

have more than doubled in the past decade, said Dr Enrique Herrera, a professor of Dermatology at Malaga University and the head of Dermatology at the Clínico Hospital. The incidence of melanoma has increased from seven cases for every 100,000 inhabitants in 2010 to 19 cases per 100,000 this year. There has also been a startling increase in basal cell carcinoma, which has risen by 60 per cent since 2010, said Dr Herrera.

Every year in Spain around



4,000 melanomas and 75,000 non-melanoma skin cancers are diagnosed. Early diagnosis is the key to saving lives, which is why prevention, self-exploration and routine checks are very important, given that the survival rate is more than 90 per cent if detected early.

"It is essential for people to be properly informed about, and aware of, skin problems and that they go to their doctor if they note that a mole or marks on the skin change colour or shape, or start hurting or itching," stressed Dr Herrera. "There is nothing better than stopping problems from occurring through prevention. That is what saves many lives."

### RECOMMENDATIONS

- **Sun.** Sunbathe gradually to help the skin adapt and, above all, avoid direct exposure to the sun in the middle of the day.
- **Stay in the shade.** Use shady areas to minimise direct exposure to the sun. Also, you can use your shadow to indicate the strength of the sun: "If your shadow is shorter than your actual height, you need to be in the shade," says the doctor.
- **Sun protection.** Use sun protection products to stop your skin burning. It is also a good idea to wear a hat or cap and officially approved sunglasses.



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In Michael Ruhlman's book, *Egg: A Culinary Exploration Of The World's Most Versatile Ingredient*, this chemistry makes it the "Rosetta stone that allows the secret language of cooking to be deciphered. Try to understand the amazing oblong orb and your culinary achievements will soar to the stars".

Harold McGee in *On Food and Cooking*, explains that eggs are made up of different proteins di-



Eggs have been a popular food since the origins of humanity. **DANIEL MALDONADO**

luted in water (88% of the white and 50% of the yolk). In the egg white, the most abundant protein is ovalbumin, which goes firm and white at temperatures of 75°C and above. The whites also contain ovotransferrin, lysozyme and ovomucine, which coagulate at lower temperatures (the first from 60° C, or with a simple shake) and which in

confectionery are interesting because they create miraculous foams and meringues.

In the yolk, which concentrates the largest amount of nutrients, is lecithin, a phospholipid that can emulsify large amounts of fat with a small amount of water. This is why only the egg yolk can be used to make mayonnaise. The proteins

present in the yolk make it more resistant to transformation by heat or by agitation and it will start to set at around 70°C but not become firm and crumbly until around 80 or 90°C - a much higher temperature than the white needs.

The egg is a food which has been appreciated since the origins of humanity but chicken is consumed

more frequently although it hasn't been as popular for so long.

Hens were domesticated in Asia around 9,500 years ago for their prolific egg laying ability. They arrived in Egypt and Mesopotamia around 3,500 years ago but it wasn't until they reached Greece, about 3,000 years ago, that the most popular of egg desserts was invented, the egg custard flan. The recipe, with the addition of honey of course, was perfected by the Romans.

Egg custard flan is a simple curd made by beating eggs in milk with sugar (quiche would be the savoury version). Easy, but rules have to be followed such as gentle poaching (in the oven 150°C) in a bain marie that prevents the custard coming to the boil and the proteins sticking together and becoming hard and gritty or with holes in the mixture.

To make the custard creamier, some of the whole eggs can be replaced with egg yolks (to set 250ml milk use two whole eggs, two egg yolks and 50g sugar) or add some cream, evaporated milk, creme fraiche or mascarpone. You could even replace a proportion of the milk with one of these ingredients.

The same ingredients can be used to make a pouring custard but this, being made in a pan on top of the stove, needs more careful preparation to prevent it curdling. Adding a small amount of cornflour will help prevent the mixture from curdling but only if the temperature does not exceed 80-88°C. Mixing the sugar with the eggs and the cornflour in a bowl then pouring on the hot milk before transferring it all back into the saucepan and returning to the heat

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## The invention of a hand whisk in the 18th century gave birth to many egg foam-based desserts such as meringues

will help prevent the egg from curdling prematurely and cut down cooking time.

In the eighteenth century the development of new cooking utensils gave birth to some new wonderful egg-foam-based desserts such as meringues, mousses, zabagliones and soufflés. Until the invention of the hand whisk, achieving good foams was almost impossible.

In meringues (foam of egg whites) and in zabagliones (foamy cream of egg yolks, sweet Marsala wine and sugar cooked in a bain marie) the sugar acts as a cement that steals the water from the proteins, preventing them from caking and giving them stability. This discovery of the properties of beaten egg white unfolded a magnificent range of desserts from airy sponges to towering soufflés, fluffy mousses and crispy meringues.

When whisking egg whites you have to also remember that a moderate temperature is important, as much in the preparation as in the cooking (except in soufflés), and a delicate touch is needed when incorporating whisked eggs into other ingredients.

The egg, in spite of being a common and very accessible ingredient is an extremely useful product when baking. A gift of nature whose versatility has never been surpassed by any artificial ingredient.

### RECIPE 1

## Chocolate mousse

This recipe is taken from *Recetas Endiamantadas La Cocina Sefardí* by Anita Bensadón.

#### Ingredients

4 eggs, 150g fondant chocolate

#### Method

First separate the whites from the yolks. Be careful not to let any particles of yolk get into the white if the yolk is broken. Melt the chocolate in a bain marie or the microwave. Whisk the egg



whites until they form soft peaks and place on one side. Once the chocolate has melted, stir until cool. Beat the egg yolks, sieve them and then add to the cooled chocolate. Add a couple of tablespoons of the beaten egg whites and stir to loosen the mixture. Now fold in the rest of the egg whites with a metal spoon and refrigerate for at least four hours before serving.

### RECIPE 2

## Pavlova

Baked meringues are ideal for special occasions filled with fresh fruit and whipped cream.

#### Ingredients

110g egg white, 220g caster sugar (or icing sugar), 1 tsp white wine vinegar, 6 drops of lemon juice, 25g cornflour.

#### Method

Preheat the oven to 140°C and line a baking tray with a silicone sheet or greaseproof paper. Whisk the egg whites with the lemon juice until stiff and then start adding the sugar a spoon-



ful at a time, whisking well between each addition. Adding all the sugar should take about ten minutes. Mix the vinegar with the cornflour and add to the meringue, continue to whisk to create a smooth, shiny meringue. Place spoonfuls of the meringue in a circle on the baking sheet to form a nest shape. Bake in the oven for 1 to 1.5 hours. Leave it to cool.

## London's latest Blitz

ANDREW J. LINN



In wartime the casualty lists are divided into three categories: dead, wounded, and missing. The present coronavirus war is only different in one respect: there are no missing, only dead and wounded. If the casualty list were to be further broken down into categories of business activity, restaurants and bars would head it. The current list names 60 restaurants, mostly 'dead' in that they have closed definitively, although a few 'wounded' do plan to reopen sometime. The deceased are many all-time classics of gastronomy, most having operated for decades.

The group comprising such top establishments as Le Pont de La Tour, Quaglino's and Coq d'Argent is closing all of its 38 restaurants with immediate effect, having already shut down its Paris and New York operations. Catering group Compass issued a profit warning after closing almost half its outlets.

The UK government's advice to stay away from pubs, clubs and restaurants to stop the virus from spreading has been a terminal gesture. As one restaurant owner stated, "I won't question the government's advice [...] but to do this to an industry without any fiscal sup-

port whatsoever condemns us to death." He urged the Chancellor to stage an "enormous state intervention", pointing to measures for business announced by the French president, Emmanuel Macron, on Monday.

This column is not the place for statistics, but suffice to say that, starting with the long-time classic, Le Caprice, the list of closures runs to 60+, all first-class establishments with decades of success behind them. Many of Britain's top chefs have found themselves in the dole queue.

### WINE OF THE WEEK

#### Viña Albina Verdejo

This wine was only launched a few days ago and is a first for the long-established (1901) Viña Albina label. From Rioja it has branched out to the Rueda region with this Verdejo-based white with a touch of acidity to balance the fruity overtones, giving an unusual and very pleasing effect. Around 6.75 euros.





# A slow start for Malaga as Segunda action finally resumes

**One point from six.** A home defeat and an away draw sees Malaga drawn further into a relegation battle. Tomorrow provides another chance to make amends as Extremadura visit La Rosaleda



The Malaga players after conceding the third goal. SALVADOR SALAS

## SEGUNDA DIVISIÓN

### Match day 34

Elche-Girona	Friday, 19.30
Deportivo-Rayo Vallecano	Saturday, 17.00
Zaragoza-Almeria	Saturday, 19.30
Las Palmas-Lugo	Saturday, 19.30
Malaga-Extremadura	Saturday, 21.45
Mirandés-Ponferradina	Sunday, 17.00
Racing-Tenerife	Sunday, 17.00
Cádiz-Alcorcón	Sunday, 19.30
Albacete-Huesca	Sunday, 19.30
Fuenlabrada-Numancia	Sunday, 21.45
Sporting-Oviedo	Monday, 21.45

### Table

Team	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	PT
1. Cadiz	32	16	9	7	42	30	57
2. Zaragoza	32	15	10	7	46	33	55
3. Almeria	32	14	11	7	52	32	53
4. Huesca	32	16	5	11	42	33	53
5. Girona	32	13	9	10	40	35	48
6. Elche	33	12	11	10	43	36	47
7. Mirandés	32	10	15	7	44	44	45
8. Rayo	32	9	17	6	40	33	44
9. Alcorcón	32	10	14	8	41	38	44
10. Ponferradina	33	10	14	9	38	35	44
11. Fuenlabrada	32	10	12	10	33	33	42
12. Sporting	32	11	9	12	32	30	42
13. Tenerife	33	10	10	13	36	37	40
14. Malaga	33	8	15	10	28	30	39
15. Las Palmas	32	9	12	11	34	39	39
16. Numancia	32	9	11	12	36	37	38
17. Lugo	32	8	13	11	30	41	37
18. Oviedo	32	8	12	12	37	43	36
19. Deportivo	32	8	12	12	28	46	36
20. Albacete	32	9	8	15	24	38	35
21. Extremadura	32	7	11	14	31	44	32
22. Racing	32	4	16	12	32	42	28



The unfamiliar sight of an empty stadium. SALVADOR SALAS

1-3

### MALAGA-HUESCA

**Malaga:** Munir; Cifu, Lombán, Diego González (Hicham, 46'), Juan Carlos; Luis Muñoz (Iván Jaime, 86'); Juanpi, Keidi, Adrián (Renato, 69'), Tete (Mikel, 69'), y Sadiku (Buenacasa, 69'). **Unused substitutes:** Gonzalo, Ismael, Juande, Rolón, Quintana, Boulahroud, Julio.

**Huesca:** Rubén Yáñez; Pedro López, Pulido, Josué Sá, Javi Galán (Doukouré, 84'); Mikel Rico (Eugení, 71'), Mosquera; Raba (Rafa Mir, 53'), Juan Carlos, Ferreiro (Sergio Gómez, 84'), y Okazaki (Luisinho, 53'). **Unused substitutes:** Álvaro Fernández, Miguelón, Insua, Datkovic, Mboula, Cristo, Nwakali.

**Goals:** 0-1 Ferreiro (2'); 1-1 Sadiku (42', penalty); 1-2 Raba (45+10', pen), 1-3 Rafa Mir (80').

**Referee:** Moreno Aragón. Red cards for Juan Carlos (25') and Lombán (57'). Yellow cards for Ferreiro, Pulido, Diego González, Javi Galán and Rafa Mir.

**Ground:** La Rosaleda.

Pellicer's team showed only flickers of promise in a feisty match which produced two red cards

### HENRY FLYNN

Malaga fell to defeat in their first game back, losing 1-3 to Huesca at La Rosaleda on Friday night in a game where both teams had a player red-carded.

In a jam-packed encounter with some contentious refereeing calls, Malaga only had Armando Sadiku's penalty to show for their endeavours, as goals from David Ferreiro, Dani Raba and Rafa Mir won it for the opposition.

Huesca, who have hopes of

promotion to La Liga, hit first inside just two minutes when Ferreiro fired past goalkeeper Munir at his near post after Raba's clever cross.

Malaga struggled to click into gear early on, but when Huesca's Juan Carlos was dismissed after a reckless kick-out on Tete Morente to give them a numerical advantage, Sergio Pellicer's team grew into the match and were given the chance to level the scores when they were awarded a penalty after a fine break in which Tete won the ball from the opposition defence to send Juanpi free down the middle. The Venezuelan then picked out Tete again who was fouled, allowing striker Sadiku to score his eleventh goal of the season from the spot.

With Malaga seemingly back on track, they conceded a penalty themselves in the tenth minute of a mammoth injury time spell, after the referee believed Raba had been brought to the ground by Diego González. Raba himself scored to put the team from Aragón ahead once again to conclude a chaotic first half.

In the second period, Malaga too were reduced to ten men when defender David Lombán was adjudged to have stopped substitute Rafa Mir racing through on goal.

Replays did not appear to show any infringement, but the referee decided not to consult video footage and quickly produced a red card. The decision was later rescinded and Lombán was able to play in the next game.

Juanpi and substitute Renato Santos threatened to pull the scores level with shots from distance, but Malaga's fate was sealed when Rafa Mir beat Munir to the corner to head home his side's third and seal a convincing victory.

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## TENERIFE-MALAGA

**Tenerife:** Ortolá; Luis Pérez (Javi Muñoz, 59'), Sipcic, Lluís López, Alex Muñoz; Moore, Aitor Sanz, Milla, Lasure (Nahuel, 59'); Joselu (Bermejo, 68'), Dani Gómez (Miérez, 82'). **Unused substitutes:** Dani Hernández, Alberto, Carlos Ruiz, Javi Alonso, Undabarrena, Suso Santana, Elliot, Jorge.

**Malaga:** Munir; Ismael, Luis Muñoz, Lombán, Mikel (Diego González, 46'); Tete (Renato, 70'), Keidi, Adrián (Rolón, 87'), Juan Carlos; Juanpi (Boulahroud, 46'), Sadiku (Buenacasa, 62'). **Unused substitutes:** Gonzalo, Cifu, Juande, Quintana, Iván Jaime, Hicham, Julio.

**Goals:** None.

**Referee:** Varón Aceitón. Red card for Keidi (second yellow, 44'). Yellows for Nahuel and Lluís López.

**Ground:** Heliodoro Rodríguez López.

## Malaga had to show spirit and defensive resilience as Keidi Bare saw red in the first half

H. FLYNN

Malaga battled hard to claim a point in Tenerife on Monday night, standing firm in the face of the dominant home side in a game made all the more difficult by midfielder Keidi Bare's red card just before half time.

Keidi, the second Malaga player to see red in three days, was dismissed after two yellow-card challenges in a five-minute spell.

Malaga were second best throughout but almost took the lead within three minutes when Juankar met Tete Morente's accurate cross from the right but could only head straight at keeper Adrián Ortolá.

Forwards Dani Gómez and Jo-

selu were a constant threat to Malaga's backline, and Gómez nearly dinked his team ahead after being teed up by Shaquell Moore who robbed Mikel Villanueva of the ball on the right wing.

His partner came even closer, in what was the most thrilling moment of the match. When Joselu saw a close-range shot ricochet off Malaga defender Luis Muñoz and skittle onto the post, Tenerife perhaps sensed the luck was with their opponents.

Gómez edged nearer to a goal, and struck powerfully after collecting Aitor Sanz's precise pass, but stopper Munir – much improved from his performance against Huesca – dived low to save the attempt.

Malaga struggled to make an impact, and Armando Sadiku's shot from distance was easily blocked by Ortolá, to sum up a passive first half display, made worse by Keidi's exit.

Tenerife, buoyed by the player advantage, continued to attack in the second half and Gómez finally had the ball in the net following neat play, but Joselu was ruled off-side in the build-up.

Gómez, looking more and more likely, threatened again when he turned sharply in the box but his shot was well dealt with by Munir.

Malaga, who struggled for possession, conjured an unlikely chance when Juankar's low cross bounced off defender Alex Muñoz but was brilliantly stopped by Ortolá.

The visitors failed to muster any more efforts but held firm as former Villarreal winger Nahuel Leiva made an impact from the bench for Tenerife but could not convert his best opportunity from close range.

The islanders kept pressing for a late winner, and Ramón Miérez nearly decided the game, but he headed over from a corner as Malaga snatched a useful point.



The Ciudad Jardín supporters club reopened. SUR



Distancing on the sidelines. S. SALAS

# Football's "new normal"

DARYL FINCH / MARINA RIVAS

MALAGA. Football has returned, but not like we've ever seen it before. Spectatorless stadiums, artificial crowd noises, subdued goal celebrations, distancing on the touchlines, hydration breaks, five substitutions, masks, gloves, disinfected balls and even goal nets... This is the "new normal" of professional football.

There will still be champions, relegations and promotions but for players and fans alike, the experience is completely different. For fans especially, their



All balls require disinfection. S. S.

routines have been changed.

Instead of heading to La Rosaleda this week, most fans decided to follow the action on TV at home. Some supporters clubs, however, reopened their premises and gave fans a place to gather - at a safe social distance and with all health protocols in place.

Bars with screens in the city centre which had reopened have been able to profit from fans' changes in habits but also the renewed enthusiasm for the sport after a break of almost 100 days.



Munir's heroics helped to keep Tenerife at bay. AGENCIA LOF

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A LOOK AT LA LIGA  
**ROB PALMER**  
Commentator, Sky Sports

# Favourable first impressions

The initial matches following the restart have been surprisingly lively, taking on the feel of the busy Christmas period when you don't know what day it is



**A**t least in lockdown we had an excuse for not knowing what day it was; the return of La Liga and other top-class football has left us completely confused.

First impressions of the “new normal” are favourable, especially in Spanish football.

The crowd noise, added to the broadcast pictures, does aid the viewing. I was quite looking forward to hearing every comment and call from the players, coaches and officials, but concede that the incoherent echo does jar very quickly.

The digital fans aren't perfect but do add to the experience and are slightly preferable to the giant corporate flags or empty seats.

The little things can become big things. Real Madrid's decision to play at the mini-stadium, allowing reconstruction at the

Bernabéu, is working. They'll know the surroundings, maybe even better than at the regular stadium. The club's head groundsman has ensured that the pitch is perfect and has the same measurements as the main field.

I know at least one manager is insisting the match day routine is kept to exactly the same as a pre-lockdown experience, going as far as insisting the stadium announcer plays the music in the same order, the ball boys/girls are familiar and the security guards take up their regular position.

The initial matches have been surprisingly lively. Lionel Messi has benefitted from being parted from his stylist and has the appearance of a mesmerising millennial; Eden Hazard looks like he's spent the enforced break at a fitness farm; Sergio Ramos has



Eden Hazard looks like he's come back from a fitness camp. **EP**

returned with vigour; and Luis Suárez is fighting fit.

More than before, it will come down to how the players are managed. Barcelona utilised 20 players in the opening two fixtures and Real Madrid balanced the playing time. In some ways,

it will be like the festive matches in England when teams are juggled, and players unseen for months will make prominent appearances.

Having the ability to use five substitutes will become a science. I remember this was tri-

alled when I played in America. Our coach staggered his changes, often balancing out playing time for the vital players. I will never forget the unique approach of one opponent who held all five substitutes until the final 15 minutes and then sent on a whole offensive line of giants in the Peter Crouch mould. It worked; a chap I'm convinced they'd borrowed from a basketball club caused mayhem getting on the end of a long-throw expert who could have been a quarterback.

The signs are that La Liga will go to the wire. At least the teams aren't distracted by European excursions as the Champions League will take on a one-game knockout format from the quarter finals stage. At the time of writing, when and where they resume the unfinished round of 16 games is a little sketchy, but the coaches are happy to put that on the back burner.

So, we are knee-deep into the 110 games required to complete the season. It's just like that crazy period between Christmas Day and New Year's Day when you lose track of time and what's going on. The difference is that this will last for five weeks as the days get hotter and the energy saps. Sit, lay back and enjoy.

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## Active EIC community raises over 1,000 euros for the health service

Pupils, staff and parents at the school in Marbella have now completed their 4,200-kilometre virtual loop of Spain

**DARYL FINCH**

MALAGA. Following an immense community effort by the school and parent body at the English International College (EIC) in Marbella, Tuesday afternoon saw the conclusion of EIC's 4,200-kilometre Virtual Loop of Spain.

The responsibility of the final 13 kilometres fell on students Emily and Kevin whose campo cycle around the EIC's surroundings took the challenge, enjoyed by more than 250 participants who had their movements (walking, cycling, swimming...) tracked by an online app, across the finishing line after four weeks.

The EIC Movement Challenge Fundraiser has now raised over 1,100 euros for the Servicio Andaluz de Salud.

After featuring in SUR in English two weeks ago, EIC has now been approached by St Anthony's College to participate in a joint virtual duathlon.



Emily and Kevin prepare to set off outside the EIC. **SUR**



The pair as they cross the finishing line. **SUR**



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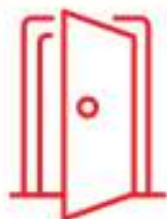

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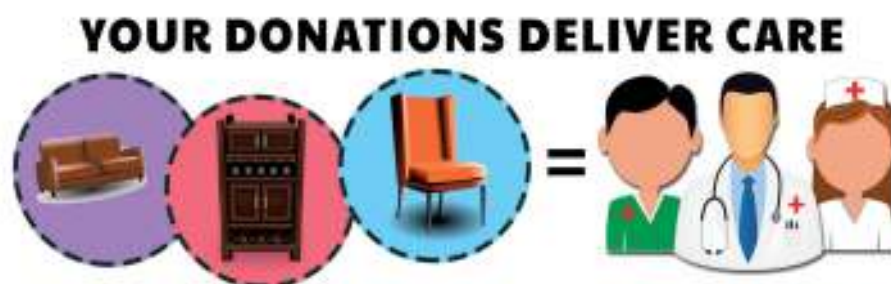
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THE STARS




**Aquarius**  
January 21st - February 19th  
Trust your instincts a little more to head in the right direction. Making the effort to be as practical as possible has likely stifled your more creative side.




**Pisces**  
February 20th - March 20th  
If something is not going according to plan it may be best to take a step back and choose your time. Sometimes your imagination goes into overdrive which can be unsettling.




**Aries**  
March 21st - April 20th  
An inspiring laugh makes friends and family feel at ease. Your romantic nature cannot be dampened by current situations.




**Taurus**  
April 21st - May 21st  
Your more spiritual side is triggered by someone who you met recently. Do not reject what you do not understand until you have looked into it.




**Gemini**  
May 22nd - June 21st  
In a week that brings mixed messages and emotions, allow your romantic side to flourish. Stimulation comes from someone who you met in passing (at a distance) recently.




**Cancer**  
June 22nd - July 23rd  
Your own very personal picture of yourself needs to be renewed. A dull time has likely been treading on your confidence. You are not alone in this.



**Leo**  
July 24th - August 23rd  
With a lighter feel to life, take care when it comes to parting with your cash and your heart. Being such a social person, your sense of fun and your free spirit could see you rush ahead.




**Virgo**  
August 24th - September 23rd  
To get help with a plan all you need to do is ask. Hadn't thought of that? Recent events have dented our collective confidence. However, there are those just waiting to give a hand.




**Libra**  
September 24th - October 23rd  
A more spiritual attitude to life may lift a weight from your shoulders. Showing a warm attitude to others gives them a shot of well-needed confidence. Just don't give out the wrong signals.



**Scorpio**  
October 24th - November 22nd  
Any problems this week are more likely to revolve around 'How may I enjoy this?' rather than 'How can I avoid this?' Seems like a step in the right direction as long as you know how to deal with it.

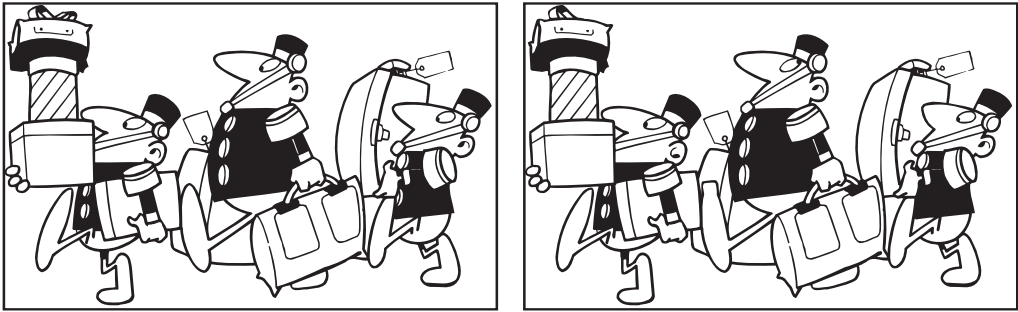


**Sagittarius**  
November 23rd - December 21st  
Curiosity is good. Rushing into financial agreements is not. Caution is needed on all fronts this week. Things and people may not be what you want them to be. Facts will lead you in the right direction.

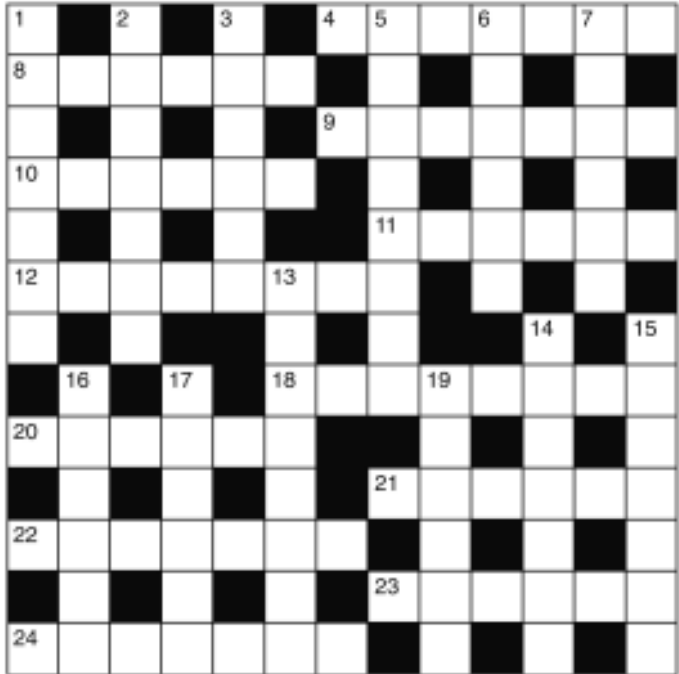


**Capricorn**  
December 22nd - January 20th  
It is possible that you may have to give up on a pet project for the time being. Everything has a sweet point where it is best to act.

THE SEVEN DIFFERENCES



CRYPTIC CROSSWORD N° 11414



Across

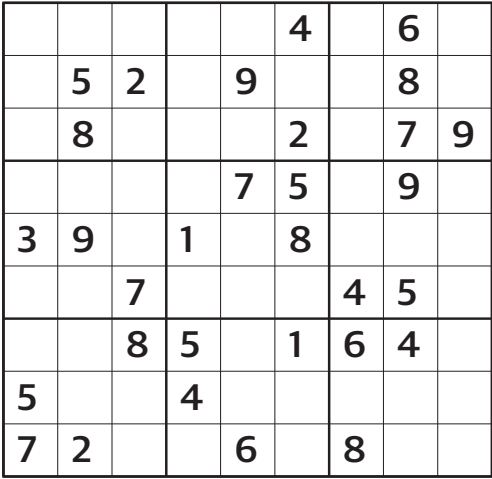
- 4 Bill is a nobleman, we hear (7)
- 8 Pages he put in series (6)
- 9 It's gear unusually worn by the bishop (7)
- 10 Check the examination paper again and make a comment (6)
- 11 Among the battered articles the shopkeeper returned (6)
- 12 It's sweet when the marksman gets it (8)
- 18 I'd returned to rigidly defined area (8)
- 20 The girl bather in distress.. (6)
- 21 ...she upsets Charles endlessly (6)
- 22 Organise a site for firing, by the sound of it (7)
- 23 It's rarely found in the tester's car certificate (6)
- 24 Drinks for the hunting party (7)

Down

- 1 Attribute to teacher of Jewish law (7)
- 2 Sailor's knot? (3,4)
- 3 Keeps a supply for shops (6)
- 5 Gossips could be a shocking threat in the Civil Service (8)
- 6 He's ostracised and not in the act (6)
- 7 Gave patient attention (6)
- 13 Jeopardise the conclusion with loss of temper (8)
- 14 Reactionary who won't depart easily? (7)
- 15 Describing any flower deliberately sought after (7)
- 16 Look for this kind of light (6)
- 17 What a waiter uses in the vessel gets mislaid (6)
- 19 Old-fashioned way to keep the rain out of yonder church (6)

SUDOKU BY HANZO

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



THE WORDPUZZLER

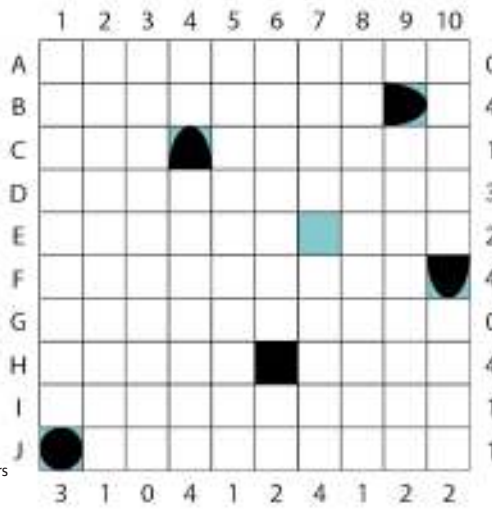
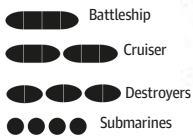


Can you identify the fruit and veg from their varieties listed below?

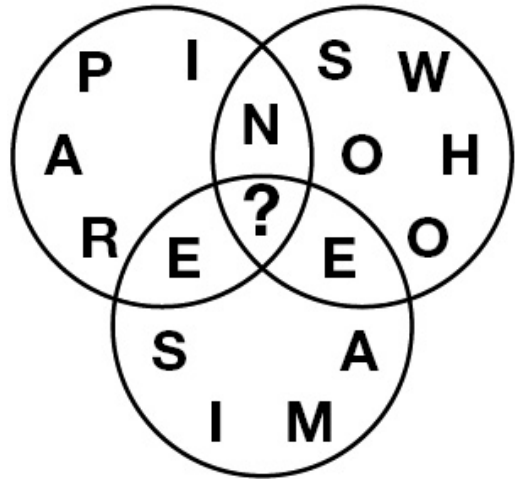
- 1. Laxton's superb
- 2. Morello
- 3. Cantaloupe
- 4. Victoria
- 5. Maris Piper
- 6. Conference
- 7. Beefsteak
- 8. Chardonnay
- 9. Peregrine
- 10. Cos

BATTLESHIPS

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



CIRCLEGRAM



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



LANGUAGE CROSSWORD FILL IN THE SPANISH WORD

- Across

1) Maternity (10)

6) Conditions (11)

11) That (m) (3)

12) I gave (2)

13) I warned (7)

14) I failed (5)

15) Danger (7)

16) Science (7)

18) Godfather (7)

19) Friendly (6)

21) Cure (4)

23) Incubator (10)

26) Rose (4)

27) Queen (5)

33) They lived (8)

34) Magnet (4)

35) To be born (5)

36) Train (4)

39) Gazelle (5)

41) Confusing (f) (8)

43) Blind (m) (5)

44) Disobedient (m) (7)

46) Daughter (4)

48) Fame (4)

49) Alms (7)

50) Stream (8)

52) Delivery (13)

53) Pregnancy (8)
- Down

1) Medicine (8)

2) You (2)

3) To reduce (7)

4) Unhurt (f) (5)

5) Deity (6)

6) Complications (14)

7) To say (5)

8) They informed (10)

9) Void (4)

10) Luck (6)

17) School (7)

18) Pity (4)

20) To look for (6)

22) Early morning (9)

24) A (2)

25) Bishop (6)

28) Neither (2)

29) Gynaecologist (m) (10)

30) Biography (9)

31) Deceased (f) (9)

32) Eager (m) (7)

37) Elk (4)

38) Caesarean section (7)

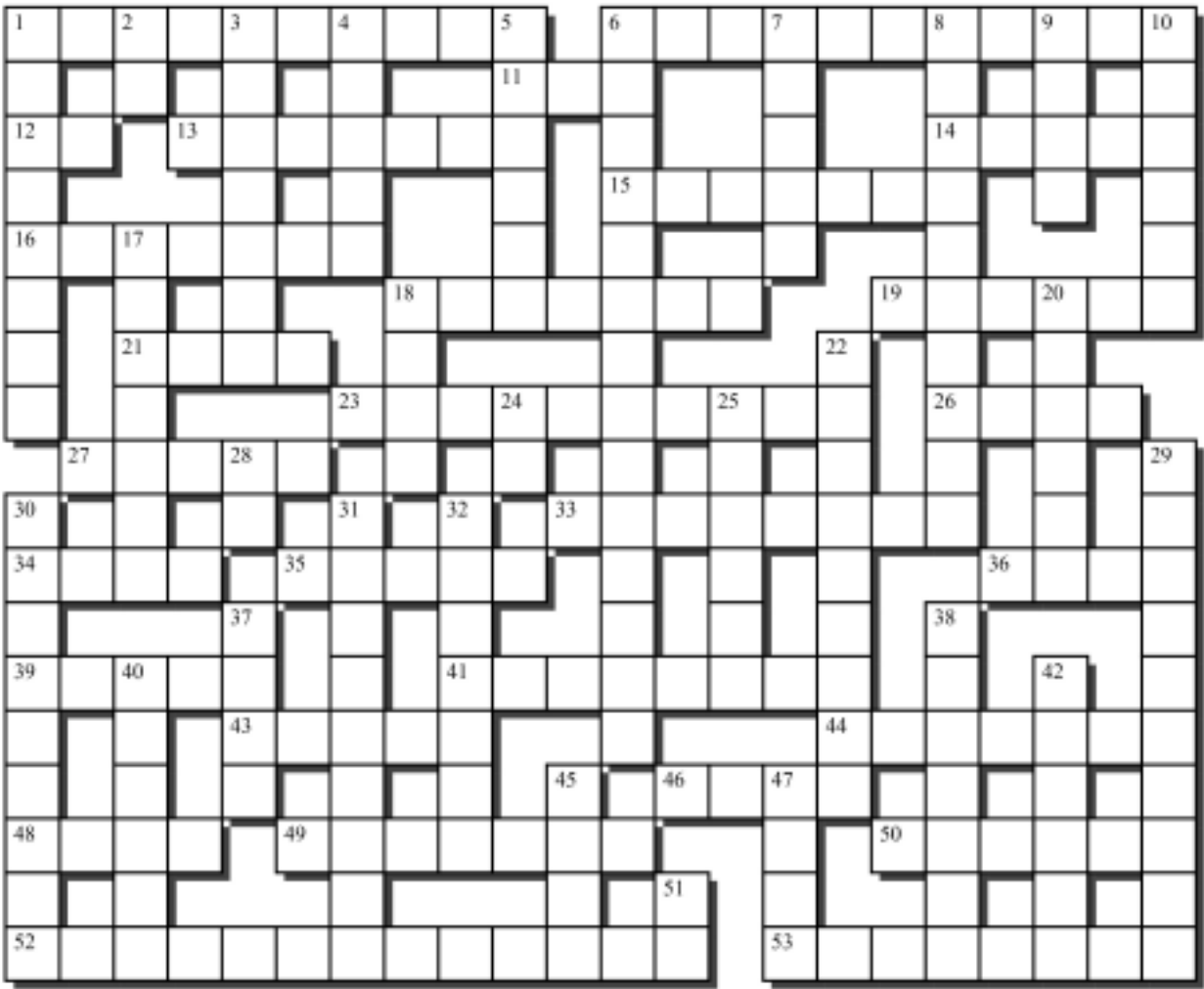
40) Shampoo (6)

42) Hump (6)

45) They join (4)

47) Boss (m) (4)

51) I (2)



ANSWERS

**Quiz answers**

size in about six weeks.  
parents. The puffing grows to full  
the burrow and awaits food from its  
the chick—called a puffing—stays in  
39-43 days. After the egg hatches,  
that is incubated for approximately  
**Of interest:** Puffins lay one egg  
**Answer:** A puffing  
fields for more than 25 years.  
spectroscopy, working in these  
studied atomic and molecular  
liquefaction of gases. He also  
conjunction with research into the  
vacuum flask, which he used in  
best known for his invention of the  
**Of interest:** Sir James Dewar is  
**Answer:** Vacuum flask

Language Crossword



Cryptic Crossword

**Solutions:** Across: 4 Account; 8 Shards; 9 Gathers; 10 Roman; 11  
Trader; 12 Bulb; 13 Bulb; 14 Bulb; 15 Bulb; 16 Bulb; 17 Bulb; 18 Bulb; 19 Bulb; 20 Bulb; 21 Bulb; 22 Bulb; 23  
Bulb; 24 Bulb; 25 Bulb; 26 Bulb; 27 Bulb; 28 Bulb; 29 Bulb; 30 Bulb; 31 Bulb; 32 Bulb; 33 Bulb; 34 Bulb; 35 Bulb; 36 Bulb; 37 Bulb; 38 Bulb; 39 Bulb; 40 Bulb; 41 Bulb; 42 Bulb; 43 Bulb; 44 Bulb; 45 Bulb; 46 Bulb; 47 Bulb; 48 Bulb; 49 Bulb; 50 Bulb; 51 Bulb; 52 Bulb; 53 Bulb.  
Down: 1 Bulb; 2 Bulb; 3 Bulb; 4 Bulb; 5 Bulb; 6 Bulb; 7 Bulb; 8 Bulb; 9 Bulb; 10 Bulb; 11 Bulb; 12 Bulb; 13 Bulb; 14 Bulb; 15 Bulb; 16 Bulb; 17 Bulb; 18 Bulb; 19 Bulb; 20 Bulb; 21 Bulb; 22 Bulb; 23 Bulb; 24 Bulb; 25 Bulb; 26 Bulb; 27 Bulb; 28 Bulb; 29 Bulb; 30 Bulb; 31 Bulb; 32 Bulb; 33 Bulb; 34 Bulb; 35 Bulb; 36 Bulb; 37 Bulb; 38 Bulb; 39 Bulb; 40 Bulb; 41 Bulb; 42 Bulb; 43 Bulb; 44 Bulb; 45 Bulb; 46 Bulb; 47 Bulb; 48 Bulb; 49 Bulb; 50 Bulb; 51 Bulb; 52 Bulb; 53 Bulb.

Wordpuzzler solution

1. Apple  
2. Cherry  
3. Melon  
4. Plum  
5. Potato  
6. Pear  
7. Tomato  
8. Grape  
9. Peach  
10. Lettuce

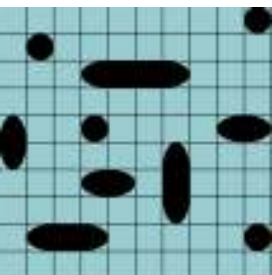
Sudoku solution

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

Circlegram

The letter represented by the  
question mark is S. Persian,  
snowshoe, siamese, all breeds  
of cat.

Battleships



WHERE IS THIS?



A drinking fountain

Last week:  
Manilva

This roundabout is at the entrance to  
Manilva and was designed by Las Viñas  
secondary school.



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



DISCOVER

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Avenida del estrecho, no number, (La Menacha) opposite the football pitch

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# Covid-19 precaution on the Caminito

**Safety.** The spectacular attraction has reopened at weekends and will open from Tuesdays to Sundays from 7 July. Tickets for July are now on sale

ANDREA JIMÉNEZ



The Caminito del Rey reopened last Friday after being out of operation for three months due to the coronavirus lockdown, but those who decide to do this walkway which crosses the Desfiladero de los Gaitanes gorge will find that things are not quite as they used to be. The provincial government has drawn up a 130-page plan of safety and special disin-

fection measures in conjunction with experts in safety, emergencies and catastrophes from Malaga University, which Diputación president Francisco Salado says will "guarantee that the Caminito del Rey is safe and free from Covid-19".

For the first three weeks, the Caminito can only be visited on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays and the maximum number of



Staff regularly disinfect different areas throughout the day. **M. FERNÁNDEZ**

users has been reduced to 50 per cent, which is 550 people a day. The spectacular tourist attraction will start opening from Tuesdays to Sundays from 7 July,

with Mondays being closed for maintenance. Tickets for July have now been put on sale.

The measures to prevent contamination include the hourly

disinfecting of public lavatories and the busiest areas of the route, where the most people congregate, and the remainder every two hours.

Bleach will be used to disinfect the lavatories and the entrances and exits of the Caminito, and other parts such as barriers, handrails and signs will be cleaned with virucides containing alcohol to minimise the effect on the environment.

Hand gel dispensers will also be placed in different spots along the route and there will be a special disinfection process for the helmets which visitors have to wear.

Visitors can expect social distancing measures to be enforced, with people being asked to keep two metres from others when stationary and five metres when moving.

Although officially the shuttle bus between the finish and the beginning of the route is permitted to carry the maximum number of passengers in Phase 3 of the easing of restrictions, it has been decided to reduce this to 50 per cent for the time being.

Staff on the Caminito have been provided with special protective equipment and trained in how to deal with accidents or emergencies involving visitors during this 'new normality' following the global pandemic.

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