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SPORT

BOWLERS RETURN TO THE COSTA'S GREENS

Lawn bowls clubs will be missing visits from touring UK clubs this summer season **P40**

Expensive flights and hotel price wars threaten to flatten the Costa's summer

As more borders reopened, on 1 July Malaga Airport handled over 100 flights in one day for the first time in months

Tourism industry professionals have lost some of the initial optimism they expressed when the country reopened its borders to international tourists last month

after three months of Covid-19 lockdown. July began with more than 100 flights at Malaga Airport in one day, although the industry says that the higher prices be-

ing charged by airlines are bringing fewer passengers. Meanwhile on the Costa special offers being launched by hotels could lead to a damaging price war. **P7**



CONCERT SEASON IN THE NEW NORMAL

Not all live music has been cancelled this summer, but audiences will have to get used to distance and face masks **P23**

Covid-19 prevention measures were in place at a concert by José Manuel Soto this week in the courtyard of the Malaga Museum. **ÑITO SALAS**

Cases in Red Cross Covid-19 outbreak reach 105, but rate is stabilising

Malaga health authorities continue to trace contacts and test for infection

Covid-19 cases in a localised outbreak at a Red Cross migrant shelter in the city had risen to 105 on Thursday, although authorities said the situation was stabilising. **P4**

New benefits come into play for crisis-hit self-employed

Stepped monthly discounts on social security payments have been made available **P18**

Temperatures soared towards 40 degrees in Malaga, making Thursday the hottest day so far this year **P4**

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La Viñuela reservoir is lower than this time last year and there will be problems if it doesn't rain much this autumn. **EUGENIO CABEZAS**

A sign announcing the works on the wells in the Chillar river in Nerja.

Slow progress for Costa water shortage solutions

Urgent projects. The Iznájar pipeline, connecting La Concepción to La Viñuela and the opening of the wells near the Chillar rivers remain stuck in red tape after many years on the drawing board

IGNACIO LILLO



Water is the most essential and most scarce asset in Malaga province. But, paradoxically, improving its supply has always been among the last projects to be included in the list of planned investments. Projects to increase supply to towns and villages which suffer restrictions are happening at a snail's pace, and most are still sitting on office desks.

The rainfall this spring, which amounted to 200 litres per square metre, meant the restrictions on irrigation in the Axarquía could be lifted, but there have been no substantial improvements in supply, and the level of La Viñuela reservoir is low, so there are likely to be further problems unless it rains a great deal in the autumn.

The most-affected parts of Malaga province are Antequera and its surrounding area and the Axarquía. To alleviate the situation, which affects numerous towns and villages and the cultivation of subtropical products, the Junta de Andalucía announced three measures several years ago: a pipeline to transfer water from the Iznájar reservoir in Cordoba; an improved connection between reservoirs in the west and east of the Costa del Sol and extracting water from three natural wells near the Chillar river, in Nerja.

None of these is currently in operation and so far the only progress has been on paper.

Beyond recent political arguments over projects such as the one in Iznájar, the real situation in many municipalities is summed up by Benjamín Fauli, a technician at Asaja, the association of young farmers: "So far we have not seen a single improvement in supply, the concession has gone up. We hope it rains again this autumn, because if not we will have restrictions again."

The Andalusian Ministry of Agriculture and Sustainable Development has declared 17 infrastructure projects to be of regional interest in areas of Andalucía which have always suffered problems of this type. The biggest projects are in Malaga province, but they are expected to take up to six years to complete, so people will just have to continue to look up at the sky and pray for rain.

La Viñuela currently contains just under 64 cubic hectometres, and is lower than at this time last year, so restrictions could be imposed again in October.

Controversy in Iznájar

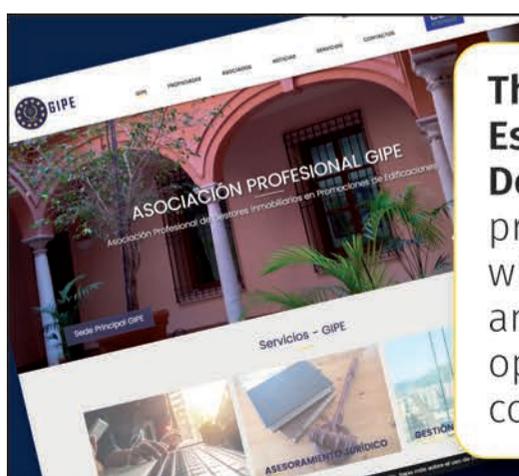
The pipeline from Iznájar has become one of the main causes of conflict between the Junta de An-

dalucía and the central government. After receiving the viability study and details of the project sent by the regional authority, the Ministry for Ecological Transition in Madrid only said that it would "be analysed", especially the need for a decent supply in some towns, and "whether the transfer is compatible with the hydrological planning of the Guadalquivir". They appear not to understand the urgency of this project for 12 communities in Malaga.

The necessary funds, 50 million euros, have already been assigned from the regional Ministry of Agriculture, and Patricia Navarro, the liaison with the government, says all that is needed is for the Cabinet to approve the project. It would involve a total of 4.89 cubic hectometres, which is very little compared with the total capacity of the Iznájar reservoir (408 Hm³).

"We have kept asking about it, but suddenly it has disappeared from the government's political agenda," she said.

Socialist MP for Malaga Nacho López understands the concern about the lack of water supply and



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THE PRESENT LEVEL OF RESERVOIRS IN MALAGA

Name	Capacity (Hm ³)	Level (Hm ³)	Percentage	Dif. 1 year
La Concepción	61.85	58	83.8	+16.4
Guadalteba	153.3	112.25	73.2	-22.2
Guadalhorce	125.7	94	74.8	-11.4
Conde de G.	66.5	54.6	82	-3.0
Casasola	21.7	16.5	76	+5.7
El Limonero	22.34	14.11	63	+2.35
La Viñuela	165.43	63.75	38.5	-5.25

says the matter is extremely urgent. He is confident that the project will go ahead, with collaboration between the government and the Junta. He is, however, critical of the Andalusian government for backing plans for a bottling plant in the Sierra de Camarolos, near Villanueva del Rosario, which have now been cancelled.

"A pipeline is causing conflict, and I am worried by the message they were sending when planning to bottle water in the same area," he said. Meanwhile, about 80,000 people will be affected by restrictions to their water supply this summer.

This was a personal commitment made by Juanma Moreno shortly after becoming president of the Junta, but at the moment it has progressed no further. The 2019 regional budget included 1.4 million euros for the means to

Mijas Pueblo increases water storage capacity with a new tank

Mijas council announced this week that it is building a water tank to boost supplies in the village. It will hold 10,000 cubic metres and will be in the Cantera del Puerto area. The tank will be divided into two parts with a wall between them, each measuring 49 by 20.5 metres.

The new storage facility will cost 1.2 million euros to build and will take six months to complete. Councillor José Carlos Martín said this is the first of several projects to secure supplies each summer.

channel excess water from the western coast to the east, by increasing the capacity of the Churriana bypass pipeline to take water from La Concepción to the Axarquía.

This year the first opportunity to have taken advantage of a considerable amount of excess water from La Concepción has been lost. At the end of April, after some heavy rain, 2.28 Hm³ had to be released into the sea. They would have been welcomed with open arms on the other side of the province.

The complete project will cost about 140 million euros and was agreed years ago by Acosol, Emasa and Axaragua. The aim is to increase the capacity of the present pipes which run along the same route. With regard to the first phase, which will be financed with European Feder funds, the delegate for Agriculture, Fernando Fernández Tapia-Ruano, seems optimistic and says the contract is about to be put to tender. The works would take about eight months.

He also says the natural wells in the Chíllar river, in Nerja, which will contribute between seven and nine cubic hectometres a year, will be operative soon.

"We are in constant contact with the mayor [José Alberto Armijo], and we will have positive news soon," he said. In the meantime, we'll just have to wait. And keep looking at the sky.

Work this summer should do away with two main sewage treatment black spots

IGNACIO LILLO

MALAGA. This summer, two historic black spots in sewage treatment in the province will be no more, at last. If all goes according to schedule, the long-awaited treatment plant in Nerja will enter into the test phase, and this is expected to be in August.

This will finally mark the end of a project that was classified as being of General State Interest back in 1993, 27 years ago, and suffered a further four-year delay due to problems with construction companies.

Nerja is the biggest tourist resort in the Axarquía, and the last one to continue releasing its untreated sewage into the sea. Last October it was announced that the remaining works would take eight months and then there would be a six-month test phase, so the plant should come into operation fully around the beginning of 2021.

It is financed by the Ministry for Ecological Transition, because it has been classified as being of General State Interest.

However, there is another black

spot in terms of sewage treatment in Malaga province, and one we hear less about. The Bajo Guadalhorce treatment plant, built to handle the waste from large municipalities such as Álora, Coin and Pizarra, is also due to make significant progress in the forthcoming weeks.

The regional delegate for Agriculture and Sustainable Development, Fernando Fernández Tapia-Ruano, says it has been treating sewage from Álora and Pizarra since 8 April last year, but torrential rain in October damaged the sewage pipe in Coin. The works resumed on 4 May and if all goes according to plan, they will end in September and the plant will be complete.

The Junta is also involved in the future Edar Norte works, which will treat the waste from Alhaurín de la Torre, Alhaurín el Grande, Cártama, Torremolinos and some parts of Malaga city, as these are not properly serviced at present. The contract for the works will be put to tender when all the councils have approved the agreements for this to go ahead.

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Hunt for infections in city goes on as Red Cross cases hit 105

Local health authorities say the outbreak in Malaga is still not fully controlled, but a further one in Axarquía has been successfully contained

ALBERTO GÓMEZ

MALAGA. The coronavirus outbreak inside a Red Cross shelter in Malaga city, detected last week, has caused more infections in the last few days.

On Thursday evening this week the number of positive tests had reached 105, although there were only two new cases since Tuesday, suggesting the outbreak was stabilising.

This continues to be the most worrying cluster of infection in Andalucía, but it is not the only one in Malaga province.

The other outbreak, in the Axarquía village of Casabermeja, is stable with seven cases on Wednesday, according to regional government data.

Here health workers have finished their investigation and testing, following new cluster-control procedures.

The Red Cross cluster was however still under investigation on Wednesday, as more contact tracing and tests were carried out.

Local hospitalised cases

In Malaga province, including the Costa del Sol, there were 14

Nine in ten who test positive show no symptoms, says Malaga health chief

Over 90 per cent of people who have tested positive for coronavirus in PCR tests in Andalucía showed no symptoms of the illness. The stark announcement was made on Thursday by the Malaga dele-

gate for the regional Health ministry, Carlos Bautista. "The virus is out there. They don't have any symptoms and they are infecting people, without a doubt," he said. Bautista appealed for each person not to relax their behaviour in order to contain the virus.

"If anyone has symptoms such as cough, fever or a tight chest, please call [the health service]," he added.

Forty-nine people were in hospital in the region, of whom 12 were in intensive care.

In Andalucía, there were eleven active outbreaks on Wednesday: two in Malaga, six in Granada and one outbreak each in Almeria, Huelva and Cadiz.



Seeking shade in the warmest place in Spain on Thursday. SALVADOR SALAS

Thermometer hits 40° at Malaga Airport in hottest local temperatures so far this year

SUR

MALAGA. The forecasts were right and the Costa del Sol, especially Malaga city, was hit by extreme heat in the middle part of this week. A dry, warm westerly wind, known as the Terral, swept down the Guadalhorce valley.

On Wednesday it was 38.6

degrees Celsius in the shade at the weather station at Malaga Airport at 5.50pm, according to Spanish Met Office data. On Thursday, Malaga went even higher with 40°C at the airport at 4.50pm, the highest reading in Spain for the day.

However other parts of the Costa, sheltered from the inland wind by coastal hills, had remarkably cooler temperatures, with 28°C in Fuengirola at the same time.

Forecasters said the extreme inland heat in the province would not last and the wind will change to a Levante (easterly) wind today. Saturday morning will be cloudy with some spots of rain possible.



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British man dies after falling down a manhole in Mijas Costa

The 40-year-old suffered a serious blow to the head during the fall and the emergency services could only confirm his death

ÁLVARO FRÍAS / JUAN CANO

MALAGA. A 40-year-old British man died in Mijas Costa on Saturday after falling two and a half metres down a manhole on the side of the road. The events occurred next to the roundabout that leads from the AP-7 motorway to the Calahonda residential development.

A local who was walking through the area spotted the man and alerted the Local Police at around 5pm. The Guardia Civil, firefighters and paramedics

all attended the scene but could only confirm the death of the man, with all initial signs pointing towards an accidental death.

Given the depth of the manhole, firefighters had to carry out a special operation in order to recover the body.

The relatives of the deceased, who he had come to Mijas from

the UK to visit, also attended the scene and explained to officers that he had left their home in the early hours of the morning.

A blow to the head

Once recovered, the body was then taken to the Institute of Legal Medicine of Malaga (IML) for an autopsy which revealed that the deceased had suffered a severe blow to the head, with the trauma inflicted on the skull, likely to have been caused by the fall.

The man was apparently drunk at the time of his death and his body displayed no signs of violence, according to sources close to the investigation.

As for the manhole, Mijas town hall has confirmed that it is located on private property.

The victim was apparently drunk at the time of the incident and the fatality is being treated by investigators as accidental

A record number of new police officers

Malaga's National Police force on Monday welcomed 203 new officers - a record turnout in more than two hundred years of the service. Instead of the usual ceremony taking place at the force's headquarters in Ávila, the Ciudad Jardín sports centre in Malaga played host with guests kept at a safe distance apart. The chief provincial commissioner of Malaga, Manuel Javier Peña Echeverría, said that with so many new recruits, "the force has a new impetus to continue working to serve Malaga".



FRANCIS SILVA

ARENAS

Dana Leonte suspect released on bail

A. F / J. C. Sergio Ruiz, the only suspect in the Dana Leonte murder case, was released from custody on Tuesday evening after his family were able to pay the 8,000-euro bail money.

Ruiz had been detained since September 2019 when a femur bone belonging to the missing Romanian woman was found on land near the home the couple shared in Arenas.

However, judges have been unable to charge Ruiz with his partner's murder as evidence to date has only been circumstantial. On leaving the Albolote prison in Granada, Ruiz said he was "100 per cent innocent".

MALAGA

Squatter probed over illegal cock breeding

F. T. The Local Police in Malaga are investigating a 37-year-old man as the possible owner of an illegal fighting cock breeding farm.

The authorities were alerted to a property in Churriana in May when they detected a breeding ground for fighting cocks inside. Once they identified the man, who has been squatting there with his family for five years, they inspected the property and found several animals, including 19 roosters, 14 of which had been mutilated.

In addition to various administrative sanctions, the case has been referred to the Environmental Prosecutor's Office for a possible crime of animal abuse.

MALAGA

British septuagenarian drug gang brought down

EFE. The National Police have arrested 33 members of two networks, one of which is made up of British septuagenarians, who allegedly sold and distributed medicine over the internet in Spain and made profits of over three million euros.

The operation is the result of two parallel investigations in which 17 searches were carried out across Spain, including in Malaga. As a result, more than 70,000 tablets or gels for erectile dysfunction, various narcotic substances (including MDMA, cocaine and poppers), hundreds of computer items and numerous valuable jewels were seized.

Costa tourism's recovery under threat from end to low-cost travel and hotel price war

Accommodation prices are being driven down as chains offer discounts to attract visitors but inflated flight costs mean they are less likely to come

PILAR MARTÍNEZ



MALAGA. July may be the traditional start to the tourist high season on the Costa del Sol, but this year there is nothing normal about it. Having been in complete paralysis for more than three months, the sector's survival hangs in the balance. Foreign tourists may be arriving again, but there are two



The Gibralfaro Parador is offering reduced rates to attract visitors. F. SILVA

major obstacles in the way: the apparent end to low-cost travel and a price war that has already begun among the area's accommodation providers.

"The restart is coming at a great

cost and is moving a lot slower than expected," says president of the Costa del Sol Hotel Business Association (Aehcos), Luis Callejón Suñé. In view of the strategies being enacted by the larger hotel groups to

attract, Callejón believes that it will be "inevitable" that there will be a price war this summer. "Everyone is looking for ways to cover their expenses, but you also have to be aware of how far you can go."

The first to announce discounts was the Paradores chain which opened up on the 25 June. It did so with several campaigns such as the 'Veraneadores' (holiday-makers) promotion, with rooms starting at 65 euros, and which, according to this public chain, "is proving to be a real success", with reservations for three nights at the price of two or five nights at the price of four.

Marriott International is also offering discounts and free breakfast for members; Iberostar is rewarding children under 12 for their "good behaviour during lockdown"; NH Hoteles is offering discounts of up to 25 per cent at its

recently reopened luxury hotel Anantara Villa Padierna Palace in Benahavís, among other perks; Barceló and Riu are offering free medical services with stays; and online agency Destinia is offering beachside accommodation for as little 30 euros.

At local level, the chains aim to maintain their prices, but say that they are aware that specific promotions will have to be launched as demand evolves.

This price war will be compounded, Callejón has warned, by high prices for flights which are making potential tourists reluctant to book, creating "more complications".

As the president of the Association of Travel Agents of Andalucía, Sergio García, points out: "Prices are expensive, so sales are more than slow." Flights arriving on the Costa del Sol have been far from full, he says, explaining that airlines, which have suffered enormously as a result of the pandemic, have to recover losses too.

As a result, however, flights during this period are proving unaffordable for normal budgets, he says.



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Malaga Airport reopens T3 as July begins with more than 100 flights

After three months with all activity concentrated in Terminal 2, bosses are also slowly reopening services such as the main car park and the VIP lounge

P. MARTÍNEZ

MALAGA. After three months of next to no activity, bosses at Malaga Airport this week reopened Terminal 3 (the newest wing) as the number of flights into and out of the Costa del Sol reached 123 on Wednesday.

This figure is triple that of the daily figures seen during the first week of borders being reopened, initially on 21 June and only to countries in the Schengen zone (with some exceptions), plus the



Tourists arrive on the Costa del Sol for their holidays. SALVADOR SALAS

UK. Now that July has arrived, however, many airlines have restarted their services, albeit with reduced frequency.

Car park and VIP lounge

Until now, and since the state of alarm was announced in mid-March, all of the airport's activity had been concentrated in the older Terminal 2, with all shops and services closed, including the main car park. However, the latter has now reopened, as well as the VIP lounge.

"Málaga-Costa del Sol Airport will expand operational areas progressively as airline activity recovers. We will also assess the implementation of new spaces according to the evolution of the health and economic situation in the country and the lifting of restrictions," a spokesperson explained.

The 123 connections on Wednesday, 94 of which were international, is still a long way off the around 500 daily take off and landings at the same time last year.

Only around 60 hotels on the Costa have reopened so far

P. M.

MALAGA. Wednesday marked the busiest day so far in terms of hotels on the Costa del Sol reopening. That said, data shows that there are barely 60 currently in operation.

In Malaga city, the iconic AC Marriott Málaga Palacio and MS Maestranza welcomed visitors again, while on the Costa, the Polynesia hotel of Holiday World (Benalmádena), as well as its beach club, reopened.

Also on the list are the Balcón de Europa (Nerja), Pyr Fuengirola, Finca Cortesin (Casares) and Meliá Don Pepe (Marbella), alongside MS Benalmádena, Sol Timor (Torremolinos) and Stella Maris and La Jábega (both Fuengirola) apartment complexes.



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Project to build 15 luxury villas in Marbella centre is given the go-ahead

MARBELLA

The town hall has granted licences worth 26.1 million euros, including for the refurbishment of the Guadalmina Hotel in San Pedro

HÉCTOR BARBOTA

A developer is to build 15 luxury villas in the heart of Marbella after the town hall gave the project the green light on Monday.

The villas will be built on land which currently has several homes in a state of abandon, on

the old ring road at Vigil de Quiñones park (a few metres from the 'Piruli' tower), where Avenida Ricardo Soriano ends.

The project has a construction budget of 10.3 million euros and the 15 villas will be built simultaneously, requiring the services of 200 workers at the same time, according to the councillor for Town Planning, Kika Caracuel.

This licence, approved on Monday, is the first to be passed after the Malaga College of Architects agreed to give the town council's planning experts greater freedom to issue licences in order to speed up processes and revive the local economy. In this case, the entire process took five months, almost half of



The plot where the villas will be built. JOSELE

the usual timeframe.

Further projects

These villas weren't the only project to be given the go-ahead on Monday. In fact licences worth 26.1 million euros were approved, including the project to refurbish the Guadalmina Hotel in San Pedro Alcántara, which will be upgraded from four to four star superior.

These works will involve an investment of 12.2 million euros and will enable the hotel to increase its surface area by 4,600 square metres and improve all its services and outdoor spaces, according to deputy mayor for San Pedro, Javier García. This initiative, in his opinion "is very important not only for the construction sector, but especially for the tourism sector".

A permit has also been granted for the construction of 17 industrial units in the San Pedro industrial estate, on a plot of 3,805 square metres and with a value of 2.8 million euros. Sixty industrial units in total are planned.



SHOVE IT INTO 2ND, AND POP THE CLUTCH

Coastal path to continue through ecological reserve as permits are granted

MANILVA

The project, which will see an environmental regeneration of the area, now only needs to be approved at a council meeting

CHARO MÁRQUEZ

The Senda Litoral coastal path project, to unite the entire Malaga coastline from Manilva in the west with Nerja in the east, is progressing well, albeit at an uneven rate depending on the individual municipalities.

Work has not begun at all at the path's start point at Punta Chullera in Manilva, however a large part of the project has now re-

ceived the authorisation of the national Costas coastal authority and the Environment Ministry of the Junta de Andalucía.

The stretch in question runs between the Arroyo Martagina stream and the Playa Paraíso housing development. The path will be 670.4 metres in length and three metres wide and will cross the central part of the ecological reserve.

Manilva councillor for Infrastructure Diego José Jiménez explained that it is a "simple stretch to build, with no obstacles" and that a path already runs through the area and would only need to be remodelled.

The project, with an estimated budget of 182,000 euros, also includes the environmental regeneration of the area, which will



Punta Chullera, on the border with Cadiz province. SUR

cover 3,486 square metres.

Having already obtained the relevant permits, once the design is finalised by specialists at the Diputación provincial government, the project will only require approval at a council meeting before it can go ahead.

This new section will link up with the three footbridges over the Martagina, Alcorrín and El Indiano streams. However, the initial section of the path at 'point zero' is more complex. This is the area between Punta Chullera, on the border with the province of

Cadiz, and Playa Paraíso. This project has not yet been drawn up and presents certain difficulties as it is an area of cliffs.

The mayor of Manilva Mario Jiménez, meanwhile, is also pushing for works to be carried out on the town's seafront promenade following meetings with experts from the Diputación. Jiménez stresses that the council has the money for the project and that it would mean "more modern, improved infrastructure and greater opportunities for both employers and residents".

Work on illegal mango plantation beside the A-7 is finally halted

MALAGA

J. HINOJOSA. Work on a mango plantation next to the A-7 motorway in the northeastern part of the city has stopped after Malaga city council's latest order to cease activity.

Local residents have been complaining that the activity was illegal to the council since January, arguing to the Town Planning department that this was an Environmental crime, with large quantities of land being moved to prepare it for the crop, despite the land having been designated as of environmental importance.

The council has said that it had issued an order in February but it went ignored until now. The works are now almost complete.

Trans community represented on new Estepona mural

The Artistic Murals Route of Estepona is being expanded with a new work dedicated to the trans community. The mural, which is currently being painted by the Malaga artist Curro Leyton on one of the façades of the La Lobilla municipal sports hall, features a trans woman represented in vivid colours. From the town hall has said that the mural, called 'Fémina', aims to show "the importance that all genders and sexual identities are respected and is another sign that Estepona is an open, tolerant and inclusive place".



The usual crowds were a lot smaller because of pre-selection. JOSELE

Five thousand apply for jobs for the Starlite Festival

MARBELLA

C. MÁRQUEZ. More than 5,000 people joined the application process to work as part of this summer's adapted Starlite Festival which will run from 29 July to 30 August.

Despite the number of events being reduced, organisers need to

fill 400 vacancies. However, given the high demand and the need to maintain hygiene protocols, only a select few were invited for a face-to-face interview at Marbella's congress centre after a pre-selection process in which applicants filled out a questionnaire and took part in a virtual interview.

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British residents in Spain called on to take part in university survey

Dr Charles Betty, UK expat and researcher of retirement migration, is looking at the effects of Brexit and Covid on Brits' decisions to leave Spain

SUR IN ENGLISH

MALAGA. Academics behind a new research project are appealing to British residents in Spain to take part in their investigation. Their aim is to understand if British people are thinking of returning to the UK in the current climate.

The study is led by two expert researchers of retirement migration to Spain, Dr Jordi Giner from the University of Valencia and Dr Charles



Dr Charles Betty

Betty, a British expat who last year became the oldest person from the UK to be awarded a PhD for his work. Charles was also given the MBE in the New Year's Honours for his work in the community.

"It is important to understand the current situation of British people in Spain and if Brexit and Covid are impacting on their lives and decisions to return. We can then try to ensure the right support is in place for them," said Charles.

British people living in Spain for all or part of the year are invited to complete the online survey at <https://go.uv.es/xFNkb51>.

Participants will not be asked for personal details.



One of the pairs of chameleons before their release. JOSELE

Four new chameleons introduced at Artola dunes

MARBELLA

H. BARBOTTA. The Produnas association, in collaboration with the Biodiversity department of the Junta de Andalucía, have released four chameleons into the Artola dunes in Marbella in a bid to conserve its rich biodiversity.

The four specimens came from the Malaga city council's Common Chameleon Conser-

vation and Recovery Centre and were released in pairs at two different locations on Monday.

According to the Junta's technician Manuel Grondona, the coastal pine forests are the best habitat for these reptiles to live and reproduce. With their mating season in July and August, "if we didn't hurry, we could have lost a generation", according to Produnas president Susana Stamm.

HERE AND THERE

ARDALES

47,000 new Caminito tickets go on sale

A. J. The Caminito del Rey walkway put 47,000 new tickets on sale on Tuesday for the months of August and September. The number of tickets available will gradually increase from 850 a day at the start of August back to the normal 1,100 by September.

FUENGIROLA

Council devises smart tree plan

A. J. Fuengirola council has devised a 25-year plan to manage the town's trees. A study of all of the August has been carried out, examining their vulnerability to pests, their need for pruning and a care plan which needs to be carried out throughout the year.

“We are doing everything possible so our citizens can travel to Spain this summer”

Majid Alsuwaidi **United Arab Emirates Ambassador to Spain**

MARBELLA

The diplomat, whose country has donated 18 tonnes of sanitary material to Marbella, says its image as a tourist destination has not been affected by the crisis

HÉCTOR BARBOTA



The donation of 18 tonnes of sanitary material from the United Arab Emirates to help tackle the Covid-19 crisis once again highlights the close connection between the Arab countries and Marbella, where the royal family of UAE has a residence. The ambassador to Spain, Majid Hassan Mohammed Hassan Alsuwaidi, explains in this interview, which took place virtually, the reasons for that donation.

-Why did you decide to donate that material?

-At the start of the outbreak, the UAE promised a multilateral and international response by delivering medical assistance all over the world. The leaders of the UAE said quite rightly that this pandemic does not distinguish between nationalities, religions or ideologies. We knew that the only way to get through this crisis was with solidarity, cooperation and joint action. So far we have sent 935 metric tonnes of humanitarian medical aid and food to more



Majid Al Suwaidi in his office, in a photo provided by the Embassy. SUR

than 65 countries. Given the close relationship we have with Spain, we didn't hesitate to help our Spanish friends with this donation.

-Why Marbella?

-Our countries have an excellent relationship. My work as ambassador here is very easy. The UAE have many historical and strong connections with the whole region of Andalucía, so it was one of the first places that our leaders wanted to help. The medical aid is for Marbella, the Kingdom of Spain in general and the region of Andalucía in particular.

The royal families of Spain and UAE enjoy a very strong friendship which extends beyond political and official levels.

-What is the financial value of this assistance?

-The donation consists of 18 metric tonnes of high-degree medical aid. When we talk about helping each other mutually in difficult times, especially between countries which are friends, or brothers, like the UAE and Spain, the financial value of such assistance is secondary.

-What is the coronavirus situation in your country?

-In the UAE, the Covid-19 situation is under control. Our government has implemented one of the most intensive track and trace operations in the world and we have been able to keep the number of cases and deaths relatively low. At the moment we are easing and gradually modifying some of the restrictions which were put in force, taking into account that the situation is improving. Some institutions such as the Deep Knowledge Group (DKG) have stated that the UAE has shown itself to be the most efficient, resistant and prepared

country in the region, due to our response to this crisis. We have also made advances in studying new treatments. Our development and application of an innovative treatment using stem cells was recognised all over the world as a huge step forward in the scientific community's understanding of how to treat the infections. The researchers based in the UAE have also developed a method of identifying cases with progressive laser ray technology. In fact, seven Spanish scientists are playing a very important role in the research being carried out by the UAE on detecting and treating the illness.

-Do you think there will be much tourism this year?

- We are not, nor do we want to be, a country which lives only from oil and therefore tourism is very important to us. Some of the restrictions have been eased in many parts of the country, and numerous museums, cultural and other facilities are open with reduced capacity. We want to continue receiving Spanish tourists and also visitors who are on business. The Emirates want to achieve greater cooperation with Spain.

-What is the perception in the Emirates of the pandemic in Spain? Do you believe it will affect our image or have an impact in terms of visitors who come to Spain from the Emirates?

-I don't believe it will. In the United Arab Emirates, the news coverage of the pandemic in Spain only underlined the strength of the country and the unity of Spanish society.

With regard to tourism in Spain, I don't believe it will be negatively affected. On the contrary, I have the feeling that people in the UAE are keen to visit Spain and we are doing everything possible to ensure that they can travel safely this summer. We also hope Spanish visitors will come to the Emirates.

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Maro golf course project dependent on technical and environmental reports

A petition signed by 9,001 people opposed to the development was presented to Nerja town hall last week

EUGENIO CABEZAS

NERJA. The Junta de Andalucía's delegate in Malaga, Patricia Navarro, said during a visit to Nerja on Monday that the regional government was dependent on technical reports to give the go ahead, or not, to the Maro golf course, homes and luxury hotel project.

The development would include an 18-hole golf course along with 680 homes. It would also convert the former sugar cane factory into a luxury hotel on land near the coastal hamlet which is part of Nerja. The site earmarked for the project is situated near to the Maro-Cerro Gordo cliffs and Nerja cave, both of which are protected areas.

Navarro said that the controversial project was in a "very early phase" and that politicians at the regional government were "not aware of it beyond what has



A digital image of what the golf course would look like. **SUR**

been published in the press".

She added that while the regional government wants to attract investment and generate employment, "especially now when the current health crisis is set to turn into an economic crisis", the plans "must be compatible with the preservation of the area's natural environment".

Navarro was speaking just days after Nerja town hall ended the time period for objections to the plan. Last week a petition with 9,001 signatures against the development was presented to the council by the 'Another Maro and Another Nerja is Possible' residents' platform.

They have the support of 39

cultural, environmental and community groups who believe that the project would destroy the local area and have devastating environmental consequences.

Employment

However, the company behind the project, Sociedad Azucarera Larios S. L., which also owns the land, argues that the development would generate 1,600 jobs, of which 600 would be permanent and make the area a "focus for tourism" in the Axarquía.

A spokesperson for the opposition, José Juan Aído, claims that the project "would mean the end of 400 years of agriculture" and that it "would not generate employment".

Navarro added that the Andalusian government together with Nerja town hall would study the objections and technical reports. She said, "If the project is technically, urbanistically and environmentally viable and compatible with the preservation of the area's natural resources, it would be authorised in keeping with the technical reports."

Zona Azul parking meters reinstated as summer season gets under way

E. C. / J. R.

VÉLEZ-MÁLAGA/ ALMUÑÉCAR. Vélez-Málaga and Almuñécar town halls both reactivated their blue zone (Zona Azul) parking meters on Wednesday, meaning visitors to the towns will have to pay to park in areas marked with blue lines.

Both towns had suspended the paid parking at the beginning of Spain's lockdown in March.

Vélez-Málaga council also announced that the contract with Amivel, the town's association for disabled people, which has managed some of the Zona Azul parking since 2015, is to be extended. The original contract expired in April this year.

Amivel have joined local businesses in the area on numerous occasions to complain that the council has failed to comply with the terms of the contract, which include extending the association's management of the metred parking, from 350 to 810 parking places.

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HERE AND THERE

FRIGILIANA

Three Cultures festival will not go ahead this year

SUR. Frigiliana's Three Cultures festival is the latest in a long line of summer music events in the Axarquía to be cancelled or postponed due to the coronavirus pandemic.

The popular event, which would have been celebrating its fifteenth anniversary at the end of August, is to be postponed until the same time next year.

"We have waited until the last minute, hoping we would be able to go ahead," said culture councillor, Carmen Cerezo, who an-



The Three Cultures festival. **E. C.**

nounced the decision last Saturday, following a meeting between the town hall and organisers last week.

LA VIÑUELA

Firefighters control La Viñuela blaze

SUR. Firefighters were called to a forest fire which broke out in an area of countryside near the village of La Viñuela last Saturday afternoon.

A total of 14 officers, along with a fire fighting helicopter and other emergency and rescue teams, tackled the blaze from 3pm until 7.15pm according to Infoca, the Andalusian government's wild-fire protection team, as reported by Europa Press.

NERJA

Nerja launches safe beaches action plan

E. C. Nerja town hall launched a safe beaches action plan on Burriana beach on Monday, with the announcement that 45 lifeguards have been contracted to control the town's beaches. Furthermore, the town hall announced that it has acquired a pick up truck, quad bike, and jet ski, as well as new rescue equipment including life rings and life buoys to help guarantee the safety of beach users this summer.

INTERNATIONAL FAMILY LAW

Child Abduction in times of pandemic

MÁLAGA & MARBELLA

SUR. Many people may not be aware of the real meaning of “child abduction”, and moreover, may not be aware that child abduction can become a very serious problem in their lives in case of divorce, especially for couples from different countries.

Legally speaking, international child abduction refers to the wrongful relocation or retention of a child by one of their parents outside their country of habitual residence in breach of the other parent or guardian’s custody rights. This means that the unilateral decision to switch a minor’s residence without the permission of the other parent holding parental responsibility entails child abduction. The parent whose rights are being deprived needs to seek immediate legal advice to secure an efficient and quick return of the minor.

We normally speak about child abduction when a parent unilaterally decides to take the children to a different country - normally his/her country of origin- expecting to receive protection from the local judicial or administrative authorities. As it



could be expected, the pandemic has stressed the situation of many international families and significantly increased the number of cases of child abduction. A typical case of abduction in the pandemic could be that in which a parent had initially authorised that the child stays with the other parent during the confinement and, once it is finished, the other parent takes the opportunity to reject returning the child for any

reason -normally health concerns.

Legal protection against child abduction is also preventive. If a parent fears or has doubts about a potential child abduction from the other parent, he or she may request judicial intervention to prevent abduction from happening. The judge can, for instance, order to deposit at the Court the passports of the children or instruct airlines to forbid that minor from travelling abroad.

The international legal framework against child abduction is the “Convention on the civil aspects of International Child Abduction”, that was concluded in 1980 by the Hague Conference, that promotes cooperation between States -under a principle of mutual trust in their judicial bodies- through designated bodies called “central authorities” to secure the prompt return of children, to whom the affected parent can apply for assistance. The whole process should be solved within six weeks, although this period takes usually longer. It is of most importance to act quickly right after the departure of the minor because the legislative text contains that after one year of residing in a new country he or she may have already settled down and made bounds in his new residence and the return would be rejected.

Spanish lawyers and mediators specialised in child abduction are organised in Spain under ASIME (www.asime.org), an association created under the spirit of The Hague Convention, aimed to the protection of the minors, that works to better assist parents

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affected by child abduction, control that the maximum terms stated in the Hague Convention are being met, assist national authorities in charge of cases of abduction and promotes legal initiatives in this area.

Any conflict affecting the children should always be preferably solved by the parents by mutual agreement in the children’s best interest. However, if the situation becomes uncontrolled and one of the parents decides unilaterally to relocate the children it is important to react quickly and put the case in the hands of a specialised lawyer to protect the rights of the children. Time is of the essence.



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Villagers fly rainbow flags with pride in Villanueva de Algaidas

Locals put up their own LGBT colours on their homes after a flag had to be removed from town hall following complaints

ANDREA JIMÉNEZ

MALAGA. Residents of the village of Villanueva de Algaidas in inland Malaga province have shown their support to the LGBT community by flying the rainbow flag from their balconies and in the streets.

The initiative was launched after the local authority was asked to remove a flag it had put on the town hall to mark World Pride Day on 28 June.

On Tuesday last week the vil-

lage's Guardia Civil received informal complaints from three residents; meanwhile opposition councillor David Granados had threatened to take the town hall to court, arguing that it is forbidden in Spain to fly an unofficial flag outside a public building.

However, by Friday afternoon, residents had hit back at the complaints by hanging up around 300 rainbow flags on their balconies and in the village's streets.

Residents who were interviewed by Spanish TV said that they were "proud" to show their support to the LGBT community and that they wanted to show that Villanueva de Algaidas was an "open and democratic" place.



Elderly residents of Villanueva del Algaidas with one of the many flags displayed around the village. **SUR**

Junta says Ronda lynx sighting can't be real

A German tourist allegedly recorded the animal between Faraján and Júzcar but the regional Environment ministry doesn't believe it

VANESSA MELGAR

RONDA. The Environment ministry of the Junta de Andalucía regional government has this week moved to deny that video footage of an Iberian lynx could have been filmed in the Serranía de Ronda.

The video of the animal went viral after local businessman Enrique Ruiz uploaded it to the social media account of his business, the Bodega Antigua Real Fábrica de San Miguel de Ronda. He says that a German tourist by the name of Manfred had gone hiking in the area between Faraján and Júzcar: "I took him to Alpanseire myself and he

wanted to walk back to the bodega. When he returned he showed me the video, thinking that these animals were common here. I told him they weren't."

Biologist Andrés Rodríguez concurred: "We haven't seen lynxes in this area for a very long time. Perhaps because of the coronavirus their habitat is expanding. There are a lot fewer people in the countryside now."

For its part, the Junta has concluded that the video must have been taken in Seville or Huelva, pointing towards the vegetation observed in the recording and also the behaviour of the animal.

Ruiz's reaction, however, was one of disbelief: "If they decree that there was no lynx, there was no lynx." He added, sarcastically: "I love seeing how they manage the environment from an office. Perhaps they should do more hiking and see the wonders we have in the area."



A still taken from the video shared on social media. **SUR**



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Spain's border with Portugal reopens in ceremonies attended by both heads of state

King Felipe was with the Portuguese president at short events in Badajoz and Elvas in the neighbouring country

SUR

MADRID. Spain and Portugal opened their border on Wednesday, with simple ceremonies on either side of the frontier.

The border, known colloquially in Spanish as 'La Raya' (the stripe), was first shut at all crossing points on 17 March. This has been particularly hard for towns and villages on either side where local economies in both countries are historically very interconnected.

The two countries wanted to give special relevance to this return to cross-border normality and the event was presided over by King Felipe VI and Portuguese president Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa.

It was also attended by the Spanish prime minister, Pedro Sánchez, and the Portuguese prime minister, António Costa.

The border was reopened ten days after the rest of the Schengen area, following the wishes of the Portuguese government.

Two symbolic events took place, one each side of the border. The first was in Badajoz (Extremadura) and the second in the adjacent town of Elvas, in Portugal.

The EU opens up

The opening of the Spain-Portugal border coincided with the

start of air bridges from the EU to 15 countries.

From 1 July, visitors can now arrive from Algeria, Australia, Canada, Georgia, Japan, Montenegro, Morocco, New Zealand, Rwanda, Serbia, South Korea, Thailand, Tunisia, Uruguay and China, though in the latter case only if the arrangement is made reciprocal.

Notable omissions from this list are the United States and Russia.

In his speech in Elvas, Pedro Sánchez said that precautions still needed to be taken, but it was time to get the economy moving.



The Spanish and Portuguese leaders in Badajoz on Wednesday. AFP

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Health ministry reports increase in localised outbreaks with two still of particular concern

SUR

MADRID. Spain entered the "new normal" on 21 June with 12 small coronavirus outbreaks active across the whole country, with some 200 reported cases.

Since then, according to the national Health Ministry, the number of outbreaks has been on the increase, with some 40 active this week spread across almost all regions.

Although experts reassured the public that the outbreaks were under control, one of the two most worrying for the authorities for their size was the outbreak affecting four districts in the Aragon region linked to seasonal fruit pickers, where over 270 people had tested positive by Wednesday, mostly without symptoms. The other was the Red Cross refugee centre in Malaga with over 100 reported positive cases.

More new small outbreaks were reported on Thursday.

IN BRIEF

MADRID

PM says taxes will rise for big firms and rich

SUR. The Prime Minister, Pedro Sánchez, said in a television interview on Thursday that he is planning to increase taxes for larger companies and higher earners. He explained that public services needed strengthening. "We are seven [percentage] points behind in public income than the EU average," he explained. He added that some big firms currently manage to pay "under 10 per cent on profits".

BARCELONA

Semi-release closer for secessionist prisoners

SUR. The Catalan prison service has proposed that the nine people serving sentences for their part in the attempted declaration of independence in Catalonia in 2017 should be allowed out on day release. The former politicians and civic leaders have already served a big part of their sentences and would only return to prison to sleep on weeknights. The regional Justice Ministry has to make the final decision.

THE EURO ZONE

MARK NAYLER

In all but name



Socialist prime minister Pedro Sánchez wants everyone to love his government, to see it as a modern, huggy coalition as unlike the austere, corrupt old Conservatives as possible. This is why he's trying so hard to avoid using the word "austerity", a term carrying connotations of punitive economics and often associated with his arch-enemy Mariano Rajoy, whose right-wing administration implemented austerity measures to help Spain recover from recession ten years ago.

The country's leading fiscal authorities seem similarly un-

willing to use this dreaded term. In the Bank of Spain's latest address on Covid this week, the dirty word wasn't employed directly, but it was lurking just behind those that were. The Bank recommended the adoption of a medium-term fiscal plan to save jobs and businesses, and to deal with a debt level that will be the "highest in many decades". This was interpreted as follows by the Spanish daily El País: "Despite the cautious tones, the message remains clear: there will be no repeat adoption of the strict austerity measures introduced a decade ago during the

economic crisis".

Yet it's not at all clear that there's any meaningful difference between what the Bank says will be necessary to contain Covid's economic fallout and the unpopular measures enacted by Rajoy a decade ago. The Bank predicts that "deep budgetary reforms" will be required to control Spain's already-swollen public debt and to "prevent enormous social and economic costs". It has stated before that tax hikes and spending cuts will need to be among these "deep budgetary reforms". Is this not austerity in all but name?

It's looking likely that austerity economics of some kind will play a part in the post-Covid recovery. Let's remind ourselves of the latest statistics: it emerged this week that during the first quarter of 2020, Spain's GDP contracted by 5.2%, more than double the amount it shrank in the

first quarter of 2009, at the beginning of the global recession. The first quarter of this year encompassed only two weeks of the total lockdown that dominated over half of Q2, during which period the Bank estimates that the Spanish economy slowed by an incredible 20%. There were zero international visitors to Spain in April: not a single, solitary tourist in a month that usually marks the start of the summer season. And to top it all off, the country's public debt is expected to rise to around 120% of GDP this year, up from an already-dangerous level of just under 100%.

Sánchez and the fiscal authorities can avoid the term "austerity" as much as they like, but it's hard to see how the government will be able to honour its costly welfare pledges at the same time as minimising Covid's economic impact.

New benefits replace emergency payouts for crisis-hit 'autónomos'

Stepped monthly discounts on social security quotas are made available as well as new support for the seasonal self-employed

N. TRIGUERO / N. HESKETH

MALAGA. New benefits to help the self-employed (autónomos) affected by the Covid-19 crisis came into effect on 1 July. Up to then, autónomos who had been forced to stop work or seen their income drop heavily could claim an emergency unemployment benefit and skip social security quotas on generous terms.

These benefits have now ended and in their place is a new agreement reached between ministers and self-employed associations.

From now on there are two, alternative paths. Those self-employed who were receiving the emergency payouts will be eligible to apply for scaled reductions on their monthly social security contributions up to 30 September. However they will not receive the unemployment benefit as up to now. They must also be up to date with social security obligations and have previously paid in the minimum legal limit of contributions need to get benefits.

Alternatively, for those still severely hit, normal unemployment benefit can be applied for, without unregistering as self-employed, but with much stricter conditions than before.

In the first option, autónomos who qualify won't have to pay any social security quota for July, pay 50% for August and 75% for

September.

In the second option, if a self-employed worker expects that their income will be 75% less in the period July to September 2020 than in the same period in 2019, and net income in the three months will not be more than 5,818.75 euros, they can apply to receive an income benefit. They must have paid in at least the previous 12 months' social security quotas. If the quarterly income eventually is above the stipulated figures, they will have to pay it back, as well as the social security quotas, under strict monitoring conditions.

There is also a third, new route to up to four months of benefits from June to October for seasonal self-employed who normally have income for at least five months between March and October but who won't be able to work this year.

50k more local jobless than a year ago, monthly data shows

N. TRIGUERO / J. M. CAMARERO

MALAGA / MADRID. The number of registered unemployed in Malaga province fell slightly in June but there are 50,000 more unemployed locally than a year ago. This figure excludes many workers still on furloughing schemes.

Last month saw 2,459 sign off the jobless register and 8,091 more people start paying workers' social security contributions in Malaga province. 188,285 people are now registered as looking for work locally.

The year-on-year drop in those in work is almost 8% locally and only the Balearics and Gerona province have a worse percentage decrease.

Nationally, monthly unemployment increased by 5,107, the biggest June increase since 2008.

Data also shows that firms are bringing furloughed workers back as lockdown has been eased.



Firms have opened up. NITO SALAS

Across Spain, 1.17 million people stopped being part of these ERTE schemes in June, leaving 1.8 million still laid off or with reduced hours. In Malaga province, almost half of furloughed employees are now back at work, with 70,000 still on ERTes at the end of June.

Owners of Don Carlos Hotel agree to consider withdrawing ERE redundancy plan

CHARO MÁRQUEZ

MARBELLA. The owners of the Don Carlos Hotel in Marbella have said they are prepared to consider withdrawing the ERE compulsory redundancy plan for the luxury property's full-time workers. With this change of heart, the Comisiones Obreras union was hopeful this week that a deal could now be reached.

Negotiations have been ongoing between staff and bosses, and on Wednesday workers and the union met with Marbella mayor, Ángeles Muñoz, to explain their situation.

The Don Carlos wants to move from year-round to seasonal opening and needs to change working conditions.

THE BIGGER PICTURE
JEREMY BLATCH

✉ jbl@ehh.gi

When a soft touch is anything but



A 'soft touch' conjures up thoughts of someone who is easy prey, gullible and vulnerable to theft. In the context of financial services, a light touch regulation speaks of a more flexible and relaxed approach to regulatory oversight. For many years in the US and Europe, the world's largest trading bloc, the rule of law has given birth to financial services legislation and banking supervision aimed at protecting the consumer. However, the reality is that in spite of a raft of regulations and edicts, for too long and in too many instances, the mutual fund industry has taken advantage of the consumer, in many cases causing permanent loss of capital. Sadly, when ethics meet profitability, profitability wins.

I mention this by way of introduction to 'soft dollars', a term used in the industry to describe the benefits received by a financial intermediary or broker dealer as a result of commissions earned on a transaction: in essence a kickback from broker to trader, funding both investment-related and non-investment-related goods and services. Investors pay an inflated commission to trade securities, reducing overall investment returns. The benefit, in the form of goods and services, accrues directly to the fund manager. The cost of the 'soft dollar' goods and services would otherwise have come from the fund's management fee. Soft dollars represent a well-disguised increase in fees.

Commission may also result when a manager or intermediary allocates money to a fund. Today, many financial institutions are owned by multinational corporations that may also own life assurance and

pension companies, which are themselves producers of financial products. This is a clear conflict of interest between principal and agent.

Whatever the currency, the practice of taking 'soft dollars' is now subject to legislation in the US and Europe, but legislation is only as effective as robust policing and penalties. In reality, neither is aggressively pursued, with the result that in some instances financial intermediaries are still inflating prices that are not disclosed. Recent cases successfully investigated and prosecuted by legal counsel acting for account holders is proof that, in spite of regulation, this practice continues. Commissions are inflated and swallowed up in trading. Over time, this 'market impact cost' will reduce the performance of a portfolio. Deliberate lack of transparency makes it difficult for the investor to accurately obtain true costs. The investors must dig for the information because it will not show up in the portfolio valuation.

When fiduciary responsibility to investors competes with corporate desire for profits, profits win. As investors, we must be vigilant. Since its birth in 1924, the mutual fund industry has not ceased its creative efforts to find visible and less visible means to take advantage of individual investors.

The author is a member of the Society of Trustees and Estate Practitioners and an investment counsellor. The comments and observations by the author are a reflection of his opinion and do not constitute an offer to buy and hold securities, nor does he receive any remuneration of any kind from names referred to.

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WHERE DOES ALL THIS WATER COME FROM?



The paths pass through stunning scenery. **SUR**

National Trail legislation to be introduced

DEBBIE BARTLETT

GIBRALTAR. The government has published a Command Paper for a Bill for an Act to recognise the Gibraltar National Trails in law, to encourage walking and protect rights of way. The trails include the popular Mediterranean Steps

and Martin's Path on the Upper Rock, and lesser-known Blackstrap Cove on the east side and Devil's Tooth Path in the South-District.

The National Trails will be an attraction for visitors as well as local people and more paths will be added in the future.

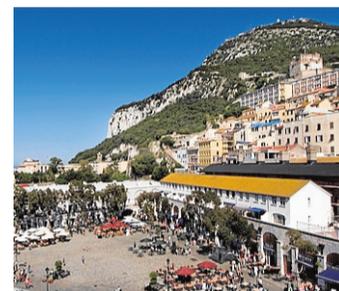
Ships off Gibraltar expected to join worldwide call to sound their horns on Wednesday

D. BARTLETT

GIBRALTAR. If you're in or near Gibraltar at midday on Wednesday 8 July, be prepared for a lot of noise out at sea. Ship captains worldwide are being asked to sound their vessels' horns at midday to remind governments about the ongoing crew change crisis due to Covid-19. Many personnel have been trapped on board, unable to be given their mandatory rest periods ashore while others take over.

The Gibraltar Port Authority has taken measures to safely ensure crew changes, but some ships are expected to join the protest anyway.

GIB IN BRIEF



No deaths to date in Gib. **D.B.**

HEALTH

One active Covid-19 case in Gibraltar

D. B. After very nearly two weeks with no active cases of coronavirus in Gibraltar, one has now been detected through testing. The patient has no symptoms and is self-isolating at home. There have been 178 cases in Gibraltar since the pandemic began, and nobody has died from the disease.

ENVIRONMENT

Dark smoke from ships to be controlled

D.B. Gibraltar plans to restrict the emissions of dark smoke from ships in its waters and will fine those which fail to comply. There will be exceptions in certain circumstances, but the crackdown aims to improve air quality on and around the Rock.

TRAVEL

Easyjet flights to resume this month

D.B. Easyjet is expected to run flights to and from Gibraltar again from 20 July, although the service is likely to be more restricted than before the coronavirus crisis. The company announced this week that it will be cutting 1,900 UK-based jobs and pulling out of Stansted, Southend and Newcastle.

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LETTERS
TO THE EDITOR

On the roof

The foundations of a healthy society ought to be: Liberty, Equality and Fraternity, as our neighbours pointed out some time ago. But there are political parties that want to base our society on hatred and attacks on our supposed enemies, building things up the wrong way round.

Building is what they have been doing opposite my house. The work required a lot of labour. First there were five Bosnians who came to take off the old roof tiles; tough, seasoned people, who, when I still hadn't had breakfast, were already at work, even on public holidays, without a single complaint, with their boss in charge. The accent was similar but they were different from the Russian who cleans my landing.

After that, three Hondurans came and, equipped with harnesses, fitted drainpipes in wind, rain and sunshine, with not a single complaint.

In the last phase, four Moroccans came to put the new tiles on, working from dawn, and again, without complaint.

Today, halfway through the morning the first Spaniards turned up, with helmets and papers, supervising. They looked uncomfortable at that height and were keen to finish quickly.

"We're no good for this type of work," said my [Spanish] neighbour as she watched them. **ROBERTO RODRÍGUEZ**

Second chance

I was shocked to read the news story last week (June 26th) about the dog that had been rescued from a sealed bag of rubble.

Why, why, why would a human being do that to another living creature?

Thank goodness there are kindhearted souls who rescue those poor creatures and give them a second chance.

It was perhaps a miracle that someone found this poor dog. How many more are disposed of in the same way with no one noticing?

BETH MICHAELS

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THE MUSIC MAKER
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Dead grateful

Back in the dim and distant days when children used to actually play together, there was a lad at our school who would bring a ball in every day to be booted about the yard at dinner time. Games were improvised and unwieldy, involving up to twenty players on each team and with the main skill set required being an ability to avoid the girls with skipping ropes who invariably stood in what in modern football jargon would be called 'the hole' or 'the channel' but that we called 'the way'.

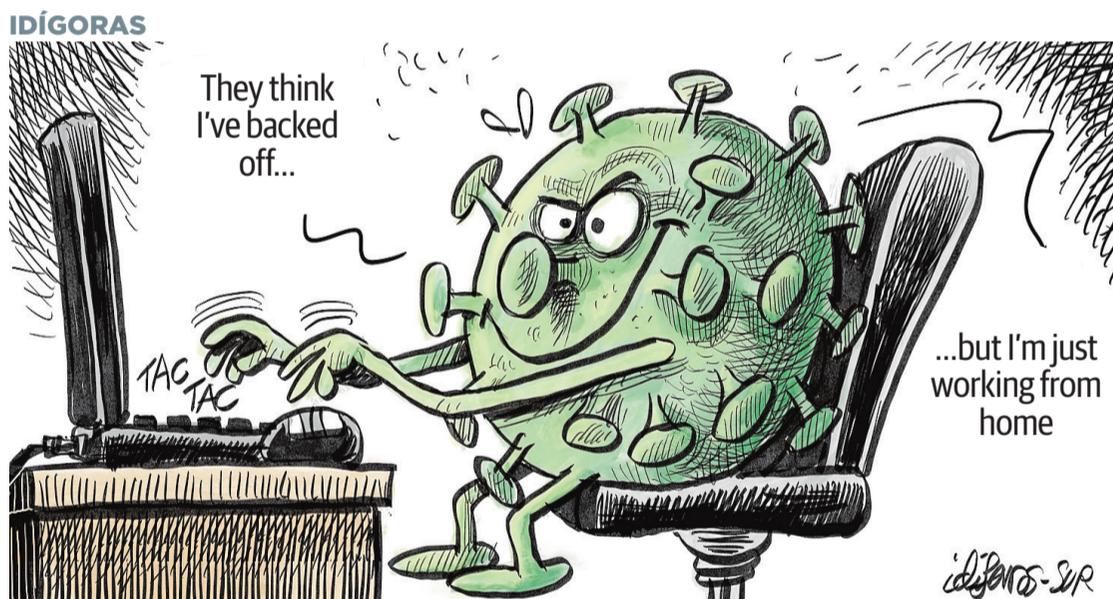
Anyway, one day, and with no prior warning, Jonesy stopped bringing his ball in, mumbling something about his mum and a rucksack that nobody understood and, well, that was that, a no-ball situation. Incredibly, a lot of the lads stopped speaking to him as a consequence. So, just to be clear then, rather than expressing gratitude for all the

times he had brought a ball to school, a good number of boys decided that they'd ostracise the poor sap for the heinous crime of withdrawing the favour. It was much the same story as we got older. It was the friend who had a car who always drove us to the pub until, eventually, he came to realise that if he drank any more fizzy orange his head would explode and his teeth would fall out. The day he told us he wouldn't be providing a free taxi service any more, two of his regular passengers he thought were friends stormed off in a fit of pique and, as far as I know, haven't spoken to him since.

Since we reopened the pub a fortnight ago, one of our neighbours has decided that it's an opportune moment to start complaining about noise emanating from our terrace. Now, I'm not sure if there's an annual prize for the quietest pub terrace in

the world but if there is I'm sure we would win it hands down. Every day for five years before the lockdown, we brought the tables in two hours before the time stipulated by law because it didn't seem fair to have them out until two in the morning with many of our neighbours having to get up early the next day. For the last couple of weeks, however, and as part of our desperate bid for survival, I've been keeping the terrace active until the official time and it's helped us enormously. The complaining neighbour, however, rather than expressing his gratitude for all the years of courtesy shown hitherto, now chooses to jump around like Yosemite Sam, breathing the fire of righteous indignation through his nostrils.

After all these years, I finally understand why Jonesy used to walk around school with a permanent expression of bemused incredulity on his face.



SUR in English

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THE BOTTOM LINE
IGNACIO LILLO

Disconnected villages

Moving inland is an option that no longer sounds so ridiculous, especially after all we've been through recently.

I know entrepreneurs, middle-aged workers and families with children who would move to a small village with their eyes closed; tired of how expensive, noisy and uncomfortable it is to live in many districts of a city.

It is the inverse process of the rural exodus, and would be the solution for the emptying villages in Malaga province: a repopulating with new inhabi-

tants and their families, who would like to recuperate the advantages of the lives of their grandparents; but they still need access to technology because their lives, just like nearly everybody's now, are based on it.

And there's the problem. All we're doing is beating around the bush with proposals, which are almost always costly for the public coffers, to try to persuade the existing population to stay in the town or village and to stop the schools from closing.

There are the ridiculous "baby

cheques" (as if anyone would base their decision to have a child on a benefit that would barely get them through the first month) and other equally senseless and anecdotal measures.

The worst thing is that the solution, or at least much of it, is actually within reach.

Just ask prestigious professionals such as Juan Luis Cruz, who is the head of the College of Technical and Telecommunication Engineers; or the business owner Pelle Lundborg, who is originally from Sweden but linked to Carratraca.

They both say the same: what is really needed is for broadband internet access, via the new 5G or through fibre optic cables, to be the same for everyone, whether they live in Malaga city centre or the remotest village of the Serranía de Ronda.

You can't expect villages to attract people to live there without bearing in mind

that work, education, business, leisure and many other facets of daily life, have a telematic element that requires a lot of broadband.

The sad truth is that in the majority of places that are far from the Costa or the city it is impossible to send an average volume of data without having to walk twenty times round the village square first. In some points, you can barely find a decent signal to talk on the phone.

Mayors and leaders of the provincial government, if you really want to fight against depopulation of rural areas, stop coming up with makeshift ideas and reach agreements with telecommunications operators and technicians to install cables and antennas in your municipalities.

Until then they will continue to be no more than clusters of pretty streets where it's nice to spend the weekend from time to time... when we want to switch off!

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"There's something in the air of Andalucía"

Michael Kevin Jones Musician

The British cellist took Andalusian folklore on board and blended Spanish guitar with his own instrument gaining international success

ALEKK
M. SAANDERS



Michael Kevin Jones (London, 1969) has lived and worked around the world, but Spain is the country that he's always come back to. He talks to SUR in English about how his musical career brought him to Gibraltar, Cadiz and Madrid after a truly international early life.

How did you first find music?

I first discovered a piano at the age of about three in a hotel lounge in Lourenço Marques [now Maputo] in Mozambique. I was born in London but in my early years my family moved to Johannesburg as my father worked on the radar space tracking station outside the city. He had a lucky win on the Grand National and took me, my mother and baby sister Carol for the weekend to a lush colonial-style hotel. There I remember my mother



British cellist Michael Kevin Jones. SUR

teaching me to swim in the hotel pool and discovering an old upright piano with ivory keys in the usually empty lounge in which I played and I was fascinated with it; it seemed familiar and magical, I remember. A few years later we

returned to England and my parents arranged for me to have piano lessons and bought a piano. **So, in early childhood you changed countries...**

My 'expat' childhood was multicultural and happy. My great-grandfather Fumasoli, on my mother's side, moved to England

from Lugano. Together with his brother he started a guest house and tea shop in London in 1908. Actually, due to his successful business he was able to pay for music lessons for my grandmother who played piano and her brother who played cello and later went to live

in Nigeria. My father loved classical music, read gramophone magazines and had a fine collection of records. He knew every recording and version of all the great classical repertoire. But he hated David Bowie, whom I loved at 14, so I never appreciated certain things until later.

So, you have musical roots. How was your talent developed?

I was amazingly lucky to be educated within the UK comprehensive system at a very musical school. I'm happy that I had fantastic teachers for the cello which I started at 13. Three years after taking up cello, I went to study at Dartington College of Arts. To live and study music in college I received grants from the county. When I was 18, I entered the Royal College of Music in London where I studied for four years.

I know you speak German like a native. Why?

Germany came when I was about 10. My father had a contract for Telefunken in Ulm. We lived close to the Danube with a permanent smell of apple juice and Bavarian sausages. Both for me and my sister it was a challenge. We were sent to the local primary school without knowing a word of German. Later I realised that it had been a very wise choice of my mother. As a result we learnt German and mum taught us our other classes at home in the afternoons. Then we went back to UK and later I won a German government scholarship which gave me the chance to continue my studies in Cologne and Dusseldorf and from there start my professional experience playing in my teacher's chamber orchestra.

It seems you didn't have to work to pay for your studies...

At 17 and as a music student I was always auditioning for grants and loans to buy bows, etc. and I was lucky enough to meet the multi-millionaire music lover Sam Alper, who owned what was then called the Both Worlds hotel on the rock of Gibraltar. He gave me a loan to buy a bow and my first paid job as a musician outside England playing string quartets in the hotel during the evenings and in the restaurant. We used to come over the border on jet skis to drink in Estepona after finishing; those are the things you do at 18 and fall in love for life with certain places.

So, then it was when you had your first encounter with the Mediterranean coast, was it?

- Almost. I would say with my Italian origin the Mediterranean has always appealed to me. Actually, my professional career as a musician took me to Catalonia. I think at 24 my Latin roots were stronger than my head and I took a job in Barcelona playing in the famous Gran Teatre del Liceu. At that mo-

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HIS WORDS

EARLY LIFE

“My ‘expat’ childhood was multicultural and happy”

MUSIC

“Agustín Maruri helped me learn how to blend playing my cello with the Spanish guitar sound”

ment Spain became my home. Later, when I visited Madrid I immediately got that special connection with the city. In Madrid I feel comfortable. It's a city I love.

But your life in Spain was interrupted...

New York has always been a dream. From my childhood I remember my father talking a lot about New York and telling stories of when he was there in the Royal Navy in the 1950s. I liked to listen to his fantastic descriptions about the Broadway shows he saw and how the skyscrapers were so tall you couldn't see the sky. I can't forget his phrase “you could find anything and everything there”. And I always dreamed of going there to find something, and maybe myself. I was lucky to visit New York several times before moving to live there for three years between 1999 and 2003. While there I recorded the Bach suites at the Metropolitan Museum of Art on a Strad and did some things you can only do at a certain point of your life, and in NY! Thank God I had that chance and was able to get that particular obsession out of my system.

For most people home is synonymous with “house”...

I understand what you mean. I know, home and “a house” can be confused and I did have that experience, or “learn that lesson” with a house in the wonderful village of Jimena de la Frontera which has a thriving musical and expat life. I was introduced to the village one Christmas by American classical music entrepreneur Jane Carhart and I fell in love and continued to visit until I had the opportunity to buy a small house, which unfortunately was, and had been, rat-infested for generations. I had to renovate and sell but I made many lasting friendships and ties in that



village and also in Gibraltar and on the Costa de Sol, where I still play and teach.

Why, do you think, Andalucía entered your heart?

Definitely there is something in the air in this part of Andalucía where the provinces of Malaga and Cadiz merge and from which you can see the magnificent rock of Gibraltar and the African coast, which maybe somehow brings me back to my childhood in Africa. Frankly, I love Spanish music but didn't know how to play it until I was fortunate enough to meet and get to play with Spanish classical guitarist Agustín Maruri. He helped me learn how to blend playing my cello

with the guitar sound. We formed the only established cello-guitar duo and had several CD hits in Hong Kong early on in our adventure, which helped us organise concerts in many countries.

Did you manage to “cover” countries you had not been to before?

Yes. We gave cello-guitar concerts all over the world. We had the chance to go to the US, to Florida, to play in the historic San Augustin. We combined that with concerts in New York and returned many times to play all over the USA, Canada and throughout South America and later Asia, Japan, China, Korea etc. It seems amazing now that we travelled so much and did so many concerts because every little trip now is a major affair, but I am happy to be able to have had this experience of touring the world with my best friend and a wonderful duo partner.

How did you spend the lockdown?

I lost my teaching job at the Madrid Dance School where I had been teaching children piano for the last year. Also, with no private pupils or concerts, for musicians like me who do not work for the state it is suddenly zero income. However many people are much worse hit so I try and use these things as challenges. By the way, I was very lucky to have the use of the iconic basilica San Miguel in Madrid the day before the shutdown on 13 March, and together with talented director Ramón Gullon and Sean Murray, we recorded Bach's last notes for solo cello and edited the video together online during the quarantine.

i Bach's Last Notes : Watch Michael's solo cello performance in Basilica San Miguel by searching Bach's Last Notes on YouTube.



Tony Zenet on stage in the museum courtyard. FRANCIS SILVA



José Manuel Soto, on Tuesday. NITO SALAS

Concert season kicks off with a difference

Small events with distance and masks replace this year's crowded festivals

SUR

MALAGA. While numerous concerts and festivals have been cancelled this summer, the live music scene is by no means dead.

This week saw two concerts in the courtyard of the Aduana

palace - now home to the Malaga Museum - complying with new coronavirus rules and regulations. Mask-wearing members of the audience were all seated with the regulation two-metre distance between them to see singer-songwriters José Manuel Soto on Tuesday and Toni Zenet on Wednesday.

Both indicated the pattern this summer's concert season will follow: Spain-based performers in front of small audiences, seated and separated.



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REF. B. O. O.

I own an apartment in Spain which I have rented to a woman for four months. I have just been informed that unfortunately she was killed in a car accident. I have found someone interested in buying the property, but the woman's boyfriend does not

seem to have any intention of leaving. I have someone interested in the property, and I need the money, but I do not know what to do as obviously the buyer does not want to purchase if there is an occupant. Can the boyfriend refuse to leave even though he does not appear in the rental contract?

Given the circumstances that you have described, the boyfriend is not entitled to stay in the apartment. He would be able to stay in the property if he could prove that he had been living with her there for a certain period of time, but in this case, given the little time passed since the rental contract was signed and the little time that they would have hypothetically lived together, he is not entitled to keep occupying the property.

REF. K. P. I.

Some of the members of the community of owners where I live have suggested installing a lift. I live on the first floor and am not going to use it, and taking into account that the building has only three floors, I think a lift is unnecessary. I want to know if it is possible to oppose this decision. I would also like to know if I am obliged to pay the same as the rest of the owners.

In order to install a lift, it is necessary to have the decision approved in a meeting (three fifths of the owners representing three fifths of the participation shares are enough to have it approved). If this quorum is reached, you will be bound, even if you have voted against it, and you will have to pay according to your participation share.

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Banderas to host 2021 Goya awards gala at his own Malaga theatre

This will be the second year running that the event is held in the city, although next year's will be in front of a much smaller audience

presenter and journalist María Casado, who now runs the Teatro Soho TV production company.

This will be the second year running that Malaga hosts the event, after the 2020 gala was held in the Martín Carpena sports arena with more than 3,000 guests. Banderas was one of the stars of the show then, winning the Best Actor award.

His offer for 2021 has been taken up by the Spanish Film Academy after the Covid-19 pandemic forced it to look for a smaller venue for an event complying with safety regulations.

FRANCISCO GRIÑÁN

MALAGA. Local actor Antonio Banderas is to stage the 2021 Goya awards ceremony (Spain's equivalent of the Oscars) in his own Soho Caixabank theatre in Malaga next February. The gala will be hosted by Banderas himself along with



Antonio Banderas and María Casado. **sur**

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The man who put the Costa del Sol in Almeria



▲ Rodolfo Lussnigg did his best to advertise Almeria to foreign tourists in the 1920s.

History. The Austrian diplomat and businessman Rodolfo Lussnigg first put the words **Costa and Sol** together to advertise the most eastern province of Andalucía in the 1920s

ALEKK M.
SAANDERS

Today Spain is doing its best to bring back tourists from abroad. In the 1920s, the tourism businessman Rodolfo Lussnigg was doing the same. He tried to attract foreigners to the Mediterranean coast of Andalucía by using the year-round sunshine as a magnet for people from the north of Europe who 'suffered' from the lack of sunny days and clear blue skies.

In 1928 Rodolfo Lussnigg first named the picturesque Mediterranean coast the Costa del Sol, followed by the slogan "Almería, the city where the sun spends the winter".

He began by using the term to promote Almería, the province he had chosen to make his home, although later the brand Costa del Sol was adopted by the Malaga coastline.

Rodolfo Lussnigg's hometown was Vienna, where the future promoter of Andalusian tourism was born on 6 July 1876. In Austria he studied Tourism Management and there he started his career. Rodolfo Lussnigg took various hospitality positions abroad - in Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Egypt, France, Belgium, Switzerland and England. Before moving to Spain in 1906, he worked as director of the Braganza hotel in Lisbon.

The entrepreneur first focused on Spain in collaboration with the Franco-Spanish Society of Large Hotels. In Alicante he was responsible for the management of the Reina Victoria hotel. At the same time he dedicated himself to building, furnishing and opening the Reina Victoria hotel in El Escorial. He also worked on the installation and opening of the La Parisina restaurant in

the Moncloa neighbourhood of the Spanish capital.

Much later his name was also related to the biggest gastronomy project - the first international cocktail contest in Madrid - which he organised for representatives from Europe and Egypt.

In the end, he bought the Simón hotel in Almería and settled there. He liked the coast of Almería and did his best to make foreign tourists come and enjoy the picturesque landscapes.

He would mention his beloved Almería at any opportunity and promoted it as the most attractive place in Spain where the sun shines almost 300 days a year. That's why, when Rodolfo realised that the Ibero-American Exposition in Seville and the International Exposition in Barcelona in 1929 could be a unique

opportunity to spread the name of Almería worldwide, he tried to mention the Almería coast in all his interviews, presenting it as the sunniest place in Europe and each time exclaiming that it was the Costa del Sol.

Rodolfo was sure that it could work as well as similar brands in neighbouring countries had done before. By that time, there had been two centres of international tourist attention - the French Riviera and the Portuguese Riviera. The name Costa del Sol was first published in the Almería newspaper La Crónica Meridional on 16 February 1928.

Rodolfo kept on spreading the name, highlighting the city of Almería, where according to his words, "the sun spends the winter". He promoted the brand Costa del Sol generously. The businessman paid for PR and published brochures in English.

Though that Costa del Sol was not directly associated with Malaga coast, personally Rodolfo had connections with the province. In 1907 the Austrian businessman met María Teresa Arjona from Antequera and fell in love. The wedding ceremony took place in the very centre of Malaga - in the church of San Juan.

They had two daughters, Resi and Concha, born in Almería. Resi took over the family business, becoming chief executive in 1944. Resi Lussnigg was active in tourism until 1965 when the iconic Simón hotel in Almería was sold.

Rodolfo Lussnigg died in Madrid in 1950. In 1966 he was posthumously awarded the medal Medalla al Mérito Turístico for developing tourism in Spain.

**The hotel owner
advertised Almería as
"the place where the
sun spends the winter"**

**He was posthumously
awarded the medal
Medalla al Mérito
Turístico for developing
tourism in Spain**



WHAT HAPPENED TODAY?

3 JULY 2005

Same-sex marriage law comes into effect

Children adopted by gay and lesbian couples were guaranteed the same rights as those adopted by heterosexual people under the new ruling

A law allowing people of the same sex to marry and adopt children came into force on 3 July 2005, making Spain only the third country in the world where gay marriage was legal at the time.

The law was passed on 30 June by the socialist PSOE government led by José Luis Rodríguez Zapatero. It came into effect just three days later.

One of the main activists behind the legalisation was the late Pedro Zerolo, a PSOE councillor in Ma-

drid and his party's Secretary of Social Movements and NGO relations. He went on to marry his partner on 1 October 2005 and is considered an icon among the country's LGBT+ community. He died of cancer in 2015.

The 2005 Madrid Pride event took place over the same weekend as the law came into force. The party went down in history as one of the most important Pride celebrations in Spain.

The event traditionally takes place the first weekend after 28 June, World Pride Day, marking the anniversary of the Stonewall riots.

The law would guarantee same-sex married couples the same rights as heterosexual couples in terms of pension, inheritance, tax, residence and nationality as well as maternity and paternity leave.



Pedro Zerolo (left) embraces his partner during celebrations in Madrid as the law comes into effect. **sur**

The change of law would also guarantee the rights of minors living with same-sex couples, by giving them the same legal status as children adopted by heterosexual couples. It includes shared legal custody and protection on the death of a parent.

The right-wing Partido Popular (PP) and the Catholic Church

were opposed to the law and the PP even challenged it in Spain's Constitutional Court. Demonstrations for and against the law took place throughout Spain around the time it was passed.

The first couple to get married under the new law were Carlos Baturín and Emilio Menéndez, then 57 and 50 respectively. They

LANGUAGE FOOTNOTE

Matrimonio	Marriage
Género	Gender
Casarse	To get married
Adoptar	To adopt
Compromiso	Commitment
Arcoíris	Rainbow
Icono	Icon
Orgullo	Pride
Garantizar	To guarantee
Derechos	Rights
Herencia	Inheritance
Impuestos	Taxes
Manifestación	Demonstration
Iglesia	Church
Diversidad	Diversity
Encuesta	Survey
Pareja	Couple
Marido	Husband

were married on 11 July in Madrid. They had been together for 30 years.

According to a recent survey, 83 per cent of Spaniards are in favour of gay marriage. However, only 74 per cent of those asked were in favour of same-sex couples adopting children.

i Bilingual crossword inside back page



Emilio and Carlos after their wedding in 2005. **AFP**

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DENISE BUSH



GARDENING

Knautia macedonica

The crimson or Macedonian scabious is a short-lived herbaceous perennial that is native to Central Europe and the Caucasus, Iran, Central Asia and Siberia.

Its botanical name is Knautia macedonica although sometimes it is listed as Scabiosa rumelica.

From the end of June through to autumn, Knautia macedonica puts on a stunning

show of bright crimson pin-cushion flowers, 3 to 4cm across, held on long, slender stems up to 90cm high. Each bloom can last up to two weeks and is followed by an attractive seed head. Dead-heading will help to pro-

mote additional blooming so keep removing them until the last flowers of the summer fade.

The long stems are prone to flopping over so may need to be staked. Knautia macedonica needs free-draining soil and medium watering. It will tolerate short periods of drought and is ideal for cottage-garden style plantings, gravel gardens or will grow in containers. The flowers are useful for arrangements, either fresh or dried, and will attract lots of butterflies and bees into the garden.

Propagation is by seed or by basal cuttings in the spring.

The genus Knautia is named after either Christian Knautia or his brother Christopher, reports vary. Both were German physicians and botanists in the 17th century. Since mediaeval times several species of scabious have been valued as a culinary and a medicinal herb. The common name scabious comes from the Latin 'scabere' meaning 'to scratch'. Some species of the plant were believed to relieve itching including that caused by the pustules of Bubonic plague.

In the 17th century Nicholas Culpepper prescribed an ointment made from the root of scabious as a treatment for swollen throats, snake bites and the plague.



Knautia macedonica and close up (insert). WIKIMEDIA

READERS' PHOTOS

A passion for flowers

Michael Thompson from Rancho Domingo, Benalmádena, proclaims himself to be an "avid reader of the SUR in English newspaper" and sent us this photo of a spectacular passion flower in bloom, cultivated by his wife Valerie Thompson. The genus Passiflora has around 550 species of flowering plants, most of which are tendril bearing vines which produce extremely showy flowers with a distinctive corona.



MICHAEL THOMPSON



JENNIFER GILES

Vitus agnus-castus

This photo of a Vitus agnus-castus, commonly called chaste tree, monk's pepper or Abraham's balm, was sent in by Jennifer Giles. It is native to the Mediterranean and was long believed to be an aphrodisiac.

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 ([surienglish](https://www.facebook.com/surienglish)) or Twitter ([@SUR_English](https://twitter.com/SUR_English)).

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Performing and creative arts take centre stage in Torremolinos

TONY BRYANT

TORREMOLINOS. After announcing the cancellation of all large-format events this summer, the cultural department of Torremolinos town hall has presented a scaled-down summer calendar of events under the banner of Tenemos Talento (We Have Talent).

The programme is aimed at promoting local artists and musicians and includes more than 100 free events that will be held in various outside locations throughout July, August and September.

The season includes rock and pop concerts by bands like socialist rockers Los Copiones (4 July); ACDC tribute band TNT (10 July); 12-13 reggae band (8 August) and The Swing Girls (11 September).

There will also be classical music, flamenco fusion and jazz performed by some of the coast's top musicians. The series includes open-air cinema, dance shows, street theatre



ACDC tribute band TNT will perform on 10 July. SUR

and children's puppet shows.

This year, the open-air cinema sessions will be moved from the beach to the playgrounds of the town's schools to ensure that the distances and limitations of capacity are respected.

"It is going to be a very different summer because of

everything that's happened this year, but in Torremolinos there is going to be a complete cultural agenda designed for all kinds of audiences," explained councillor for Culture David Tejeiro.

Full more information and for the full agenda, see www.torremolinos.es

EXHIBITIONS

Irene Grant

EL MORCHE. Until 8 July. Bio Beach Club, Paseo Marítimo El Morche.

An exhibition of paintings by Irene Grant, a British artist resident in the Axarquía.

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 cubist sculpture Copa de absenta (1914) and the painting Susana y Los Ancianos (1955). www.museopicasso-malaga.org.

The Russian Museum

MÁLAGA. Edificio Tabacalera, Avda Sor Teresa Prat.

The two temporary exhibitions currently held at the museum are Rompiendo el silencio. El cine mudo en Rusia and Andréi Tarkovsky. Maestro del Espacio. The cinema has for decades been a way for attracting audiences, either indoctrination or for recreational purposes. Russian silent films have become universal icons over time. The second exhibition is about Andréi Tarkovsky, one of the most influential Russian artists of the 20th century. He was the forerunner of innovative techniques in the cinema of the time, refining editing to make films more dynamic. In conjunction with this exhibition will be a series of silent movies, with some of the most iconic Russian, Italian and American films available until 4 April 2021.

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.

Centro de Arte Contemporáneo

MÁLAGA. Until 23 August. C/Alemania.

The CAC Málaga reopened with an exhibition called Opus Nigrum by the Mallorca artist Pep Girbent. The display includes drawings and paintings inspired by film clips. The CAC also has an exhibition by Seville artist Juan Lacomba entitled Aquí A Lo Lejos consisting of 175 works on display until 30 August.

Cela - Picasso

MÁLAGA. Until 4 October. Museo Casa Natal Picasso.

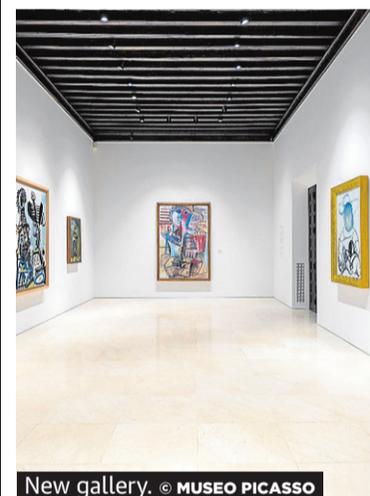
The exhibition entitled Trozo de Piel demonstrates the relationship

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 9.30 - 2.30pm. 7 - 9pm Tuesday to Friday.

9.30am - 9pm Saturday and Sunday. 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 entitled Maestros Antiguos with works by artists from the 12th and 17th centuries as well as many other collections up to the beginning of the twentieth century.



New gallery. © MUSEO PICASSO

Museo Revello

MÁLAGA. Closed Mondays. C/Afligidos.

Félix Revello de Toro is a distinguished Malaga artist. Around 117 of his works are on display in the museum which regularly holds workshops and art classes etc for children and adults. More information call:952062069 or email: museorevellodetoro@gmail.com

Gallery Art Club

FUENGIROLA. Until 24 July. Calle Quemada. Monday, Wednesday, Friday, 11am - 2pm.

Exhibition of art works by Lars Hedin and Edom Alemu as well as Magga Nancy and Klas B. www.galleryart-club.com also on Facebook.

José María Córdoba

FUENGIROLA. Until 20 September. Weekdays 6-10pm except Mondays.

Museo de la Ciudad, C/María Josefa Larrucea.

The exhibition Odiseo consists of paintings and drawings created by José María Córdoba and influenced by James Joyce's books.

Abrazo de Oso

ALHAURÍN DE LA TORRE. Until mid-September. Weekdays 6-10pm except Mondays. Finca El Portón.

More than 20 artists from different countries have participated in the project Abrazo de Oso to create an



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Ernesto Aurignac.

exhibition presenting a diversity of styles with a theme of someone or something hugging an animal of their choice. The art is for sale and half the money raised will be donated to the Patitas Andaluzas and Equinac associations.

18X2. Coleccionismo Institucional de Málaga

ANTEQUERA. Until 30 September. Tues - Sun 10am - 2pm and 7pm - 9.30pm. MAD, C/Diego Ponce 12. The exhibition unites 36 works from the Diputación de Málaga and the Fundación Unicaja collections.

MUSEUMS

Museo de Málaga

MALAGA. Tuesdays to Sundays, 9am - 3pm. Palacio de la Aduana.

The museum has an eclectic collection which includes art, sculpture and artefacts dating from prehistory up to the nineteenth century. Entry to the permanent collection is free to residents of the European Union but only in the morning.

LIVE CONCERTS AND MUSIC

Festival of Legends

TORREMOLINOS. 4, 5 July. The Amber Plaza Club, La Carihuela. Entrance for each day is 10€ and tickets can be purchased by calling 951136519 or from Rubens exchange. For more info on the bands, start time etc see The Festival of Legends Facebook page.

Moraga Sound

MALAGA. Until 30 August. Auditorio Playa Virginia, Auditorio Parque Héroes de la Batalla de Teatinos, Skate Park Rubén Alcántara, Auditorio Eduardo Ocón.

A series of concerts and dance performances including flamenco, funk, rock, jazz, hip hop, punk, folk, Indie and reggae organised by Malaga town hall. <http://www.malaga.eu/>

Conciertos en la Cuarto Fase

GRANADA. 3, 4 July, 9.30pm. Plaza de las Culturas, Centro Cultural Caja Granada.

This evening is a concert by Marlango followed by the acoustic guitar rock duo Arizona Baby on Saturday evening. Tickets: <http://www.entradascajagranada.es/>

Chamber music

MALAGA. Museo Picasso Málaga. 10€.

4 July, 8pm, 9.15pm. A piano concert by Claudio Constantini playing works by Astor Piazzolla and George Gershwin.

Jazz

MALAGA. Museo Picasso Málaga. 10€.

3 July, 8pm, 9.15pm. The Ernesto Aurignac Quartet.

10 July, 8pm, 9.15pm. The Arturo



Arizona Baby, Granada.

Serra Trío.

The Hall

MALAGA. Calle Héroe Sostoa.

3 July, 9.30pm, 11pm. Daniel Torres Cuarteto. Saxophonist Daniel Torres with José Carrá (piano), Andrés Iltwin (drums) and Dimitri Skidanov (bass).

9 July, 9.30pm. Enrique Oliver with a combo formed by students of EMM-DAT. info@thehall.in

Flamenco

MALAGA. Museo Picasso Málaga. 10€.

11 July, 8pm, 9.15pm. Virginia Gámez, a young Malaga flamenco singer accompanied by Andres Cansino on the guitar.

18 July, 8pm, 9.15pm. 'Alba Molina sings to Lole and Manuel'. The daughter of two icons of flamenco demonstrates the character of her voice in this tribute to her parents. Accompanied on the guitar by Joselito Acedo.

Acoustic July

VILLANUEVA DEL TRABUCO. 10, 17, 24, 31 July, 10.45pm. Plaza del Prado.

Every Friday evening from 17 July there will be a live concert taking place in the Plaza del Prado (main square) in the village. <http://www.villanuevadeltrabuco.es/> or Facebook

Noche de Blues Festival

MIJAS. 11 July, from 9pm. Auditorio Municipal de Mijas. Free.

The Noche de Blues Festival has



Alba Molina.

become a popular annual event attracting national and international bands. This year's event will include The Lito Blues Band, The All Women Bluesers and Richard Ray Farrell and The Leisure. Limited places, call: 952 58 90 34, or email: turismo@mijas.es to book.

Malaga Philharmonic Orchestra

MALAGA. **9 July, 10pm.** Castillo de Gibralfaro. Members of the orchestra will play pieces by D. Shostakovich, A Borodin, Tchaikovsky, and Mussorgsky.

17, 18 July, 9.30pm. Patio of the Centro Cultural La Térmica.

The orchestra will play pieces by Mozart and Bellini followed by Sorozábal, Chapí, Vives-Soutoulo/Vert, Torroba and Giménez. With soprano Berna Perles and baritone Damián del Castillo.



Spain's only Bee Gees tribute recreate vibes of 70s disco. SUR

A tribute night in honour of 'The Kings of Disco', the Bee Gees

T. BRYANT

MALAGA. Fans of the 1970s dance music scene will enjoy a special tribute night at The Hall live music venue in Malaga on Saturday 1 August. The venue, which is situated close to the María Zambrano train station, will continue its new summer season with a concert by The Spanish Bee Gees tribute band.

The Spanish Bee Gees recreate the look, sound and vibe of the Bee Gees, reproducing the unique singing style that made the Gibb brothers legends of the international disco scene of the 1970s. Saturday Night Fever, soundtrack to the film of the same name, sold more than

45 million copies, becoming one of the most successful albums in the history of music. Spain's only tribute act to the 'Kings of Disco' will perform many of their greatest hits, including Stayin' Alive, You Should Be Dancing, Tragedy and More Than a Woman.

The concert starts at 10pm and will be seating only. Tickets, which must be reserved in advance, cost ten euros plus booking fee (1.32 euros).

Organisers are recommending early reservations because of audience capacity restrictions. Tickets and information: www.eventbrite.es/e/gran-tributo-a-bee-gees-tickets



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David Sancho with one of his artworks. SUR

The colours of India, Istanbul and Morocco captured on canvas

'Diez años de pintura', by artist David Sancho, coincides with the tenth anniversary of the Sala de Exposiciones in Alhaurín el Grande

SUR IN ENGLISH

ALHAURÍN EL GRANDE. The works in the exhibition represent different series of paintings that the Malaga artist David Sancho completed during his travels - or as a memory of them.

They include pieces from his trip to Istanbul in 2010 such as Gran Bazar and Frutos de Estambul IV and

from his series on Marrakech with views of the souk and its stalls. The India series of paintings includes a great number of works including Colores de la India I, Jaipur, Colores de la India II and Bailarina con una tela estampada de fondo.

Closer to home are his works entitled Paraísos y el Jardín de la Concepción de Málaga and one on his hometown of Antequera, El Olivo de las Capuchinas.

The exhibition, which coincides with the tenth anniversary of the Sala de Exposiciones in the municipal library, runs until the beginning of September.

LIVE CONCERTS AND MUSIC

Málaga Gira

MÁLAGA. From 25 July. Cortijo Torres municipal auditorium.

A series of rock, pop and flamenco concerts will take place from July to September. Information and tickets: www.malagadeporteys eventos.com/instalaciones/auditorio-municipal-cortijo-de-torres

Marenostrum

FUENGIROLA. From 11 July until 5 September. Castillo Sohail.

The Marenostrum 'Edición Limitada' festival offers more than 35 musical, cabaret and comedy performances. Find more information at <https://marenostrumfuenjirola.com/>

Jazz on the Costa

ALMUÑÉCAR. From 22 - 25 July. Parque El Majuelo.

The 33rd edition of the international jazz festival held in Almuñécar. The full line-up of acts, start times and tickets can be found: <http://www.jazzgranada.es/> or www.ticketmaster.es

THEATRE AND DANCE

Lorca y Granada

LOS JARDINES DEL GENERALIFE. From 30 July until 29 August.

The first of a series of shows to be held in the gardens takes place on the 30, 31 July. It is called Tesela by Estrella Morente. It is followed by a flamenco dance show, ¡Viva! from 3 until 12 August (except 9 August) with the Manuel Liñán dance company. For more information, tickets etc: <https://www.juntadeandalucia.es/cultura/lorcaygranada/>

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

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, visit www.u3afuenjirolacosta-delsol.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.



Orchidarium, Estepona.

VISITS / ATTRACTIONS

El Caminito Del Rey

ARDALES. Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays only.

Tickets are available now for August and September. <https://reservas.caminitodelrey.info/>

The Dolmens

ANTEQUERA. Now open.

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

Nerja Caves

NERJA. 9.30am - 7pm.

Entry is restricted and family units must retain five metres between them. A thermal camera measures the temperature of every visitor and gloves and hand sanitiser is made available. <http://www.cuevadenerja.es/>

Selwo Marina

BENALMÁDENA. 10am - 6pm.

Masks must be worn throughout the route and limited numbers allowed in some of the spaces and activities. www.selwomarina.es

Centro de la Prehistoria de Guadalteba

ARDALES Open from 10am - 2pm

More information call: 952458046 or email: turismo@ardales.es

The cable car

BENALMÁDENA. 11am - 6pm.

The lift travels from the coast of Benalmádena up to the peak of Monte Calamorro from where there are some spectacular views, a 3km trip taking around 15 minutes. www.telefericobenalmadena.es

Jardín de la Alpujarra

PÓRTUGOS. 12 July.

Isolation Inspiration is the first gardening event of the year for the Jardín de la Alpujarra. Stroll around the beautiful gardens admiring the plants and enjoy a picnic in the grounds. Entry 20€ (includes picnic) by booking only. info@jardinalpujarra.com or call: 646430656

Ornithological park Loro Sexi

ALMUÑÉCAR. From 10.30am - 2pm, 6-9pm. C/Bikini, 1.

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

Parque Botánico-Orquidario

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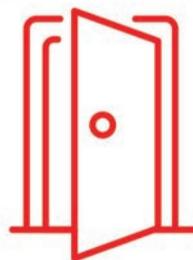
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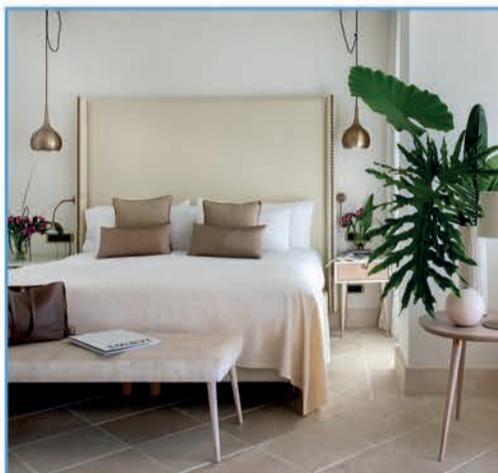
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Dani García makes his return to New York official

The Marbella chef, who has just opened his new local restaurant Leña, has recently announced a partnership to launch two new international brands

MARINA MARTÍNEZ

MALAGA. "I knew I was going back to New York." It was quite clear to Marbella chef Dani García six years ago, when his then dream, Manzanilla, was fading in the US city.

He has now made the return official by announcing details of the collaboration between the Dani García Group and C3 (Creating Culinary Communities), the revolutionary culinary platform recently launched by Sam



Sam Nazarian and Dani García. **SUR**

Nazarian. It will give rise to two new culinary concepts at the end of this year: the 'full service' restaurant Casa Dani; and a more casual 'fast service' under the Minük brand name. According

to Dani it will be a "hybrid between the freshness of Lobito de Mar and the sparkle of BiBo based on Mediterranean cuisine with a Spanish touch".

Casa Dani will open its doors in Citizens, a gastronomic space of almost 3,800 square metres being built in Manhattan West.

This initial project is just the beginning. The idea is to open, in partnership with C3, another 15 Casa Dani restaurants and up to 100 Minük restaurants globally over the next five years, starting first with New York then moving on to Miami and Paris.

Meanwhile back at home, Dani has opened his new restaurant Leña at the Puente Romano hotel, which replaces the three-Michelin-star DG Restaurante he closed last year.

Restaurants as law enforcers

ANDREW J. LINN



If this were not a column dedicated to the pleasures of the table, it might be possible to ignore the Covid-19 debate and write about cheerier matters. But there is not a country in which the restaurant business has come through intact (except perhaps New Zealand), obliged as it is to both serve customers and protect employees. Which is why some establishments appear to take minimal precautions while others go overboard to practise the most extreme safety measures. This is the point. There are no standards or guidelines. Until you walk through the door you have no idea what awaits you.

In Spain, fortunately, people are overwhelmingly peaceful and rarely confrontational, unlike some other European countries or the USA. In many American states, for example, customers must always wear face masks except while actually eating. Not an unreasonable request if social distancing cannot be enforced.

Unsurprisingly, in this crazy gun culture, there have been cases of extreme violence. In Colorado a diner

shot the cook who insisted he wear a mask. Restaurants have to enforce the law, unfair as that may be, and for every customer not wearing a mask they are fined \$1,000.

It is hard to get used to being ordered about by people to whom previously they had given orders. Waiters now have to stand their ground against irate customers who will not submit to what 'some flunkey' tells them. Message to customers: If you are not prepared to wear a mask please go somewhere else. No-one is happy wearing a face mask but what is the alternative?

WINE OF THE WEEK

Martin Códax Albariño

This classic white wine from Galicia's Rías Baixas is probably as near as you will get to a perfect example of Albariño. The bodega, which is a co-operative, makes other good wines, and there is a version matured with the wine's lees. Widely available at around €10.50.



Ninety per cent of patients with localised prostate cancer are cured, say specialists

Early detection of the tumour and improved treatments have successfully increased life expectancy for patients

ÁNGEL ESCALERA

MALAGA. Prostate cancer is the most common cancer in men, but it does not cause the highest number of deaths. It is fifth in terms of mortality after lung, colon, pancreas and breast tumours. The positive news is that 90 per cent of patients with localised prostate cancer are cured, as Bernardo Herrera, a urologist at the Clínico Hospital told this newspaper recently.

This is a slow-growing type of tumour. Early diagnoses obtained from the prostate-specific antigen test (PSA) mean that more and more people are receiving treatment at an early stage of the disease, said the head of the urology department at the Clínico, Javier Machuca.

In addition, treatments have been improved. The combination of these two factors has increased the rate of cure for prostate cancer.

This year there will be about 35,000 new prostate tumours in Spain, and between 700 and 800 of them will be in Malaga province, said Dr Herrera.

Annually, between 5,500 and 6,000 people a year die from this carcinoma. The way to reduce that number is to increase early detection.

The PSA enables many prostate cancers which would otherwise have remained hidden



Regular visits to a urologist are recommended after men reach the age of 50. SUR

to be found, but it can also lead to over-diagnosis and over-treatment. Given that prostate tumours are slow to evolve, there are elderly patients who, despite having this cancer, will not die from it, so doctors have to evaluate whether or not there is a need to subject them to aggressive treatments.

As a general rule, the therapies to beat prostate cancer are recommended for people who have a life expectancy of 15

Prostate cancer evolves very slowly; in many cases, elderly patients will not die from it and so aggressive treatments are not always recommended

years or more, so it is not advised for patients who are very elderly.

“The PSA is a good individual diagnostic strategy when men reach the age of 50 but general screening, as occurs with breast and colon cancer, is not deemed necessary,” said urologist Bernardo Herrera, who heads the Clínico urology research department.

In low-risk localised tumours, urologists recommend active

monitoring. In other cases they usually operate to remove the prostate gland or recommend radiotherapy.

When the cancer is advanced they apply hormone therapy treatments or chemotherapy.

With regard to symptoms of a prostate cancer, Dr Machuca says there are often none which would cause alarm, so he recommends that men see a urologist regularly once they have reached the age of 50.

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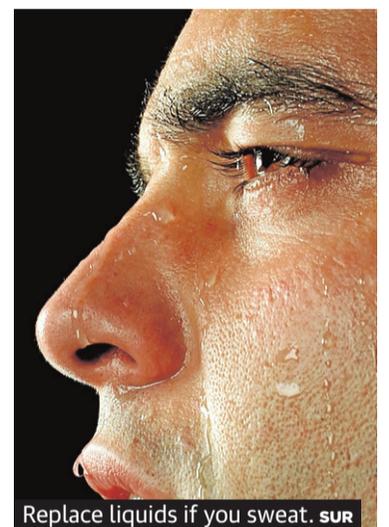
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People who suffer from excessive perspiration often find their underarms, hands and feet are affected.

When sweating can be a problem in life



Replace liquids if you sweat. SUR

Excessive. Some people sweat too much and others not at all, and both of these are serious and can result in other health problems in sufferers

YOLANDA VEIGA



On average we sweat between 0.1 and one litre a day but that can increase when we take exercise, and it makes us thirsty

Once comes the sun and once again the tell-tale damp patches appear on our tee-shirts. Sweating is a problem, unfortunately. However, it is a good thing that we do sweat, because some people don't. Not many, maybe one in every 200, approximately. They suffer from anhidrosis – a complete lack of perspiration – or, more commonly, hypohidrosis - reduced perspiration. "And it is a serious problem because sweating helps us to cool our body temperature. It stops the body 'overheating', with all the problems that causes: from headaches to fainting," says Javier del Boz, a dermatologist at the Costa del Sol hospital in Marbella and vice-president of the Andalusian branch of the Spanish Dermatology Academy.

At the other extreme are people who suffer from hyperhidro-

sis, or excessive sweating, which is just as serious and much more common. It affects about ten per cent of the population and can be very limiting. "Imagine if, all of a sudden, you start sweating like mad, sweat is even falling from your eyes. Not only is that uncomfortable, but you have people's reaction to deal with, because they think you have a hygiene problem," says Dr Del Boz. And that isn't the case.

He explains that there is a "primary hyperhidrosis, which has a lot to do with genetics and occurs as if our thermometers have stopped working and we sweat when there is no reason, or more than would be 'normal' at that moment," and a secondary hyperhidrosis "caused by hormonal or neurological problems and other changes".

To know when sweat is 'normal', this is a useful guide, al-

though that is all it is, a rough idea: "A person sweats between 0.1 and one litre a day, but if you go out for a run in August, in the sun, at two o'clock in the afternoon, you can sweat a litre and a half in an hour, and that's why exercise makes us thirsty. Our bodies are wise," says Dr Del Boz.

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TREATMENTS FOR EXCESSIVE PERSPIRATION

► **Botox.** "It is a treatment that works very well for hyperhidrosis in the underarm area and it lasts for around six months. It can also be used to treat excessive sweating in the palms of the hands, but the injections can be very painful in that area so we need to put the hands to sleep. It also needs a higher dose than in the armpits to achieve the result," says dermatologist Javier del Boz.

► **Medication.** "Anticholinergics that stop the nerve stimulus that tells the sweat gland to activate. The medication is in tablet form, although it is approved for other uses as well, and it can also be applied in the form of creams or gels which are prepared at the pharmacies."

► **Iontophoresis.** "This treatment is especially recommended for the soles of feet and palms of the hands. It consists of trays of water con-

nected to a current, and the extremities are put into them. The tolerance is variable and it sometimes causes pins and needles, reddening... and, although rarely, pain and blisters."

► **Antiperspirants.** "This is the most common treatment for excessive localised perspiration. It consists of metallic salts (especially aluminium) which can be applied in the form of deodorants or wipes, or even as a liquid. Although if

the hyperhidrosis is serious, the results are not always as good. The limitations of this treatment are its short-lived effect and potential local irritation," says Javier del Boz.

► **Microwave systems.** "They destroy the sweat glands in the armpits. It is an expensive treatment and still only available in a few private clinics, although with one or two sessions carried out under local anaesthetic it seems there can be definitive results."

► **Surgery.** "A sympathectomy is an operation carried out via an endoscope through the armpit. It has a success rate of 95 per cent under the arms and in the palms of the hands. It is a definitive treatment, but on many occasions somebody who has this type of surgery starts to sweat excessively in other parts of their body, and that can be equally as limiting for their everyday life, so this treatment should be considered as a last option," warns the specialist.

They also have an optimum temperature of between 36 and 37 degrees, so in mid-July in Madrid when it is 30°C, the damp patches will appear on the t-shirts because the body is carrying out its function, and not letting our temperature rise too high.

The problem is when we sweat at three degrees and not 30, says the specialist, who runs the only specific hyperhidrosis surgery in Andalucía. "Some people keep getting colds and pneumonia because their clothes are always wet," he says.

Pens slide about in the hand

He says three parts of the body which are particularly likely to sweat excessively are the arm-

Excessive sweating can cause limitations in life and make everyday tasks seem more complicated and time-consuming

pits, palms and soles of the feet, all of which can be limiting. "Someone who sweats profusely under the arms has to change their shirt several times a day and they don't wear bright colours because the damp stains show up more.

Excessive sweating from the hands makes writing difficult because the pen slides about,

Damp clothes to cool the body down if it is unable to sweat

Headache, trembling, dizziness, palpitations... the list of symptoms given by dermatologist Javier del Boz is similar to those of heatstroke that can occur when perspiration is reduced and the body temperature rises.

It is a rare situation but can happen because of "infectious illnesses such as leprosy, neurological illnesses, endocrine illnesses such as diabetes or hypothyroidism, the effect of medication like

antihistamines or anti-depressants, rare hereditary genetic illnesses like some types of ichthyosis ('fish skin')..."

People who suffer from this lack of perspiration have to be extra careful to avoid heat stroke: "for example, they have to drink cold drinks, avoid the time when the sun is hottest, use damp clothes to 'cool' the body down..." he explains.

These are all necessary to regulate the body temperature, something that would normally happen automatically through the process of sweating.

the ink runs, it is difficult to hold the computer mouse, or a hose-pipe, or grip the steering wheel of a car... even something as normal - or at least, it was until three months ago - as shakin-

gands. And with regard to the feet, those people have to wear socks all summer because their feet slide around in sandals and sweating can favour infections from bacteria, fungus and viruses," he warns.

Apart from these, there can be other problems: "Depression, anxiety, because excessive sweating makes it difficult to carry out everyday tasks. Also many people associate it with body odour, although the two do not necessarily go together."



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Malaga spark back into life with victory against high-flying Girona

2-0

MALAGA-GIRONA

Malaga: Munir; Cifu, Juande, Lombán, Diego González (Mikel, 90'), Juan Carlos, Juanpi (Benkhemassa, 79'), Keidi (Rolón, 90'), Adrián, Tete (Renato, 84'), Sadiku (Buenacasa, 84'). Unused substitutes: Gonzalo, Ismael, Cristo, Iván Jaime, Ramón, Juan Cruz, Julio.

Girona: Riesgo, Calavera, Juanpe, Ignasi Miquel, Oliván (Jonathan Soriano, 81'); Rivera, Granell (Gumbau, 69'); Samu Saiz (Diamanka, 69'), Borja García, Aday (Zeballos, 57'), Stuani. Unused substitutes: Juan Carlos, Suárez, Ramalho, Alcalá, Bueno, Jozabed, Jairo, Valery.

Goals: 1-0 Cifu (20'), 2-0 Sadiku (49').

Referee: Muñiz Ruiz. Red cards for Rivera (22') and Adrián (74'). Yellows for Diego González, Granell, Keidi, Cifu, Sadiku, Juanpe, Buenacasa and Benkhemassa.

Ground: La Rosaleda.

Cifu and Armando Sadiku scored in an impressive display, as the Blue and Whites claimed their first league victory since February to boost their chances of avoiding relegation

HENRY FLYNN

MALAGA. Despite losing captain Adrián to a red card in the closing exchanges, goals in each half from Cifu and Armando Sadiku were enough to help Malaga to their first win since Segunda action resumed - a 2-0 victory over Girona at La Rosaleda on Sunday night.

"I think that was our best game of the season, considering the situation and the opponent," said Malaga head coach Sergio Pellicer following the game. "We were able to manage the game well [...] The team was a lot more fluid."

Though the high-flying visitors had the first chance of the match when midfielder Borja



Sadiku (left) celebrates after doubling Malaga's lead early in the second half. SALVADOR SALAS

García got the ball stuck under his feet after being teed up by striker Samuel Saiz, Malaga gradually found their groove in attack as the half progressed and Juankar tested keeper Asier Riesgo with a long-distance effort.

The breakthrough came after 20 minutes. Cifu darted in at the back post to head in Tete Morente's cross following Juanpi's superb run forward from his own half.

Soon after it went from bad to worse for Girona, as midfielder Cristian Rivera was shown a straight red card for a clumsy sliding tackle on Keidi Bare.

Juan Carlos Unzué's side did not fade, however, and forward Cristhian Stuani - who scored an impressive 19 goals for Girona in La Liga last season - had the ball in the net but his finish was ruled out for a marginal offside.

Girona continued to threaten the Malaga goal after half time,



Cifu (left) is congratulated for his goal by captain Adrián. S. SALAS

and keeper Munir had to react brilliantly to stop Saiz's shot before Diego González bravely blocked a follow-up attempt from Juande.

Malaga strengthened their advantage moments after, however,

scoring excellently through Sadiku who glanced home after another good Tete cross.

The only blemish for Pellicer's team came when captain Adrián was sent off for a careless tackle in the closing stages on substitute Gerard Gumbau - Malaga's third red card in five games.

Despite the decision, Malaga's sturdy defence ensured there would be no late fightback, as they held on for their first victory since 23 February (against Racing Santander), taking a step closer to Segunda safety in the process.

At the time of going to print, Malaga was preparing to face Rayo Vallecano in Madrid, without both Adrián and Sadiku, who picked up his fifth yellow card of the season. The Albanian will, however, be available for the upcoming 'six-pointers' against Albacete (Sunday, 7.30pm) and Deportivo (Wednesday, 7.30pm) - both at La Rosaleda.

IN BRIEF



Bravo and Funes. MALAGACF

MALAGA

At. Malagueño appoint new coaching duo

B. GUTIÉRREZ. Following Sergio Pellicer's promotion to first team head coach, a new coaching team has finally been appointed for Malaga's reserve team, Atlético Malagueño. Juanfran Funes and Francis Bravo will take over as first and second coaches, arriving from El Palo and Rincón, respectively.

MALAGA

Deals extended for players loaned out

B. G. The three Malaga players whose loans out of the club were set to expire at the end of June have been extended.

Midfielders Álex Mula, José Rodríguez and right-back Iván will stay at Alcorcón, Fuenlabrada and Ponferradina, respectively, until the end of the season, it has been confirmed.

MALAGA

Dates set for summer transfer window

B. G. With the coronavirus pandemic turning the scheduling in the world of football upside down, the Spanish football authorities have had to adapt the transfer windows accordingly.

The summer window, it has been announced, will run from 4 August to 5 October, while the winter one will be from 4 January until 1 February.

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The supply teacher

Quique Setién's arrival was welcomed at first, but now the lack of discipline is starting to turn into a problem for FC Barcelona... at the worst possible time



Cast your minds back to the time when a supply teacher took over the classroom from the regular tutor. At first, he's welcomed for his laissez faire attitude which gives the kids freedom to express themselves but after a few weeks, and, especially at the end of term, they start to take liberties and discipline goes out of the window.

This is what's happening at FC Barcelona. Quique Setién was the likeable replacement for the strict Ernesto Valverde. Rules were relaxed as the new manager took over from the keen disciplinarian. Initially, all was fun but eventually he will be judged on the end-of-term report and final results. The big boys in the classroom are getting restless; there is an air of disobedience.

After Barcelona drew at struggling Celta Vigo, a sulkily Luis Suárez gave a cryptic quote: "Away from home, we're dropping important points that we didn't usually drop in other seasons. I think that's why coaches are there, to analyse those situations." It was classic buck-passing.

The situation wasn't helped by images of Setién's assistant being ignored by prominent players as he tried to deliver a pep talk. Eder Sarabia was blatantly ignored by several of the team as he tried to lift a flat performance.

Whether he's allowed to honour a two-year contract appears to be out of his control in more ways than one. Results



Quique Setién on the sideline as the players stop for a water break. REUTERS

are the major factor and club legend Xavi Hernández is waiting in the wings for the political situation to be settled. His message from Qatar was short but pointed this week: "The biggest dream I have is to be Barcelona coach, to return to Barça and triumph."

The club has lost direction. Take the bizarre deal which sees Arthur Melo go to Juventus for 72 million euros and Miralem Pjanić head to Barca for 60 million. To most of us it's a 10-million swap deal between a 23-year-old and a player seven years his senior.

This is a transfer that has been devised by the bean-counters rather than football people.

You couldn't imagine a top-level manager allowing the accountants to devise a transfer

policy based on a profit and loss sheet.

Clearly neither player has a current transfer value close to those figures but then again this is a club that paid 120 million euros for Antoine Griezmann in the summer who now can't find a place in the starting team.

It's a statement from the coach to drop the expensive summer signing and only introduce him for the final couple of minutes against Atlético. Setién is having to offer tough love to the class of 2020.

It's quite a contrast to a cool January day when he heard about Barcelona's interest as he walked through a serene field in the company of cows. Now he's running with a bunch of angry bulls in the intense heat of July.

Casimiro set to renew with Unicaja despite coming up short in the play-offs

The head basketball coach will stay on for at least one more year after leading the Malaga side to third in the group stage, missing out on a semi-final place



Luis Casimiro. ACB FOTOS

JUAN CALDERÓN

MALAGA. Luis Casimiro is set to sign a new contract as Unicaja head coach after the basketball club's board approved the decision earlier this week.

Despite not yet being formalised, Casimiro has already set to work with sporting director Manolo Rubia on planning for next campaign. Work got under way immediately after returning to Malaga on Friday, following the side's elimination in the group stages of the play-offs for the ACB Liga Endesa.

A string of errors in their 87-86 defeat to eventual winners Baskonia on 23 June meant that even a win in the final game against Bilbao Basket last Thursday wouldn't see them qualify for the semi-finals. In

the end, a 78-65 win secured them third place.

Casimiro's new deal will be for one season with an option for another and will see him embark on his third campaign at the helm after joining in the summer of 2018.

The 60-year-old's renewal points towards continuity and stability as the sport enters an uncertain period with inevitable belt-tightening.



Movistar Inter crowned Spanish futsal champions

An empty Martín Carpena arena in Malaga was the venue for the play-offs of the futsal championships. Burela were crowned women's champions on Sunday, while Movistar Inter picked up the men's crown on Tuesday.



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Malaga Lawn Bowls League gets ready to face challenging season

Bowls clubs along the Costa del Sol have slowly begun to open their greens, although some are showing concerns for the future

TONY BRYANT



COSTA DEL SOL. The Federación Andaluz de Bolos (FAB), the governing body for all lawn bowls related sports in Andalucía, has announced that it will resume play this year after more than three months in lockdown. Lawn bowls clubs along the Costa del Sol have slowly begun to open their greens, although some are showing concern for the future of the sport on the coast. All of the federated clubs in the province have suffered from loss of income associated with the cancellation of touring teams that usually arrive during the spring, and it is looking extremely unlikely that teams from the UK will visit the coast this autumn due to Covid-19 related complications.

Local bowls clubs are also concerned that their own members may be reluctant to return this winter season, especially seeing as most members are senior citizens. The sport seems to have been more severely hit in the UK, with some greens still not open and most national competitions cancelled for the season.

Bowling Abroad representative Ron Scott has been organising bowling tours on the Costa



Lawn bowls has been popular in Malaga since the first English-speaking club opened in 1976. **SUR**

del Sol for more than 20 years, but he has had to cancel all plans to come this year.

“We bring teams from the UK to the Costa del Sol every year, but all tours have been cancelled due to Covid-19, and they will not resume until 2021. It is such a shame, because we are always made welcome and all our clubs enjoy playing on the coast, but we need to put health and safety first,” he explained to SUR in English.

First English-speaking club

Lawn bowls, believed to have been developed by the Egyptians, has been popular in Malaga since

1976, when a group of like-minded expats founded the first English-speaking club in Fuen-girola, appropriately named the First Lawn Bowls Club. There are now several clubs located along the coast and these all participate in the Malaga Winter League, which runs from October until March. In order to prepare for the league, most clubs are currently appealing for new members, as Mijas Lawn Bowls Club secretary John Wilson pointed out.

“Our existing membership includes Spanish, UK, Irish and Dutch nationals, but we would like to expose this great sport to

a wider audience. Our club is involved in the local Malaga League during the winter season, but we play throughout the year. We are currently accepting applications for membership from bowlers who are interested in taking part in either the social or competitive side of this sport,” he said.

The Malaga league consists of three divisions: The Tigers and The Lions, which have eight teams in each; and the recently created Jaguars division, which has four teams.

“There is a lot of competitive bowling in the province of Malaga. Every club has its own Open, plus the varied competi-

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tions that are held. However, probably the most keenly contested is the weekly league,” John said.

The league consists of 20 teams from clubs in Estepona, Marbella, Alhaurín de la Torre, Calahonda, Mijas and Mollina, all of which are governed by the Malaga Committee. This association acts as administrative facilitators and is also the governing body for umpires. Funded by the FAB, The Umpires Association holds courses and exams for both Markers and Umpires throughout the year.

Seeing as there will be little chance of teams visiting from the UK this year, many of the clubs are organising in-house competitions in order to get ready for the winter league.

Most clubs welcome day visitors and can normally provide the use of bowls. Some also offer free introductory coaching as part of the normal green fees for day visitors or prospective members.

“It is a relatively cheap sport and ideal for those who find golf and racquet sports a bit too strenuous,” John concluded.

Walking footballers step up return with friendly action

DARYL FINCH

MALAGA. Teams which form part of the Blue Sky Marbella Walking Football League have in the past week stepped up their preparations for the new season, scheduled to begin on either 5 or 6 September. Despite council-run sports centres remaining closed, walking football clubs are finding private facilities for their sessions and to organise friendly matches as players continue to find their rhythm again after a more than three-month-long stoppage.

Last Monday night Smiles and WFS Calahonda played two friendly matches at Finca Naundrup in Calahonda. In the over-50s match, Smiles edged it 2-1, going one better with a 3-1 win in the over-65s tie.

Smiles' Gray Salt said that he was happy just to have his players “stretch themselves after the long lay-off”. Calahonda's Scott Carmichael agreed, saying that the matches were “a useful exercise to get the players fit for competition”.

Aston Viñuela, meanwhile, had a setback in their preparations

as they lost two influential players. Their first female player, Julie, and husband Louie have moved back to the UK. Viñuela manager Steve Mausham said that while it was disappointing to lose two key players, he was not despondent as his side will be boosted by the return of Don McLure in a few weeks' time. While in the UK, Don plays for top club Wigan.

Fundraising

Meanwhile, the league's joint fundraiser with Benalmádena resident Michelle Ferretti to support Della Arden, her friend who has motor neurone disease, has concluded. In total, Michelle's gruelling 75-day “six-pack challenge”, plus sponsorship from the clubs and the unclaimed programme draw prize of 200 euros, has raised a total of 2,100 euros.

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THE STARS



Aquarius
January 21st - February 19th
To avoid confusion, take one day at a time. Although it may exhaust you by the weekend, what a relief it will be overall.



Pisces
February 20th - March 20th
There is a strong urge to chat to others about your experiences this week. Don't forget that many of these are shared by your friends and family. Yes, sometimes you can tend to talk down to others.



Aries
March 21st - April 20th
You see that glimmer of hope and promise of brightness ahead? Think that it may be an illusion? Well, it is real enough and comes just in time!



Taurus
April 21st - May 21st
Something comes to an end this week. You are now able to let go of some of that stress and anxiety. Being a positive person, you are on the way up.



Gemini
May 22nd - June 21st
As a person who likes sharing and harmony, recent times have been particularly jarring for you. Keep hold of those positive influences.



Cancer
June 22nd - July 23rd
If a cloud is now lifting you will begin to see the silver lining. Did you realise how strong you could be? Well done you! So, you have realised just how well balanced you are.



Leo
July 24th - August 23rd
Ready to turn a corner in your everyday life? Well, this is not the time to be looking back! A full thrust forward is what is needed and you will get things done.



Virgo
August 24th - September 23rd
Strong feelings bring back the optimism that perhaps slipped away? Some of your beliefs and habits may have changed. Unsettling as this may be, you can see the sense that it makes.



Libra
September 24th - October 23rd
You may have felt many changes in both your outlook and attitude over the past few months. For someone who likes peace and certainty, that has been unsettling.



Scorpio
October 24th - November 22nd
How much have you found out about yourself and others recently? Quite a bit I imagine! Some folk may have disappointed you, others inspired. Who, though, is your harshest critic? You are.



Sagittarius
November 23rd - December 21st
Continue making an effort with all kinds of people. Those folk who think that they know you may have to think again. What you believe and what you need have changed.

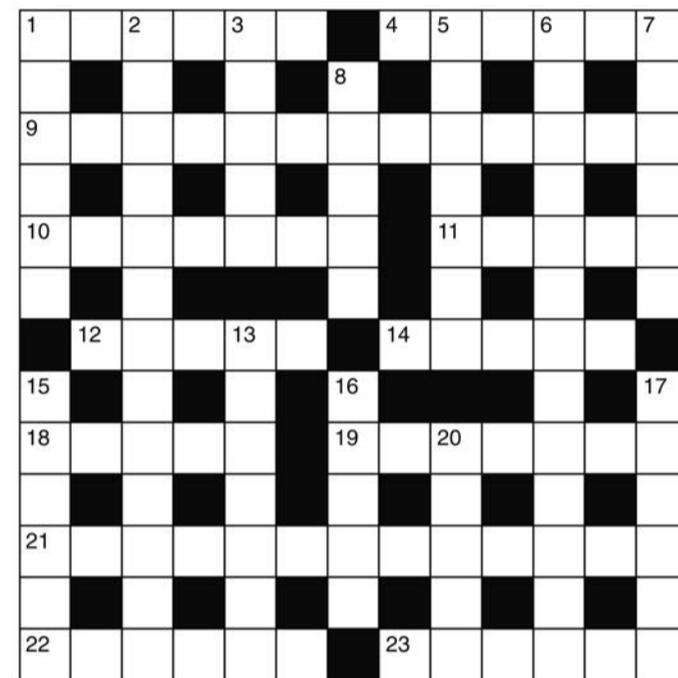


Capricorn
December 22nd - January 20th
The chances are that you have found out that not everyone you know is who you thought they were. Circumstances change people, but not you.

THE SEVEN DIFFERENCES



CRYPTIC CROSSWORD N° 11416



Across

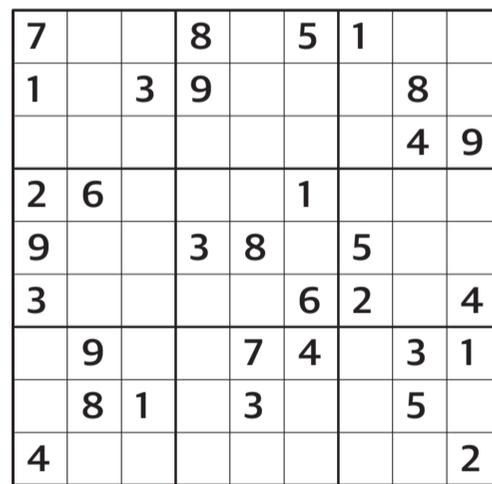
- 1 Liquor of particular make needed by youth leader (6)
- 4 Amputate limbs to remove weapons? (6)
- 9 Temporary leader in dramatic game? (6,7)
- 10 Sweetmeat of male injured by vehicle (7)
- 11 Twitch before at the top of the house! (5)
- 12 A length being planned (5)
- 14 No he's been bright (5)
- 18 As the change was made in a hurry (5)
- 19 Orchestra was taken back by cutting machine (7)
- 21 Exuberance produced by beastly drink? (6,7)
- 22 Cause delay in the one nearer the back? (6)
- 23 Concerning drama in second game after draw (6)

Down

- 1 Not the HQ of Britain's capital stockbreeding centre (6)
- 2 Trying to be stylish in a way? (5,1,7)
- 3 Material that could be mined (5)
- 5 Accuse one politician apiece (7)
- 6 Lands it at last so it's not moving at all (2,1,10)
- 7 Threat to workers by one in suit (6)
- 8 A noted climb (5)
- 13 Make cuts in the theatre? (7)
- 15 Female with hat made to look like sword case (6)
- 16 Humiliate because in Lincoln (5)
- 17 Not straight like Oliver? (6)
- 20 One is sound (5)

SUDOKU BY HANZO

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



THE WORDPUZZLER

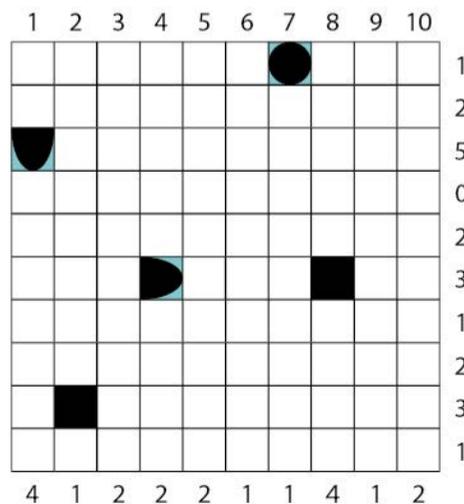
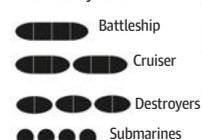


Can you identify the words that may be made from the letters of **DEMONSTRATION** from the clues listed below?

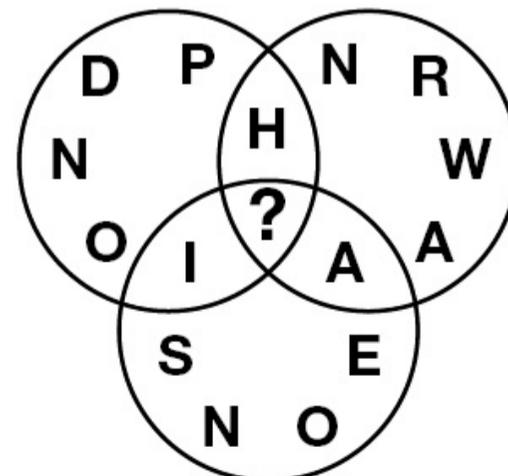
- 1. Fiend
- 2. Organs of hearing
- 3. Weight
- 4. Beginning
- 5. Fashion
- 6. So be it
- 7. Substance
- 8. Facial feature
- 9. Meal
- 10. Digits

BATTLESHIPS

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



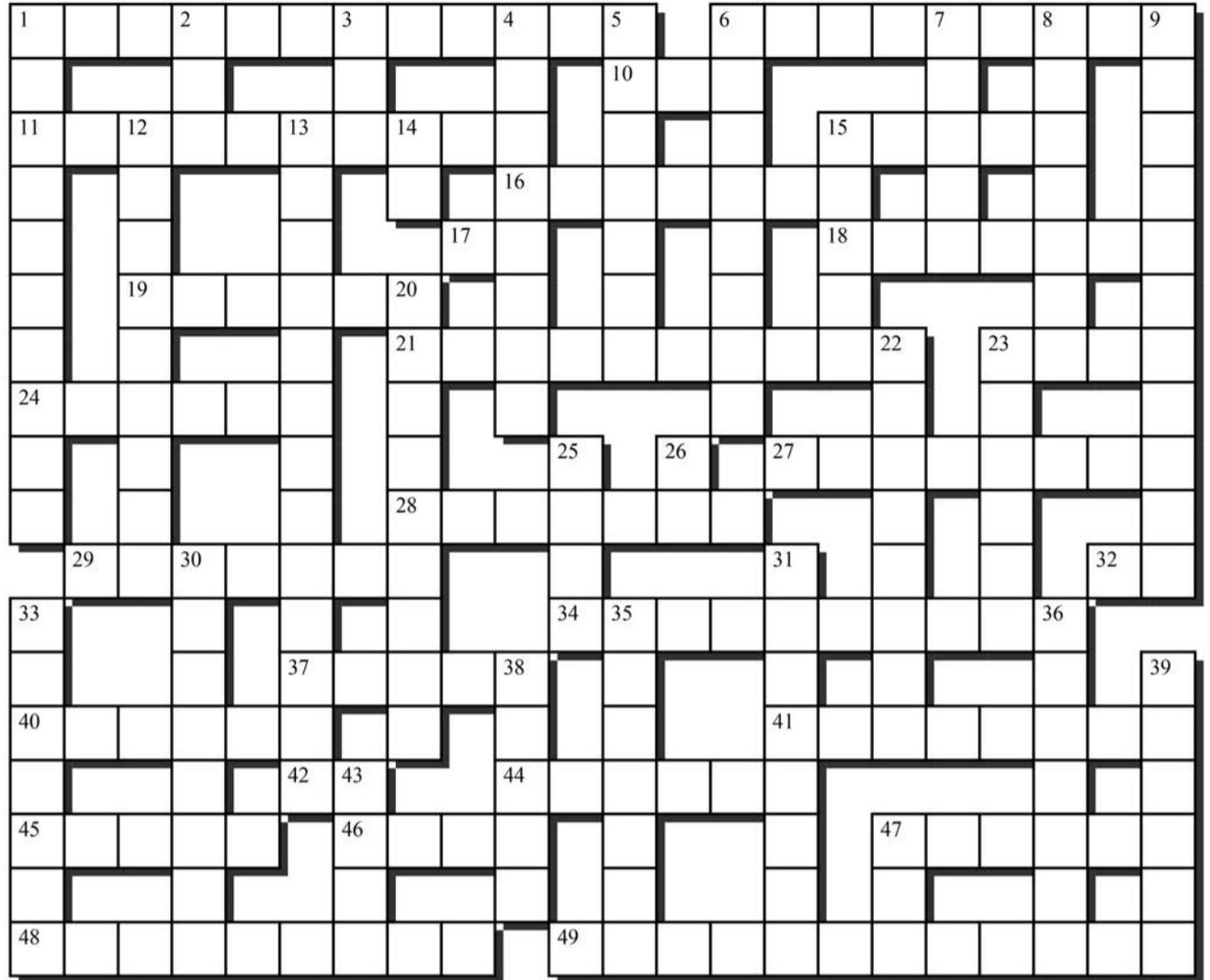
CIRCLEGRAM



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

LANGUAGE CROSSWORD FILL IN THE SPANISH WORD

- | | |
|--------------------------|------------------------------|
| Across | Down |
| 1) Consequence (12) | 1) Commitment (10) |
| 6) Activist (9) | 2) To be (3) |
| 10) To give (3) | 3) One (3) |
| 11) Marriage (10) | 4) Shocking (8) |
| 15) Senile (5) | 5) To adopt (7) |
| 16) Copious (m) (7) | 6) Rainbow (8) |
| 17) The (f) (2) | 7) Veins (5) |
| 18) To get married (7) | 8) He would go out (7) |
| 19) I received (6) | 9) Anniversary (11) |
| 21) Maternity (10) | 12) Earthquake (9) |
| 23) Country (4) | 13) Demonstration (13) |
| 24) Immune (6) | 14) Neither (2) |
| 27) To whisper (8) | 15) Business partner (f) (5) |
| 28) They evaded (7) | 20) Taxes (9) |
| 29) You could (pl) (7) | 22) To challenge (8) |
| 32) It (2) | 23) Couple (6) |
| 34) Diversity (10) | 25) Age (4) |
| 37) loon (5) | 26) Now! (2) |
| 40) Gender (6) | 30) Rights (8) |
| 41) Inheritance (8) | 31) They forbid (8) |
| 42) No (2) | 33) Pride (7) |
| 44) I nodded (6) | 35) Church (7) |
| 45) Fight (5) | 36) To decide (7) |
| 46) You go (pl) (4) | 38) Twilight (5) |
| 47) Birch (6) | 39) They dance (6) |
| 48) Opposition (9) | 43) UFO (4) |
| 49) They guaranteed (12) | 47) Like that (3) |



ANSWERS

Quiz answers

Answer: Graphene
Of interest: Although glass is thought to be fragile, metallic glass is stronger than steel and buckypaper is an aggregate of carbon tubes in a microscopic sheet. However graphene is a hexagonal carbon lattice only one atom thick and is the strongest material known to man.
Answer: Head
Of interest: The cephalic index or cranial index is the ratio of the maximum width of the head of an organism (human or animal) multiplied by 100 divided by its maximum length.

Language Crossword

ACROSS:
 1. CONSECUCENCIA 6. ACTIVISTA 10. DAR
 11. MATRIMONIO 15. ENIL 16. COPOSO 17. LA
 18. CASARSE 19. ECIBI 21. MATERNIDAD
 23. PAIS 24. INMUNE 27. SUSURRAR 28. EVAIDIA
 29. PODIAS 32. LO 34. DIVERSIDAD 37. CONO
 40. GENERO 41. HERENCIA 42. NO 44. SENTI
 45. LUCHA 46. VAS 47. ABEDUL 48. POSICION
 49. GARANTIZARON

DOWN:
 1. COMPROMISO 2. SER 3. JUNO 4. CHOCANTE
 5. ADOPTAR 6. ARCOIRIS 7. ENAS 8. SALDIRA
 9. ANIVERSARIO 12. TERREMOTO
 13. MANIFESTACION 14. NI 15. SOCIA
 20. PUESTOS 22. DESAFIAR 23. PAREJA
 25. EDAD 26. YA 30. DERECHOS 31. PROHIBEN
 33. OCASO 39. BAILAN 43. OVNI 47. ASI

Cryptic Crossword

Solutions: Across: 1 Brandy; 4 Disarm; 9 Acting captain; 10 Carmel; 11 Attic; 12 Afoot; 14 Shone; 18 Hasten; 19 Bandsaw; 21 Animal spirits; 22 Hinder; 23 Replay; Down: 1 Branch; 2 After a fashion; 3 Denim; 5 Impeach; 6 At a standstill; 7 Menace; 8 Scale; 13 Operate; 15 Sheath; 16 Abuse; 17 Twisty; 20 Noise.

Wordpuzzler solution

1. Monster
 2. Ears
 3. Stone
 4. Onset
 5. Mode
 6. Amen
 7. Matter
 8. Nose
 9. Dinner
 10. Toes

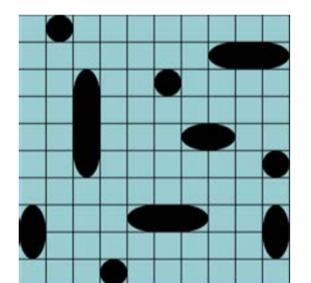
Sudoku solution

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

Circlegram

The letter represented by the question mark is L. Dolphin, narwhal, sea lion, all marine mammals.

Battleships



WHERE IS THIS?



Potted palm

Last week:
Alhaurín de la Torre

This large decorative roundabout is at the junction of Avda Viña Grande and Avda Reyes Católicos in Alhaurín de la Torre.



CORONAVIRUS ADVICE

To notify symptoms of coronavirus

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



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Coronavirus information

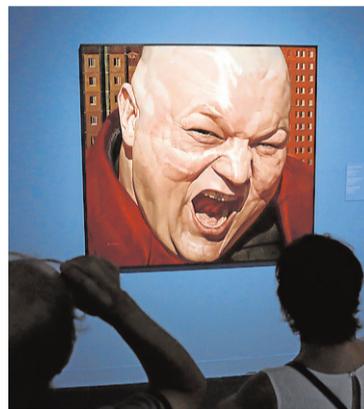
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The Russian Museum shows a taste for realism

The new annual exhibition at the museum in the Tabacalera buildings in Malaga features true-to-life works from the past three centuries

ANTONIO JAVIER LÓPEZ



▲ The Russian Museum is displaying works from the 18th century to the present day.

MIGUE FERNÁNDEZ

◀ Apocalypse Now (1986-87) by Serguei Bazilev and Prueba (2017) by Konstantin Lupanov.

MIGUE FERNÁNDEZ

Michael wears a beach tee-shirt and white socks with sandals. Mor, beside him, is in a pink sweat-shirt. Anna, Savva and Liza are carrying their school backpacks, while Zhenia and Mathew are not ashamed of their soft toys, despite being eight, nine or maybe ten or 11 years old. And in the background Savva is once again on his mobile phone, the laces of his left shoe undone and his eyes fixed on the spectator. They are all gazing with more melancholy than toughness, with more resignation than fear in the impressive pieces by Dmitri Gretski that welcome visitors to the Russian Museum Collection which, maybe like these children, has decided to be true to life.

This is the trend to which this branch of the State Museum of Russian Art of St Petersburg, located in the old Tabacalera pavilions, has returned with its new long-term exhibition, which has just opened. Socialist realism was the theme back in 2018 and 2019, and it has returned with a wider range of subjects and more extensive and diverse chronology. From still lifes of the 18th century to the furious contemporaneity in everyday scenes painted only a few months ago, the museum has created a tour which is demanding on legs which have only recently come out of the coronavirus lockdown. It consists of 163 works in a succession of rooms which are a reminder of the size of Tabacalera and the collection at this museum.

This exhibition will be shorter than usual, until April 2021, because the pandemic has meant adjustments had to be made to the calendar.

Along with 'Realism. Past and present. Art and truth', the Russian Museum Collection is completing its phased return after more than two months of being closed due to the health crisis. It is also showing exhibitions about Andréi Tarkovsky and Russian silent film.

Iconic Russian red

As is usually the case with the annual exhibitions, the first room is painted in iconic red and on this occasion it is dedicated to still lifes. Particularly brilliant are 'Turkey' (1784) by German artist Johann Friedrich Grootz; the journey towards the avant-garde in the early 20th century from Vladimir Lébedev, Semion Pávlov and Aleksandr Osmiorkin before reaching the delicate naturalism of 'Self-portrait in a mirror' (1936) by Aleksandr Shenderov and 'Cherry branch in flower in a vase' (1932) by Kuzma Petrov-Vodkin.

From there, on to the contemporaneity of Serguéi Sologub and Igor Péstov with their 'Theatre of Flesh' (2012) and 'Wind of Change' (2017) several rooms later. Once again, the works are arranged chronologically within each different section, so visitors pass from still life to portraits, from noblemen to peasants, from impressionism to hyper-realism.

The director of the municipal agency which manages the Russian Museum and others, José María Luna, insists that museums are "especially safe and pleasant places" to be in the current health crisis, and although the number of visitors is still far lower than normal, he is convinced it will increase as the summer progresses.

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