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HISTORY

A MAJOR ROMAN DISCOVERY IN SALAR

The ancient villa in a village near Granada continues to reveal its exquisite secrets to archaeologists **P22&23**



The Equilibrio Marino association has set up a programme to protect threatened underwater areas.

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Mayor aims to fast track Laguna Village rebuild in time for Easter

Inquiry points to an illegal mains hook up in a riverside shack as cause of Estepona blaze

Estepona mayor José María García Urbano and the owners of the destroyed Laguna Village have both said they will work together to ensure the upscale shopping and leisure complex is open again as soon as possible, ideally by Easter.

After the popular beachside venue burned down last Saturday, a couple have been held then released while they are investigated on suspicion of causing the blaze at a makeshift shack on the opposite side of the A-7 road. **P4**

Andalucía extends local Covid-19 restrictions, closing beaches early **P6**

Talks under way for furloughing to continue for tourism workers **P18**

The intrepid guardians of the coral

Around 20 volunteer divers have been working this summer to remove rubbish from the sea bed off the Axarquía coast **P14**

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The sea temperature is highest in the Axarquía area, in places such as in Nerja. **ÑITO SALAS**

A fantastic summer for swimming in the sea

Ideal conditions. The water temperature has been unusually warm, fewer tourists has meant less rubbish and there have been hardly any jellyfish



► Unlike previous years, jellyfish have been conspicuous by their absence.

ÑITO SALAS

FRANCISCO JIMÉNEZ



The summer of 2020 will be remembered for restricted numbers of people on beaches, social distancing, having to wear a mask when walking along the shore and the lack of foreign tourists toasting themselves in the sun. It will probably also be remembered as one of the best in terms of water quality for swimmers on the Costa del Sol.

There has been a combination of different environmental and social factors during this unusual summer season: an increase in the sea temperature to 28 degrees, water that was cleaner than usual and, the icing on the cake, there have been hardly any jellyfish.

“From the point of view of

swimmers, this has been a fantastic summer, one to remember,” says Jesús Bellido, who is a biologist at the Aula del Mar. There have been reasons for all this, of course. Some of them are positive, but others are not so good for the marine ecosystem.

The increase in the water temperature is particularly significant. The measurements taken early in the morning (before the sun has an effect) by the Spanish Oceanography Institute on the beach at Fuengirola, next to its headquarters, reached 26.6°C, which is considerably higher than the average 21.3°C in August and a new record since these daily measurements began to be taken in 1984. Until now, the highest temperature

was 25.5°C in August 2013.

Apart from the global warming that affects the whole of the Mediterranean because of climate change, the reason for this is purely meteorological. More specifically, it is due to the winds.

“The persistent Levante wind in recent weeks, combined with high ambient temperatures, is the reason the water is warmer,” says Manuel Vargas, who is a scientist at the Malaga Oceanographic Centre.

The Levante wind

As he explains, this Levante wind pushes the surface water towards the coast, which is warm from the sun. On the other hand, the Poniente winds which bring

the dreaded Terral with them have the opposite effect, dragging the surface layer of the sea away from the coast to deep waters, which are colder.

The difference compared with previous summers is that the winds have not alternated so much this year and the Levante has been predominant.

“In a normal summer we would have four or five days of Terral, but so far this year we have only had a couple of episodes, and there have been several consecutive weeks of Levante. That’s why the sea temperature is higher,” says Vargas.

“Last summer there were more days of Poniente, and so the water was the coldest it had been for ten years,” says Francisco Ignacio Franco, director of the University of Malaga’s Chair of Coastal Sciences, and he also points out that the waters on the eastern side of Malaga are the warmest. “We can find 24 degrees in Estepona, 26 in Marbella, 27 in Malaga and one or two degrees higher between Torre del Mar and Nerja, where it can easily be 28,” he says.

So the water is warmer, but it is also generally cleaner in terms of rubbish and sewage. In this case, there is a simple explanation. “There has been less pressure on the beaches, so people have not left as much rubbish

behind as usual, and also as there have been fewer tourists the sewage plants have been able to cope and haven’t overflowed,” says Bellido.

Manuel Vargas agrees: “Normally the Levante also pushes the dirty stuff towards the coast and the Poniente does the opposite, replacing the surface water with deeper, clearer water. But this year that hasn’t been happening so we conclude that it is cleaner because there have not been as many people.”

Adrián Westendorp, who owns the Alnasur company, agrees. Alnasur operates two ‘scum-skimmer’ boats in Rincón de la Victoria and two others off the beaches at Almuñécar, in Granada province.

“We are removing about 25 per cent less material than in other years, and by material I mean rubbish left behind by people on the beach. Also, we are seeing less sewage because the treatment plants are not overloaded,” he says.

Awareness

Francisco Ignacio Franco says people need to be more aware of the problem they are causing. “The rubbish that appears is nothing to do with the lack of treatment, because everything is treated properly here, especially this year as there are fewer people. Studies show that the scum is basically of a mineral nature, specifically clays which



Swimmers off La Misericordia beach in Malaga. NITO SALAS

are moved by the currents and are therefore innocuous. But we do have waste on the sea bed which is caused by people on the beach. We find plastic, food containers, bags and a huge amount of wet-wipes," he says.

The third factor which Manuel Vargas says has been making this "the perfect summer for swim-

mers" is that there have been hardly any jellyfish, like last year, and very different to the swarm that made life a misery in 2018.

The Aula del Mar corroborates this. "Our studies indicated that there would not be so many this year. We started with a normal jellyfish population, but then other circumstances came into

play and they haven't reached the coast, so we saw very few of them," says Jesús Bellido.

Why are there fewer of them? There are different hypotheses.

"It's something that needs more study," admits Vargas. "Some scientists say it is to do with the amount of rain because the river water, which is fresh,

creates a natural barrier when it reaches the sea, but in some areas of Malaga, Granada, Almeria and even further up the coast there are no rivers to have that effect. Other studies say it simply depends on the winds, but in that case they would be brought by the Levante, and that hasn't been happening."

Franco has another suggestion, however. "It seems that what has been happening is that opposite our beaches we have two places with a major change of currents, known as the 'giros de Alborán'. These are cyclical and they keep the jellyfish out at sea. It isn't that there are fewer of them this year, just that not so many are reaching us because they are trapped. In 2018 there were a lot of Atlantic fronts at the end of the spring, and those broke the currents and set the jellyfish free, and then the Levante brought them close to the beaches," he says.

Whatever the reason, it looks as if these invertebrates that everybody hates will not be a problem for what is left of the summer, so those of us who enjoy swimming can continue to do so in peace.

The warming of the Med appears to be starting to have an effect on the ecosystem

F. JIMÉNEZ

MALAGA. Scientists are becoming increasingly worried about the progressive warming of the Mediterranean. Manuel Vargas says it is causing several problems. The high temperatures reduce the oxygen in the surface water and endanger species that inhabit the areas closest to the coast and also those in deeper water. The temperature difference between the surface and deep water stratifies the two and makes it difficult for the nutrients on the sea bed to rise and photosynthesise, generating less algae and zooplankton on which fish feed and therefore fewer fish for larger species to feed on. Also, some species need colder temperatures to breed and are starting to head north. "It's still a hypothesis, but this progressive warming could be having a negative influence on the amount of fish in our waters," says Manuel.

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MARBELLA - FUENGIROLA - MANILVA

Couple held over 'serious negligence' which led to Laguna Village fire

Estepona's mayor says he wants to see the complex open again by Easter as investigation points to an illegal hook up to the mains in a makeshift shack by the Padrón riverbed

FERNANDO TORRES / JOSÉ MARÍA MARTÍN / EP

ESTEPONA. A couple arrested over their possible role in the fire which destroyed the popular beachside Laguna Village complex outside Estepona last Saturday were provisionally released by a judge on Thursday.

Those held were a man and a woman, 43 and 51, respectively, of Spanish nationality. They are being investigated over possible arson as a result of serious negligence and electricity supply fraud. Their passports have been withheld and they need to sign in at the local court once a fortnight.

The mayor of Estepona, José María García Urbano, said this week that the local council could start a private prosecution case against the couple alongside any future public legal action.

García also explained that he would speed up the paperwork to allow the shops and restaurants of Laguna Village to be rebuilt as soon as possible and



Aerial view of the burned-out Laguna Village. SUR



Flames devoured the buildings. JOSELE



Smoke was visible from as far away as Marbella. SUR

open again by next Easter.

'Not started deliberately'

National Police investigators have concluded that an electri-

cal failure in a household appliance in a makeshift shack on land near the Padrón river caused the fire, which was fanned by the wind across to the

beach side of the A-7 coastal motorway.

The rough structure was 'hooked up illegally' to the mains around 100 metres away by the

couple, with power cables running along the ground, investigators believe.

The first theory, according to sources, was that the fire had been started deliberately by an individual, possibly in relation to a dispute over the use of farm land. However police now believe it was started accidentally, albeit through serious negligence. The couple were detained separately in Estepona and nearby Manilva.

A council priority

The mayor of Estepona has explained that the land Laguna Village is on belongs to the council but is leased out until 2060. The owners of the Laguna Village business have said they are as keen as the mayor to rebuild as soon as possible.

The couple's passports have been withheld and they need to sign in at the local court once a fortnight

The owners of Laguna Village have said they are keen to rebuild as soon as possible as well

Urbano added, "The council's priority is to bring back this iconic shopping and tourist area for the town and that the two hundred workers get their jobs back as soon as possible."

The fire, which took more than 24 hours to extinguish, started at around 2pm on Saturday, 29 August. It spread rapidly from the north of the A-7 to the Laguna Village shopping and restaurant complex where the buildings' roofs were made of wood and thatch.

A level one emergency was declared at 3.20pm as firefighters from across Malaga province mobilised to tackle flames, causing people in the beachside restaurants and stores to flee in panic.

Over 40 hectares burned

Around thirty homes, restaurants and the Kempinski hotel in the Río Padrón area also had to be evacuated, with the A-7 motorway cut off in both directions. The hotel, however, suffered comparably minor damage. Once the situation was under control, guests were able to return to their rooms.

Three helicopters, various vehicles and thirty firefighters specialised in dealing with wild fires were involved in the operation.

The flames affected some 42 hectares of land. The smoke from the fire was visible from as far away as Marbella but no one was seriously hurt except a firefighter who required medical attention for minor injuries.





What you need to know about Spanish residence and Brexit

By Chris McCann, Senior Partner, Blevins Franks

By now, UK nationals who want to continue spending time in Spain should be aware of the ticking Brexit clock. To secure the right to live in Spain and access healthcare, pensions and other benefits from 2021, it is vital to obtain Spanish residence before the transition period ends on 31 December 2020.

Becoming Spanish resident

If you successfully applied for Spanish residence before July 2020, you would have received the *Certificado de Registro de Ciudadano de la Unión* – widely known as the ‘green card’ in Spain. Since 6 July 2020, when Spain issued a new residency card system specifically for UK nationals, the biometric foreigners’ ID card, *Tarjeta de Identidad del Extranjero* (TIE) is issued instead.

Either of these documents – the green card or TIE – serves as valid proof of legal residence in Spain. This entitles you and your direct family to live in Spain and enjoy uninterrupted citizens’ rights after the Brexit transition ends.

If you hold a green card, you can choose to exchange it for the new TIE

– while this is not obligatory, the new format (ID card with photograph) could be more practical than the green certificate. The TIE will also explicitly state your access to citizens’ rights under the Withdrawal Agreement.

If you already hold a permanent residence document, you can exchange it for a TIE for free but, again, this is not mandatory.

Maintaining your residence – and rights – in Spain

It is crucial to understand that obtaining a residence document in itself is not enough to guarantee ongoing freedom of movement and benefits in Spain from 2021.

For your green card or TIE to remain valid, you will need to continue meeting the conditions of Spanish residence. This includes spending at least 183 days a year in Spain (for each of the first five years) and registering as a tax resident where applicable.

If you fail to meet these criteria – for example by spending more than six months outside Spain (or five consecutive years for permanent

residents) – it is likely you will forfeit Spanish residence and be treated as other non-EU/EEA (‘third country’) nationals. You may have to apply for a short-term visa to visit Spain and be limited to staying up to 90 days in any 180-day period.

Spain has not yet established the immigration rules that will apply to non-resident UK citizens in the future, so we cannot say for sure how things will work. However, anyone arriving from 2021 can expect to have restricted movement and be subject to more strict requirements than today. It’s likely, for example, that non-Spanish residents who have a holiday home here would only be permitted to spend a limited time there each year without a visa or permit.

Next steps to lock in guaranteed rights for Spain

Essentially, to secure uninterrupted freedom of movement and associated rights in Spain from 1 January 2021, you need to:

- hold current proof of residence (green card, TIE or other residence document) before 31 December; and
- continue to meet the conditions of

Spanish residence, such as spending 183 days a year in Spain.

If you are not registered in Spain already and intend to become Spanish resident, make an appointment to obtain the new TIE as soon as possible. Although the whole process can take some months, once your application is submitted you will receive a receipt from the Spanish immigration authorities which will be valid to prove your residence and rights under the Withdrawal Agreement.

Once you are resident, it may be worth exchanging your UK driving licence for a Spanish one. If you wait to do this after 2020, you may be required to take a driving test in Spain.

Note that in becoming legally resident in Spain, you will very likely be deemed tax resident and liable for Spanish taxation on a worldwide basis, so it is important to get your tax planning in order.

For the best results, take specialist advice about the next steps, ideally before you change residence or transfer assets. A locally-based adviser with cross-border expertise

can recommend how to minimise taxes – in Spain and UK – and take advantage of the tax-efficient opportunities available to you as a Spanish resident.

Blevins Franks accepts no liability for any loss resulting from any action or inaction or omission as a result of reading this article, which is general in nature and not specific to your circumstances. This document should not be construed as providing any personalised taxation and/or investment advice. Summarised information is based upon our understanding of current laws and practices which may change. Individuals should seek personalised advice.

Limited time left to prepare for Brexit. Talk to us now!

Given the present environment we are not running seminars this autumn, but with the Brexit transition period coming to an end, it is really important for people to make the right decisions at the right time – and good advice has arguably never been more needed.

We are therefore offering consultations (face-to-face meetings with social distancing, or via video or phone) as well as planning webinars and video links this autumn.

If you would like to make an appointment or register an interest, PLEASE EMAIL OR CALL US.

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Andalucía tightens restrictions on celebrations, beach hours and visits to care homes

All beaches in the region will be off limits between 9.30pm and 7am, and weddings and similar events must end at 1am

JOSÉ LUIS PIEDRA

SEVILLE. The Andalusian government announced new measures this week aimed at slowing the Covid-19 infection rate in the region. The restrictions approved at a regional Cabinet meeting on Tuesday reduce numbers and times for weddings and other events, prohibit the use of beaches after 9.30pm and put

stricter controls on visits to care homes.

The Junta's spokesperson, Elías Bendodo, has called for councils in coastal towns and villages to enforce a new regional ban on the use of beaches in the region between 9.30pm and 7am.

Exceptions to the rule will be made for anglers and others carrying out individual activity, as well as bars and restaurants located on the beaches.

Weddings and celebrations

The maximum number of guests permitted at weddings and other celebrations is to be reduced further from 300 to 150 for open-air events and from 250 to 100

for indoor events.

Free bars will not be permitted, events must end at 1am and all guests must be seated at tables of no more than ten people. Eating and drinking will only be permitted at those tables.

Conferences and events

The regional government will allow conferences, business meetings, trade fairs and other events to go ahead, but at 75 per cent of the venue's capacity, with distancing, masks and strict hand hygiene. As with weddings, these events must end at 1am with a maximum of ten people per table.

Events held indoors with more than 200 people, or outdoors



Regional ministers Jesús Aguirre and Elías Bendodo. SUR

with more than 300, will be subject to a risk assessment by the health authority before they can be authorised. This will apply to cinemas and theatres.

Care home visits

Visits to care homes for the elderly will no longer be allowed where there is one or more confirmed cases of Covid-19 in the

residence, or more than three suspected cases. This ban will remain in force until 28 days after the diagnosis of the most recent case.

Otherwise, relatives will be allowed to visit with restrictions and precautions in place, unless the cumulative 14-day incidence figure goes above 50 cases per 100,000 inhabitants. Local incidence rates will also be taken



How the profile of Covid-19 patients has evolved this summer

More women than men are still affected, but the average age of those newly infected is now below 40, two decades lower than in May

DANIEL ROLDÁN

MADRID. The health authorities keep telling us that the present situation with regard to the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic is nothing like March and April, when the whole country went into lockdown. Although some regions (such as Andalucía and Madrid) are reporting infection figures similar to the

worst days in earlier months and the two latest reports from the Ministry of Health show an increase of nearly 10,000 cases a day, sources say the present picture "is not frightening".

They do say it is "worrying", though, because there are a large number of infections and many people, especially the young, are not complying with measures such as hand-washing, masks and social distancing.

"Older people have had an exemplary attitude," said Health Minister Salvador Illa a few weeks ago. This has led to a change in the profile of Covid-19 patients, as the age group is now 20 years younger, at an average of 37. And more women are still affected than men, as they have been since early April.

Percentage of infections by sex and age

With start of symptoms and diagnosis after 10 May 2020

Average age	Women		Men	Average age
50	55.7%	15 July	40.7%	47
46	55.2%	17 July	42.4%	43
43	52.3%	23 July	42.7%	40
41	51.1%	30 July	42.5%	39
39	48.9%	6 August	41.2%	38
39	50.8%	13 August	47.3%	37
38	51.2%	20 August	48.5%	37
38	51.1%	27 August	48.6%	37

Source: Renave, CNE and CNM

Graphic R. C.

ger, at an average of 37. And more women are still affected than men, as they have been since early April.

The start of the easing of lockdown and people travelling for summer holidays significantly in-

creased the number of those with the virus, most of whom are asymptomatic or have minor symp-

into account.

The new measures have been taken after the latest assessment of the coronavirus situation in Andalucía by the regional government's committee of medical experts.

The aim is for "the pandemic to evolve more favorably in Andalucía than in the rest of Spain", as it has been doing so far, according to the regional authority.

"Still under control"

Bendodo stressed that "the situation in Andalucía is still within margins of control", and although cases are increasing, the region is "well below the overall Spanish average".

In Andalucía, in the first half of this week, when the announcement was made, 102 positive PCR tests per 100,000 inhabitants had been reported in the last 14 days, almost half the figure for Spain of 205. This was the region with the second lowest infection rate, after Asturias.

Another nationwide lockdown ruled out but Covid cases continue to rise

Local figures followed the national picture on Thursday with a continuing rise; Malaga province saw 410 new positive cases in the day

SUR

MADRID. As the nation's children prepared to return to school in stages in the coming days, the Minister of Health, Salvador Illa, this week ruled out the country being put into complete lockdown again because "nothing suggests that we will go back to the same situation we had in March".

Despite a sharp increase in coronavirus cases, Illa believes that the situation can be controlled and stressed that at present "the health system isn't under threat".



Teachers queueing for tests. EFE

In an interview published in La Vanguardia, Illa attributed this increase in Covid-19 infections to increased mobility since the end of the state of alarm and the early detection system put in

place which is "much better than a few weeks ago".

"The situation is nothing like what we had back in March," he said, explaining that "more than half of the cases detected are asymptomatic, the average age is much lower [about 40], cases are milder, hospital pressure is about five per cent and, fortunately, the number of deaths is very different from March and April".

Cases continue to rise

Regardless of the possible reasons behind the escalation in cases, the government added another 8,959 to its national running total on Thursday, of which almost a third were in Madrid. This was equivalent to about 212 cases per 100,000 in the last 14 days.

The government said that

594,000 PCR tests had been carried out nationally in the last week of August.

With back to school imminent, in Madrid there were arguments as compulsory testing for teachers on Wednesday led to thousands of school staff waiting hours in a queue in the sun to be seen.

On Thursday, the Andalucía region registered its highest number of new positive tests since the pandemic began. There were 1,038 new cases, up 154 on Wednesday.

On Thursday there were 567 in the Andalucía region's hospitals with Covid-19, 45 up on the day, and up 196 on the week. Of these, 78 were in intensive care.

Within Malaga province, including the Costa del Sol, on Thursday there were 410 new positive test results for SARS-CoV-2 on Thursday this week, up on 326 the day before.

Within local hospitals in Malaga province, there were 159 coronavirus patients on Thursday, 12 more than Wednesday. Of these 22 were in intensive care, three more than the previous day.

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toms. The reports from the National Network of Epidemiological Monitoring (Renave) reflect this major leap in the number of infections. This organisation divides its statistics into two periods: the first is up to 10 May, which is when the system of measuring the pandemic changed, and the second is from then until now.

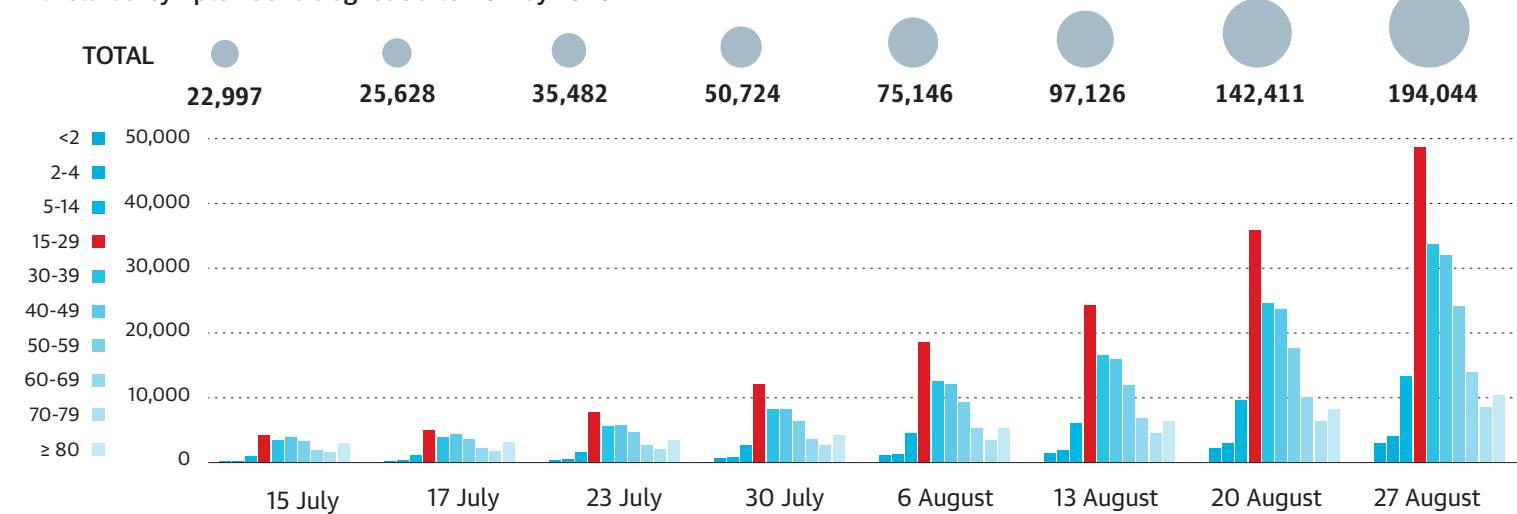
On 30 July, just before people set off for their August holidays, 50,724 people in Spain had caught the virus since 11 May. Nearly a month later, on 27 August, the figure had risen to 194,044. In other words, 143,320 new infections in just 28 days. This is an average of 5,118 a day.

This increase in cases has caused the average age to drop dramatically since May. Then, the profile of a coronavirus patient was a 60-year-old woman. They represented 56.6 per cent of the cases. A month ago, the age had dropped to 40, but women are still the majority, although they are now 51.1 per cent of cases.

This same trend is clear from last week's report. The average age of someone infected with Covid-

Distribution of number of infected by age group

With start of symptoms and diagnosis after 10 May 2020



Source: Renave, CNE and CNM

Graphic R. C.

19 is now 37 years of age.

Inverted pyramid

This drop in age is accentuated when compared with the data from four months ago. Then, during the nationwide lockdown, the virus was attacking the most vulnerable. According to Renave, at that

time the age group most affected was over 80, representing one in every four cases. Now, it is people aged 15 to 29: there have been 48,266 new cases in that age group since May.

If we look at the age group up to 59, we can see that seven out of every ten new patients are under

the age of 60. In the first stage of the pandemic, they did not even account for half of cases (47.4%).

Although people over the age of 80 represent 5.3 per cent of new infections (10,300), they represent 22 per cent of patients who are admitted to hospital with the disease, and are 9,164 in total. If

we include people in their seventies, the figure is 37 per cent. On the other hand, teenagers and people in their twenties represent only 1.4 per cent (660 cases) of those who need hospital treatment. However, there are serious cases among young people as well, as the health authorities remind us.

Police chopper catches narcos emptying jet bikes on resort beach

Beachgoers in Marbella were startled by events, some calling 112 and others videoing the scene

FERNANDO TORRES

MALAGA. The beach was virtually full on Wednesday last week. By midmorning there were many people sunbathing on the stretch of Marbella sand between Marbesa and the Don Carlos hotel. Suddenly two motorised water bikes loaded with packages started to make strange turns offshore. Some bathers started to record the antics.

A group of young people on the beach went out to the jet bikes and started unloading the merchandise onboard until a National Police helicopter swooped down on the scene.

The presumed drug traffickers turned and ran leaving the bales of drugs and the two jet bikes behind. Video evidence seen by SUR shows how young



The abandoned water bikes. SUR

some of those involved were.

Sources said that, so far, only one suspect had been arrested, a 35 year old Moroccan. Several people on the beach had called the police when they saw the group unloading. Sources also said that they had proof that the bikes had been out to a larger vessel to take the drugs on board.

Marbella council has suggested that the high-end water bikes be handed over for public use by lifeguards.

Landowner in Julen case fined additional 300,001 euros for serious mining offences

FERNANDO TORRES

SEVILLE. The Junta de Andalucía regional government on Tuesday approved a fine of 300,001 euros for David Serrano for serious mining infractions.

Serrano is the owner of the Totalán land where toddler Julen Roselló died in January 2019 after falling down a borehole.

The penalty comes seven months after the end of the trial into the death of the boy, in which the accused pleaded guilty to charges of manslaughter through negligence.

The fine given out to Serrano this week is in addition to the 663,982.45 euros to cover the cost of the two-week rescue operation to retrieve the boy's body, as well as compensation of 89,529.67 euros to each of Julen's parents.

Officials also proposed a lesser penalty, of 30,001 euros, for the company which carried out the drilling for Serrano. That amount was also due to be ratified by the regional Cabinet this week.

112 REPORTS

MARBELLA

Nueva Andalucía villa killing arouses suspicion

F. T. / J. C. A 30-year-old French national was shot dead last week when two hooded men burst in on four men at their private party at a rented villa in the upper part of Nueva Andalucía. The victim was one of the four partygoers and was shot in the head.

Some items were allegedly stolen from the house, leading to a first impression that this was a robbery that had gone wrong.

Investigators are also working on an alternative hypothesis. They suspect that the killing may have been another score settling between rival gangs operating in the drug trade on the Costa. However, none of the four villa occupants had a police record in Spain.

MALAGA

Sex-pest man held after social media warning

F. T. / J. C. Police have arrested a man in Malaga for the harassment and abuse of women, including a minor, in the street, after they were alerted to his supposed behaviour by comments on social media. People who said they had been approached by the suspect had posted messages, leading police to decide to try and find him. He was finally arrested over the theft of a bicycle while sleeping rough on a building site. Several women have come forward to testify against the man and his actions.

TORREMOLINOS

Three linked to murder of bar drinker are found

F. T. / J. C. National Police have found three men wanted for the alleged street assault on a 40-year-old man in Torremolinos that led to his death with a head injury in hospital in July. Initially it was thought that the deceased had fallen after a night out drinking at a nearby bar. However the police were suspicious that he had no possessions on him when found. Through a search of CCTV footage and the help of two protected witnesses, they could see that he had been involved in an argument after leaving the bar.

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Green campaigners accused of spreading fake news by Nerja council

A councillor has hit back at the Ecologistas en Acción group after they reported the presence of sewage in the town's Chillar river

EUGENIO CABEZAS

NERJA. Environmentalist group GENA - Ecologistas en Acción have reported to both the Junta de Andalucía regional government and Nerja town hall what they claimed was the presence of raw sewage at the mouth of the Chillar river in Nerja.

They said that the sewage was located in an urban area, near to the El Chucho and Playazo beaches.

In a statement released last Friday, the Axarquía-based group stated that they had found "dark coloured water with a strong smell of sewage". The statement went on to say, "Without the need to run chemical or bacteriological tests, we can confirm that the water is contaminated."

GENA has previously reported the presence of sewage in the Chillar river and other water-



Evidence of sewage water in the Chillar river. E. CABEZAS

ways in Nerja.

Town hall reaction

Reacting to GENA's statement, Nerja's environment councillor, Javier Rodríguez, said he was "indignant" over the accusations. He went on to say, "I must ask them once again to stop poisoning public opinion and causing unneces-

sary alarm."

He called for the group to consult town hall information before "sharing fake news".

Rodríguez claimed that the water was in fact rainwater and not sewage. He said that it was dark in colour as it had been washed down the roads and been mixed with dust and dirt from the ground.

IN BRIEF



La Viñuela reservoir is currently at 33 per cent full. A. P.

LA VIÑUELA

Junta warns of drought in the Axarquía

A. PELÁEZ. Andalucía's regional government, the Junta, has warned of drought in the Axarquía as the end of the hydraulic year approaches.

La Viñuela reservoir currently contains 54 square hectometres of water; five less than

this time last year and just 33 per cent of its capacity.

The situation is especially worrying for the subtropical fruit sector, as mango picking and avocado growing seasons get under way.

Some growers have already consumed their annual quotas of water from the reservoir and will not be able to access more until the new hydraulic year starts on 1 October.

NERJA

Jet ski destroyed in dramatic sea rescue

E. C. A jet ski used by lifeguards was destroyed by rocks and large waves during a dramatic rescue operation in Nerja last weekend.

Lifeguards responded to an emergency when four swimmers, who had ignored a red flag on the beach by the Balcón de Europa, were unable to get back to the shore due to the waves strong currents.

The swimmers and four lifeguards returned safely to the beach with only minor injuries.

MÁLAGA

Right-wing parties reject Gálvez proposals

E. C. The conservative Partido Popular and far-right Vox parties have rejected a series of amendments presented by the Socialist PSOE party to a plan to promote the historical figure Bernardo de Gálvez. The PSOE amendments wanted to use De Gálvez, who was born in Macharaviaya in the Axarquía, to forge cultural and economic links between Malaga and the USA.



Portrait of Bernardo de Gálvez. SUR

CALETA DE VÉLEZ

Protesters ask for search to resume

E. C. The family and colleagues of Mohamed El Maimouni, the fifty-four-year-old fisherman who went missing in the Alborán sea in July, will be holding two protests today to ask authorities to resume the search for his body.

The first will take place at 12pm outside the central government's provincial office on Paseo de Sancha in Malaga and the other will start at 7.30pm at Caleta de Vélez port and head towards Algarrobo Costa.



Almuñécar flea market. SUR

ALMUÑÉCAR / TRAPICHE

Popular weekly markets reopen

J. R. Almuñécar's weekly flea market will start again from this Sunday with heightened health and safety measures in view of the coronavirus pandemic. These include the use of hand sanitiser and gloves as well as fewer stalls. The market will be on Paseo Blas Infante from 8am to 2pm. The weekly market at Trapiche garden centre also started again last Tuesday morning.



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Torremolinos working to put on 'attractive' cultural agenda despite Covid restrictions

The councillor for Culture showed his concern for the effect the lack of events is having on local businesses and the expatriate community

TONY BRYANT

TORREMOLINOS. Torremolinos town hall has reversed its decision concerning the recent cancellation of all planned live entertainment and cultural activity, with a small-scale agenda now devised for September, albeit not including live music events.

Councillor for Culture, David Tejeiro, explained that part of the reason for the original decision was because of the uncertainty of what can and cannot be done with regards to outdoor cultural events.

"At first, we thought we would have to cancel all of the planned events, but after speaking with the Junta de Andalucía, we were able to work out how to continue.

"We are allowed to present music concerts, but we are not



Culture councillor David Tejeiro. SUR

confident we can employ complete crowd control seeing as concerts attract many people, and sometimes problems arise when people cannot gain access. Also, these events must be seat-

ing only, and there would be no bar, and smoking would also be prohibited, so we believe it will be better to wait a few weeks to see if these restrictions are eased," Tejeiro explained to SUR in English.

The councillor stressed that he is hoping to reschedule all concerts to the end of September. Plans have been set in motion for the concerts to be staged in several of the casetas on the feria ground, although he said a "final decision was still to be made".

"We are looking at ways of using the casetas. At least we will be able to control it better, but we are concerned because there are still many people who do not want to go into enclosed spaces," he said.

One of the biggest problems faced by all town halls is lack of finance due to the crisis caused by the Covid-19 pandemic. The councillor said that there was "simply not enough funds" to support larger events, although he showed his concerns for the effect this will have on the town's economic situation.

"Obviously, we would prefer to present larger events in the main plazas of the town. We understand there are many bars that need the support of these events at the moment, but our cultural budget has been reduced by 80 per cent. People do not realise this and we are constantly criticised for not offering enough entertainment," he declared.

The councillor pointed out that the rescheduled agenda has cost the town hall just one third of what it would normally have spent for just one day of the romeria. He also acknowledged that the town's expatriate community was disappointed with the variety of events planned, saying he "was doing everything in his power to offer attractive events".

"We understand that the local expatriate community is frustrated at the scale of events offered. We are working very hard, but everything is very difficult at the moment. Everybody is down and fed up, and now the new restrictions are making it harder than ever," he concluded.

La Cala de Mijas Lions distributing hand gel to keep the community safe

SUR

MIJAS. La Cala Lions Club have taken delivery of several hand gel dispensers as part of an initiative from Lions International in the United States and have positioned theirs in various locations around the town, as well as outside their charity shop on Calle Torremolinos.

This dispenser is used by many people either passing by to the beach, eating at the local restaurants or visiting the Lions' popular outlet.



Members with gel dispenser. SUR



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Hyatt hotel chain announces plans for the former Byblos Hotel

The iconic hotel, due to reopen to guests in 2022, will be redeveloped into a 200-room resort and will offer an abundance of luxury amenities

T. BRYANT

MIJAS. The iconic Byblos Hotel in Mijas Costa is set to reopen its doors to guests in 2022 after being brought by the Hyatt Hotels Corporation.

The property, which has been closed since 2010, will be managed by Marugal Hotel Management and will join The Unbound Collection, making it the first Hyatt-branded hotel in Southern Spain.

The company announced that a Hyatt affiliate has entered into a franchise agreement with a subsidiary of Intriva Capital European Principal Investment Fund - a European private equity fund - to see the iconic hotel redeveloped into a luxury

200-bedroom resort.

The hotel, once owned by business tycoon Lord Alan Sugar, will offer an abundance of luxury amenities, including a health club and spa, indoor and outdoor pools, a cinema, a night club, family facilities and conference spaces for private events and business meetings.

Popular with royalty

Since its original opening in 1986, the hotel has been popular with jet setters and royalty alike and guests have included Princess Diana, the Saudi Royal Family and The Rolling Stones.

The resort will join other Hyatt hotels in Spain, which include the Hyatt Centric Grand Vía and the Hyatt Regency Hesperia hotels in Madrid, and the Hyatt Regency Barcelona Tower.

"We look forward to working with the local community to bring a new luxury resort to the area. The hotel has a rich and exciting past and we intend to bring it to life once again," a spokesperson for the corporation said.

Calle Mozart in Marbella is the dearest road to buy on in Spain

A survey for Idealista looks at homes for sale, and three streets on the Costa are in the top four listed, including the first placed in the Sierra Blanca area

CHARO MÁRQUEZ

MARBELLA. A survey by a real estate online portal has calculated that an exclusive Marbella road is currently the most expensive in Spain to buy a home on.

According to Idealista, Calle Mozart, which is in the Sierra Blanca area, has an average sale price for properties listed there of just over 8.4 million euros.

The company has only looked at roads with ten or more properties for sale, in order to reach a fair average.



The entrance to the top-ranked Sierra Blanca road is guarded. JOSELE

The second dearest road in Spain is also on the Costa del Sol, at Coto Zagaleta, where the average price is 6.7 million euros.

In third place is a street on the exclusive La Morajela develop-

ment in Madrid at 6.3 million euros, while Marbella is ranked again in fourth place with Calle 7 at Cascada de Camoján. Here homes cost 5.9 million euros on average.

Estepona marina bosses complain about dirt from fishing fleet

The company that runs the Puerto Deportivo says that previous approaches to the regional government have gone unheeded

JOSÉ MARÍA MARTÍN

ESTEPONA. The company that holds the long-term licence from the Junta de Andalucía to run the Puerto Deportivo marina in Estepona has complained to the regional authorities. Bosses say general dirt and poor quality water near the quayside is being caused by rubbish from the adjacent commercial fishing harbour and dockside wet-fish market.

The firm that runs the marina, Marinas del Mediterráneo, says that this isn't the first time that it has complained to the Junta de Andalucía's port authority or regional Environment ministry, but, up to now, it has had no reply or recourse.

Manuel Raigón, managing director of the Puerto Deportivo de Estepona, has expressed his dissatisfaction with a situation that affects the image and the facilities in the marina.

"We try to go about making the best of it, by collecting and clearing up waste with our own team," he explained. He added that so far the authorities have turned a blind eye to his complaints.

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IN BRIEF



The charity golf tournament raised money for DEBRA. SUR

MARBELLA

Charity Golf tournament for butterfly skin children

SUR IN ENGLISH. The NGO DEBRA Piel de Mariposa (butterfly skin) charity raised 11,630 euros with a special golf tournament.

The money will go towards helping the families and the sufferers of this rare skin condition that affects around 500 people in Spain.

The tournament was held at the Real Club Guadalmina (Marbella) and was backed by 40 companies and individuals. More than 100 players took part, including professional golfers Noemí Jiménez and Rory Mcnamara who accompanied the teams and took part in 'Beat The Pro'. DEBRA will be holding the next charity golf match on 12 September at Club Aloha (register online at www.pieldemariposa.es).

ESTEPONA

IKOS hotel gets set for April 2021 opening

J. M. MARTÍN. The regional Minister for Tourism, Juan Marín, was shown around the new IKOS hotel, east of Estepona, on Tuesday, along with other local politicians.

The Greek owners have spent 150 million euros developing the site into a 411-room luxury property alongside the beach.

CEO Luis Herauld said that "Estepona is the best stage" to start his firm's international expansion. The hotel will officially open to guests in April next year.



Politicians visit the hotel. JOSELE



This building will become the San Pedro information centre. JOSELE

San Pedro's main boulevard to have a new tourist office from next year

HÉCTOR BARBOTTA

MARBELLA. San Pedro Alcántara will have a new tourist information centre next year. The facility will be on Avenida Luis Braille, the main boulevard through the district, and will cost a million euros to kit out. The Diputación provincial authority will pay over

90 per cent of this amount and Marbella town hall the rest.

The new building will be situated in an area of San Pedro town centre busy with visitors and will have a public area, administrative offices and a multiuse room for events.

There will also be an area for Local Police officers to use.

Volunteers dive in to clean up the local sea bed and save the delicate coral

The divers are removing rubbish, including fishing lines which are hooked on the coral, in areas such as Maro and Cerro Gordo

IGNACIO LILLO

MALAGA. Many people do not realise, but there is coral on the sea bed off the Malaga coast, and some of the best-preserved examples can be found at Maro-Cerro Gordo and also at Punta de la Mona, in Granada province. For scientists these are very important animals - not plants - because they are bio-indicators of the state of conservation and climate change. "In the Mediterranean they are vital for the ecosystem. The fish use them as a refuge and to lay their eggs; without corals, there wouldn't be other species," says Fernando García Alarcón, president of the Equilibrio Marino association, which has set up the SOS Corales programme.

"They are under threat; the conditions of this population have been gradually deteriorating," says Fernando, and for this reason the association is drawing up a marine recuperation plan, especially in the area between the provinces of Malaga and Granada. It has taken them two years to obtain the necessary permits. They use the Promaris Uno boat, thanks to a collaboration with the Alnasur company. It has all the equipment necessary to retrieve the rubbish collected by the divers. They also have an agreement with Marina del Este port, where they can berth, and funding from the European Mediterranean Marine Protected Area



A volunteer working with corals on the sea bed. **SUR**



A team of divers removes rubbish which affects the coral. **SUR**

"Coral is vital for the marine ecosystem. Without coral, there wouldn't be other species"

About 20 volunteers work at weekends; they are all experienced divers with scientific knowledge

association (MedPan); the Coral Guardian and several collaborating companies.

The team of about 20 volunteers, all expert divers with scientific knowledge, works at weekends to remove the rubbish which is affecting the ecosystem of the corals. "This is not normal cleaning of the sea bed, it is marine recuperation because the area is full of corals and protected species," says Fernando García Alarcón. They have to work with extreme care to avoid causing damage. "It's almost like being a surgeon," he says. They also often find fishing traps and lines stuck on the coral, as well as other rubbish. "It's very detailed work and sometimes very time-consuming, but it gives incredible results."

An added difficulty is that corals such as 'Dendrophyllia ramea' start to appear at a depth of 30 to 50 metres, so the divers have to be experienced and work in a coordinated and well-planned fashion.

The final aim is for the Maro, Cerro Gordo and Punta de la Mona areas to become a Protected Marine Area, where fishing cannot take place, and to create a precedent for similar areas. The regional government is already working on draft regulations, and these should be ready within a few months.

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Movistar announces it will cover three quarters of Spain with 5G by year's end

Owners Telefónica are using 4G piggyback technology to speed up roll-out and help Spain "lead the fourth industrial revolution"

EDURNE MARTÍNEZ

MADRID. Spanish telco giant Telefónica made the surprise announcement on Tuesday that it is turning on its advanced 5G mobile network in all of Spain. Telefónica is owner of the Movistar brand, as well as the UK's O2 and other wide-ranging interests.

The firm says all regions now have the technological capability and, by the end of 2020, 75 per cent of people in Spain will



The 5G technology permits much faster data processing on mobiles. REUTERS

be able to access its 5G service with Movistar.

The president of Telefónica, José María Álvarez-Pallete, said that the initiative was "a golden opportunity" for Spain to lead what he called "the fourth industrial revolution".

The aim is for all towns with a population over 20,000 to have the service by the end of the year.

The company also recently announced that it is pushing out fibre optic to all areas of Spain for 2025.

Telefónica's chief explained in the public announcement this week that Spain already has the largest fibre optic network in Europe.

Double 4G and 5G use

To get 5G out to so many people so quickly, Telefónica is using DSS (Dynamic Spectrum Sharing) technology, which allows 5G to piggyback on the existing Movistar 4G network. Any new infrastructure will be added gradually, as needed.

Older technology will be slowly switched off in the coming years, the company has said.

"One hundred per cent of the copper wire network will have been replaced by fibre by 2025, the same time that the 3G network is switched off."

Vodafone was the first network to announce 5G for Spain in summer last year, but with more limited coverage. Currently it is in 21 cities. Orange has also said it will start a limited 5G service in Spain this year.

IN BRIEF

MADRID

Government begins task of setting a budget

SUR. The Socialist-led government of prime minister Pedro Sánchez has begun the tortuous task of preparing a national budget. This week the PM held meetings with rival parties.

The last time parliament approved a budget plan was 2018, under the previous PP government. Spain has been running on a rolling renewal since then.

However, new budgets are needed to access multi-billion-euro post-Covid EU aid. The conservative PP told the PM it won't approve any if radical Unidas Podemos, Socialist coalition partners, are involved. Centrist Ciudadanos has said it may do if the plan is moderate.

MADRID

Number of pensioners falls since Covid-19

SUR. The coronavirus crisis has also impacted on the state pension system. In the first six months of this year, the number of pensioners, including disability and old age, fell, bucking the trend of increases in recent years.

Since the start of the pandemic, the Social Security department is paying out 27,592 monthly pensions fewer, taking into account new claimants and those who no longer claim.

Since January, 317,669 people have stopped claiming their pensions, 12.9 per cent more than a year ago. 9,777,556 received a pension in August. The average was 1012.94 euros.

Brexit residency help available for Britons with disabilities, chronic illness or other barriers

The International Organization for Migration will support people who need to properly register their right to live in Spain

JENNIE RHODES

MALAGA. The International Organization for Migration (IOM) is offering practical support to UK nationals who may find it harder to complete all their residency application procedures to secure and maintain residency rights in EU countries post Brexit.

In Spain, the project is helping UK nationals residing in the

Madrid, Andalucía and Murcia areas.

IOM, through the UK Nationals Support Fund (UKNSF), aims to reach 30,000 at-risk UK nationals over the next year through information activities and practical support.

It is designed to focus particularly on individuals who face specific challenges, such as people living with disabilities or chronic illness, language and literacy or technology barriers.

For more information about how to access help, visit the website (www.spain.iom.int), send an email (UKnationalsSP@iom.int) or call the Malaga/Costa del Sol office (650 339 754).

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Gibraltar retains second-highest tax transparency status

The OECD has again granted the Rock 'largely compliant' status, which is the same as the USA, Germany, the UK and Spain

DEBBIE BARTLETT

GIBRALTAR. Once again Gibraltar has achieved the second-highest OECD rating of 'largely compliant' in the latest Peer Review of tax information exchange carried out by a team of OECD Global Forum expert assessors. This places Gibraltar on the same level as the USA, Germany, the UK and Spain. The review included an onsite visit to Gibraltar by a Global Forum assessment team in 2019.

The expert assessors are tax officials drawn from tax authorities of OECD Global Forum member jurisdictions with "substantial relevant experience of transparency and exchange of information for tax purposes, including relevant practical experience".

Chief Minister Fabian Picardo, who is also the minister with responsibility for Finance and the



Financial Services Minister Albert Isola. SUR

International Exchange of Information, thanked the Finance Centre Department and Income Tax Office for their hard work over the past ten years, dealing with hundreds of requests for information from partner countries, saying they had in no small measure contributed over the years "to consolidating Gibraltar's solid reputation as an internationally-cooperative ju-

risdiction, notably in terms of transparency and the exchange of information for tax purposes".

Albert Isola, the Minister for Financial Services, said the report confirms the 2014 findings, that Gibraltar is on a par with four major nations, which he is pleased about, and that it is something "we should all be proud of".

IN BRIEF

CRIME

Wanted suspect detained at border

D. B. A 53-year-old Moroccan man who is a resident of Belgium was arrested by Gibraltar police on Monday evening after being stopped by Borders & Coastguard Agency officers while entering Gibraltar.

A check of his documents flagged up that he is wanted by the authorities in Morocco for alleged participation in a criminal conspiracy relating to the possession, exportation and marketing of controlled drugs.

A Diffusion Notice had been issued by Interpol in Rabat, and the suspect, whose initials are



The Gibraltar border. SUR

H.E.A., appeared before the Magistrates' Court this week following the execution of a Provisional Warrant of Arrest issued under Section 9 (6) of the 2018 Extradition Act.

POLITICS

Brexit talks with UK continued this week

D. B. The chief minister of Gibraltar and members of his team flew to London this week to continue discussions with the UK government in preparation for the next round of Brexit negotiations between the UK and the EU later this month.

Upon his return, in an inter-

view with local media, Fabian Picardo declined to give details of the discussions or the negotiations, but did indicate that it might be possible for Gibraltar to have a separate arrangement with the EU although he said it would be complex and "devilishly difficult" in some respects.

Picardo also stressed that nothing would be countenanced that would affect Gibraltar's sovereignty, jurisdiction or control of its territory.

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Extending furloughing for tourism related staff being negotiated

Government, unions and business leaders are meeting today (4 September) to agree new measures for ERTes into the winter months

J. M. CAMARERO / L. PALACIOS / N. TRIGUERO

MADRID. The government is negotiating with unions and business leaders how to extend the national furloughing programme (ERTes) when the current Covid-19 scheme runs out on 30 September.

On the table at a meeting between the different sides in Palma de Mallorca today (Friday 4 September) is allowing extensions in sectors linked to tourism.

On Thursday this week, the Minister of Work, Yolanda Díaz, said that the government is looking to "redesign a protective mechanism" that covers not just the tourism sector in the strictest sense, "but the whole chain [of supply]".

In her comments she mentioned as likely firms: travel agents, transport companies, leisure operators and cultural firms.

The minister also confirmed, "without a doubt", that the ERTes would be extended in some form



A worker at a hotel in Malaga this summer after reopening. **F. SILVA**

45,000 more registered jobless locally than a year ago

Social Security data for August has shown a rise of 970 people in Malaga province who are registered as out of work. The jobless total normally jumps at the end of August as summer contracts end. Looking at the last 12 months overall, there were 44,989 more registered unemployed locally than in August 2019, a 33 per cent rise.

and that these measures would last, "until necessary". Firms in the tourism sector have been asking for an extension until Easter.

Among the issues being debated today is how much of a furloughed worker's salary should be paid out by Social Security. Currently it is 70 per cent, but the law reduces this to 50 per cent after six months. The government has said it is open to reviewing this.

Data released this week showed that in August, in Malaga province, eight of every ten workers who were furloughed were back at work. Now the peak tourist season is over, uncertainty about jobs is back again.

Plans taking shape for specific legislation to protect staff who now work from home

L. PALACIOS

MADRID. Amid concerns another lockdown may come, government, unions and business leaders are close to agreeing measures to give extra protection to staff who now work from home (WFH).

Unions have been pushing for a special law and a draft is being finalised. Public sector workers are likely to be left out however

at this stage. The large UGT union has said that the draft is "innovative" and "very balanced" in the rights and responsibilities of WFH staff.

The Ministry of Work hopes to issue a final draft shortly after a meeting this week. The government has agreed to increase the threshold of the amount of a worker's time that is regularly spent at home for them to be

classified as WFH staff from 20 per cent to 30 per cent, approximately a day and a half a week.

Business leaders in the negotiations had complained that the original government threshold of 20 per cent, or one day a week, pushed too many workers into the WFH bracket, as staff frequently are allowed a day out of the office as a flexitime perk. The unions appeared prepared to concede this change, depending on seeing the final document.

The new law aims to protect workers with help paying some of their home office expenses and ensuring their free time is respected. WFH staff's duty to their employers is also included.

THE EURO ZONE
MARK NAYLER

One size doesn't fit all



Spain's Socialist government is right to stick to its decision, made after the state of alarm ended in June, to hand control of the new wave of Covid outbreaks to regional governments. The point now up for debate is whether Pedro Sanchez's coalition should also have employed a similar strategy back in March, rather than imposing a blanket lockdown on every part of the country, which included a two-week "hibernation" of the entire economy.

The disparities between the number of new Covid cases recorded in different regions of Spain highlight the flaws of a centralised approach to the virus. Throughout July, the majority of new infections were occurring in Aragon and Catalonia, but now Madrid is the worst-hit region, accounting for around a third of all the most recent cases. It would make zero sense if Cantabria and Extremadura - which have always been two of the least-affected regions - were now required to adopt restrictions deemed necessary in the densely populated capital, or indeed any other parts of the country that have seen sharp rises in new infections since lockdown ended.

During the first half of this year, the centralised containment approach employed by Sánchez was partly responsible for the damage sustained by the Spanish economy, especially that suffered by the labour market and the tourism industry. According to the latest Eurostat figures, Spain lost the most jobs in Europe during the first six months of 2020, with an overall drop of 8.5% in

employment (1% the first quarter and 7.5% in the second).

In part, these downturns are explicable with reference to the structure of Spain's labour market, specifically its heavy reliance on temporary contracts, a disproportionate amount of which are in the severely affected hospitality and tourism sectors.

Figures from Spain's National Institute of Statistics show that, during the second quarter of this year, just 2% of permanent positions were lost, but 11% of all temporary contracts were cancelled. This imbalance is partly why the overall drop in employment was not as high in France or Germany - which saw 1.4% and 2.8% reductions during the first six months of 2020, respectively - and highlights a long-standing problem that requires the government's immediate attention.

The fundamental cause of Spain's employment downturns, however, was a stultifying lockdown, which resulted in a contraction of 18.5% of GDP during the second quarter of 2020 - the worst for almost a century. The only other European country that suffered comparable damage is the UK, which also imposed strict confinement measures and which saw a reduction of 20.4% between April and June - the worst on record. Over the coming months and years, as the long-term effects of blanket lockdowns emerge, there will hopefully be a considered debate about their pros and cons; but in the meantime, each regional government in Spain should have the freedom to react to the specifics of its situation.

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LETTERS
TO THE EDITOR

Squatters

My children just moved yesterday (28 August) to Calle Maestro Segovia in Benalmádena. On Wednesday when we arrived with items for their move-in, the police were on their street talking to a neighbor. All they did was talk. They did nothing else. Did not approach the residence in question, which was next door to the neighbor they talked with. They just left.

The house next door to this neighbor is owned by an American. His lawyer had called the police - who did nothing - because there are squatters in the home. These squatters have been there for an indefinite period. They climb over the wall to their right to use the pool of another unoccupied home.

When we came back to my children's home later the same day, the squatters were having a raucous time in the pool - just 2 doors down from their new home. These squatters, from the little we could see over the gate, are young and male.

My children will alarm their house, which they will be living in full time. But they are not happy that there are unknown squatters living across the street and using the homes of two people who don't have the ability to remove these break-and-enter lawbreakers from their residences.

My daughter's husband is Swedish. He will alert everyone he knows in Sweden about this. We will tell everyone we know here in Spain about it. We expect everyone to be law-abiding like us. Since Spain allows criminals to illegally occupy homes of strangers, we will not consider buying a home here in Spain, where we live full time and where we could easily afford to buy a home.

Do not suggest in your article that this is not a problem in the Costa del Sol. You are doing a great disservice by suggesting that this is not an issue. This cannot be an isolated example.

As Americans, we are in disbelief that Spain allows lawbreakers to simply take over someone's home. This is unconscionable. It should be addressed, not glossed over or shoved under a rug. It is a serious issue and laws should be made or changed to fix it. **ROSEANN WEBER**

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THE MUSIC MAKER
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Ancient Stones

That's the weird thing about Ramones T-shirts - every time I see somebody wearing one, I feel this powerful impulse to stride up to the person concerned and ask them which are their five favourite songs by the band. I never do of course because it would be very rude and I'd be racked with self-loathing for the next five years.

A similar urge overwhelms me whenever the subject of the Rolling Stones rears its goat head.

'What's your favourite Stones album?'

'Oh, Exile On Main Street, brother. It's gotta be, hasn't it? The production, dude - it's wild.'

'Really? Which songs on it do you like?'

'Tumbling Dice is epic, man. And, er... well... er, you know... well, er anyway, it's just the overall feel, brother.'

The truth is even the days

when people actually listened to records, nobody ever played Exile On Main Street in its entirety because it's a mightily long-winded (double) album with lots of instantly forgettable songs on it. Nevertheless, it maintains an almost mythical status as their finest body of work. Sometimes someone will mention the track Happy in a half-hearted attempt to support their argument but that's only because they vaguely remember it's the one with Keith Richards singing lead vocals on it, which fact I would love to believe led directly to creation of the Spanish refrain 'zapatero a tus zapatos' (roughly translated as 'shoemaker, stick to making shoes.').

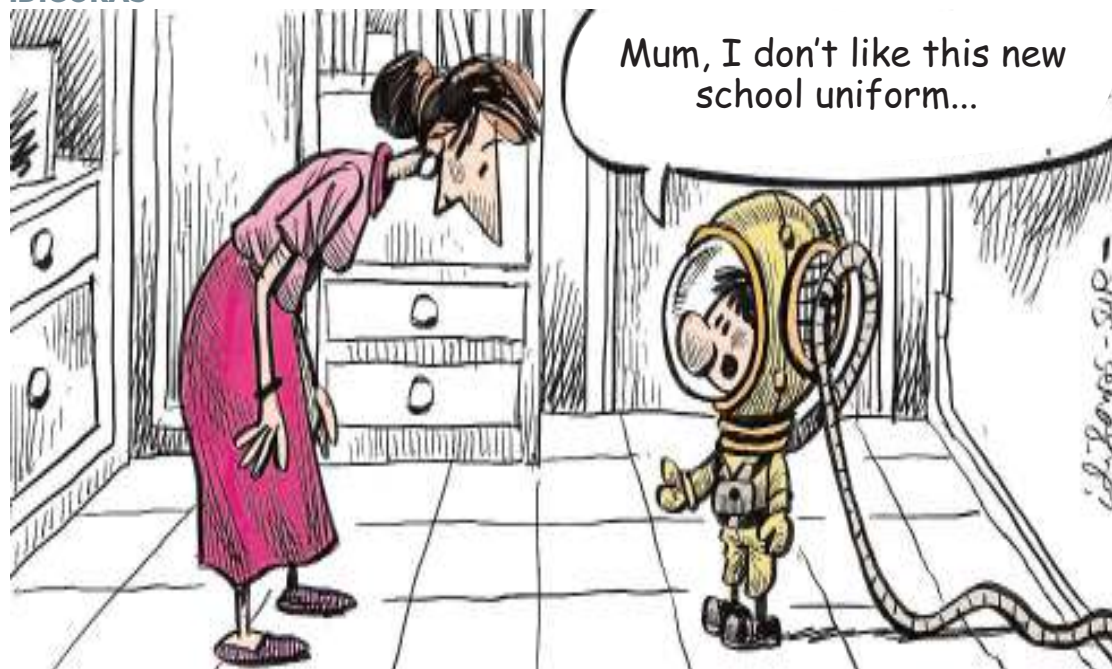
The truth is, Rolling Stones albums in their entirety were never very good. Generally, they would consist of two or three sublime songs and six or seven fillers that nobody ever wanted

to listen to ever again.

I was reminded of all of this ancient musical history the other day when I read in the paper that Mick, Keith & Co. are about to re-release Goat's Head Soup on the occasion of its 1,450th anniversary or something. Why? Surely a better option would be just to put Angie out again since it was the only song on that record that anyone really liked and then slap a bonus track on the B-side. You know the kind of thing - a rare acoustic demo of 'Dancing With Mr. D' recorded up Keith's favourite coconut tree with Mick slurring his words and playing out-of-time maracas in the background.

By the way, Sheena Is A Punk Rocker and Hey Ho, Let's Go are the only two Ramones songs I can think of off the top of my head because I never really liked them and I haven't got the T-shirt.

IDÍGORAS



SUR in English

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THE BOTTOM LINE
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Silly season



Summer in the UK and some other countries is typically known as silly season. Politicians are on holiday and there is generally little news to report. Journalists spend their time searching around for at best benign and at worst frivolous stories that are of little consequence.

In July it was reported that a man in Vélez-Málaga had been arrested for not wearing a mask in a bank and during lockdown, people across Spain were

caught taking anything from goats (I'm not kidding, if you'll pardon the pun) to toy dogs out for walks just to get out of the house. I mean, you couldn't make it up!

This is proof that it's been hard to know when silly season actually started and although the nights are clearly drawing in and autumn is just around the corner, there are few signs to suggest it is drawing to an end.

In the UK the first Prime Minister's

Questions took place on Wednesday and in Spain, while prime minister Pedro Sánchez and other leaders have been on holiday, the council of ministers has continued to sit throughout August.

Schools across Europe have either already gone back or will be doing so in the next fortnight and it feels like a beast, which has been to some extent tamed, is about to be unleashed again.

But this time we are prepared for the sudden announcements and overnight changes vis à vis coronavirus, aren't we? It's surprising how quickly we have become used to freedoms and privileges being taken away from us quicker than you can say Covid-19. And if you're a Brit in Spain reading this and dreading Brexit, you already knew what I meant about freedoms and privileges, before the virus came to stay.

Looking ahead to autumn and winter, along with whatever sudden changes Covid-19 might bring, we have the US elections to look forward to. Another four years of Trump's tweets or will America wake up and say 'enough is enough'?

As for the Brits in Spain and the rest of the EU, as well as our fellow EU citizens in the UK, the end really is nigh. On 31 December the UK will have transitioned out of the EU after four and a half years of Brexit.

While summer is almost over and politicians are back at work giving journalists plenty to keep them going for the next few months, I can't help thinking that silly season is not.

I for one am looking forward to more stories about goat and toy dog walkers and people being arrested for not wearing masks in banks.

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The Venus Pudica Capitoline is one of only 100 in the world. **VILLA ROMANA SALAR**

The Roman jewel discovered in Salar

Ancient history. Archaeologists are currently working in phase five of the project to uncover the luxurious villa found by accident just outside Salar in Granada province

DENISE BUSH



▲ The detail of some of the mosaics led archaeologists to believe the owner was a senator or connected to the Roman court

In 2004, a council digger driver sent to excavate a new water deposit in a field on the outskirts of Salar, Granada, noticed a quantity of small tiles appearing in the bucket of his machine.

These pieces of Roman mosaic, part of a floor of an ostentatious villa, were the beginning of an amazing archaeological discovery that continues to unearth treasures from the Roman era.

The Romans left their mark all over the Iberian peninsula but this find is one of the most important in Spain. The town of Salar is located close to the route

that linked Illiberis (Granada) and Llurco (Pinos Puente, Granada) with Anticaria (Antequera, Malaga) during a time when Andalucía (known as Baetica) was an important exporter of wheat, wine and oil to the rest of the Roman Empire. However, the owner of this luxurious villa was unlikely to have been a farmer, as the intricate detail in the colourful mosaics, the quality of the marble statues (some carved by the finest sculptors in Imperial Rome and shipped over) and the wealth of decoration, have led archaeologists to believe that the 'dominus' or owner of the prop-

erty was a member of the Roman Senate or close to the Roman court. It is also possible that he had interests in, or owned, the marble quarries nearby.

The villa itself is located in a slight dip which is bordered by a stream, although the stream was likely to have been further away from the property around 2,019 years ago when the villa was built.

Work on uncovering this invaluable part of Spanish history has been slow. Although discovered in 2004, funding wasn't available for the first phase until 2006 and work was only able

to continue until 2011 when the project ran out of money. In this first phase, archaeologists uncovered the triclinium, or formal dining room, with an intricate mosaic which was damaged by the digger. This would have been at the back of the property.

At the end of the open-air dining room is a stone grotto and fountain where two marble nymphs (revered by Romans as deities of nature and especially water) resided, but these are now in the Granada museum. The room has a shallow moat on three sides with a plug and pipe-work to drain it when the water needed changing.

Subsequent digs revealed that the triclinium opens into the peristylum, a central patio off which would have been the bedrooms and other living spaces, however this is yet to be uncovered. In this part of the villa the archaeologists discovered 'tubi fittili' - tapered, hollow terracotta pipes that fit one inside the other and were used to make vaulted ceilings.

Around this patio is a corridor, unique in that it has some of the most amazing mosaics seen in Spain. It depicts not only aquatic creatures (fish, a lobster

The Roman villa is believed to have been built around 1AD but was reformed several times until about 5AD

and a crab), but also a mermaid with a sea serpent and a tiger playing with a ball.

The corridor on the other side of the patio is equally as stunning and possibly features the owner (dominus) himself, hunting a large boar with a podenco-type hound. His tunic is made of glass tesserae as opposed to the usual stone or pottery used. There are also realistic depictions of lions and leopards which suggests that the craftsmen had been to Africa or were from Africa.

A major find

It was in this part of the corridor that the statue of Venus Pudica Capitoline was discovered being used as a 'filler' in a wall that was built sometime after the villa was abandoned.

The Venus, discovered in 2018, was a major find, one that surpassed all the others (so far). The term pudica refers to the fact that she covers her pubic area with one hand, while the other hand covers her breast. Capitoline refers to the capital Rome, where the original statue, carved by the Greek sculptor Praxiteles in the third century BC, was displayed. Wealthy families and people of consequence had copies made to show off in their homes.

Salar's Venus is missing one arm and both legs are in pieces but incredibly her slender neck remained intact when she was embedded, face-down in the wall. She is on display in the visitor centre in Salar's town hall which hopes that one day, when funding is sufficient, to move her to a museum on the site of the villa. This Venus Pudica is one of only one hundred in the world.

Lack of funding

According to a spokesperson from the town hall, the local council is funding the whole project along with a small grant from the Diputación provincial government, crowdfunding and donations. The workers on the site are all volunteers from the University of Granada.

The current campaign will only run for a year due to lack of funds but it has already uncovered the corner of another room with intricate mosaic floor and, on the last day of the uncovering process earlier this week, one end of the long corridor with more of the colourful



The mosaic in the long corridor shows a hunting scene. **VILLA ROMANA SALAR**

hunting scene mosaic depicting a lion and a man on horseback appeared from beneath the soil.

The rest of the year will be spent cataloguing the finds and meticulously sifting and rinsing the earth in the spoil heap, looking for fragments not only from the Roman era, but from subsequent occupation of the villa.

Guided visits

The town hall gives guided tours of the site and the visitor centre has information and artefacts not just from the Roman era, but also from prehistory and the occupation of the area by the Moors.

There is a detailed model of what the villa may have looked like over 2,000 years ago, although af-



The 'dominus' fighting a wild boar. **VILLA ROMANA SALAR**

ter the initial phase they have decided that it is most likely much bigger than what they originally thought.

Visits are by appointment only

(<https://www.aytovillaromanadesalar.es/>) while the Facebook page 'Villa Romana Salar' is updated regularly with new findings and works in progress.

SOCIETY SCENE

MIJAS COSTA

Age Care honour Anette Skou on her retirement

SUR. The Mijas Costa branch of Age Care recently offered a special thank you to Anette Skou, who retired in July after having worked for over 35 years as coordinator of the Foreigners Department at Mijas Town Hall

"We would like to thank Anette and the Foreigners Department for all the collaboration and work during these years," said Tom Tarr, Age Care vice-president. "Together we have been able to help many foreigners in Mijas in difficult situations over the years and we would like to wish Anette all the best in her retirement."

Age Care works to help older,



Anette with Age Care members. **SUR**

vulnerable foreigners in Mijas, and Anette thanked the branch for arranging the special event to mark her retirement and said it had been a pleasure to work and collaborate with them.

Anette has been replaced in her role by Katja Thirion and councillor Arancha López.

FUENGIROLA

Church presents leaving member with gifts

SUR. Father Nigel Stimpson, chaplain of St Andrew's Chaplaincy in Fuengirola presented Antonio David Soria with a gift last Sunday as he is leaving to study Architecture at Granada University. Antonio has been a part of the

congregation since he was born and took his First Communion in the chaplaincy there.

As many of his lectures at the university will be online, the congregation bought him a printer, drawing implements and a tube for transporting documents.

Antonio said he would miss his church family but was looking forward to his new life in Granada.

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Banderas back in good health and working on a new Broadway musical for his Soho Theatre

The actor told the press this week that he will be changing the format of the Goyas and is planning an exciting show for the autumn of 2021

FRANCISCO
GRIÑÁN



MALAGA. Antonio Banderas, now recovered from Covid-19, called an informal press conference at the Teatro del Soho CaixaBank this week to talk about his theatre, film and television projects and show that he is once again at the helm of his ship.

He explained that his coronavirus had not been asymptomatic: he had had a fever, but "now I feel fine". So much so, that the actor, director and producer revealed that he is preparing a new Broadway musical for 2021, that the programme for his theatre will include Ana Belén, Ricardo Darín and José María Pou, and explained that his latest project, the Soho TV production company, will feature an interview programme.

He is also currently preparing for the Goya awards, which will be held at the theatre next year, and he has firm plans to introduce some changes.

"I want to make them much shorter, with a certain solemnity about them, less frivolity. These awards will be special because what has happened in this country has been very serious," he said.

He will be presenting the gala together with journalist María Casado. Logically, reservations will depend on how the pandemic evolves, but he said "we are going to see how things are in February and, depending on that, I have a plan A, a plan B and a plan C".

Banderas explained that the Soho theatre had kept going through the pandemic, partly due



Antonio Banderas, at the press conference this week. DIEGO CONESA

to organising the Goyas. He is not yet prepared to announce the programme of future shows at the Soho until October, to avoid announcing them and then finding they cannot take place, as occurred with A Chorus Line in Madrid in September and in the summer at La Malagueta bullring.

"This is a company with 95 people and an investment of one and a half million euros, and if one person tested positive we would have had to stop everything, so it was an incredible risk," he said about the cancellation of his Broadway musical this year. He also reiterated the safety measures put into effect to protect the public and the workers, and stressed that "nobody in this theatre has tested positive; I caught the virus elsewhere." It was at a dinner, in fact.

An interview programme

Antonio Banderas also gave details of the first steps towards one of his new projects, the Soho TV production company. "I can tell you that we are going to do programmes with interviews with major names in politics and philosophy," he said, as well as music and flamenco programmes.

This theatre in Malaga is Banderas' dream, and he confirmed that he has now set aside projects as a film director in order to concentrate on it, although he will have to finish the two films he was working on which had to be suspended because of lockdown. He will shortly be heading for Germany to film Uncharted, the super-production which is an adaptation of the videogame of the same name, and on 18 September he will resume filming Competencia Oficial in Madrid.

In October, he plans to start rehearsing the next Broadway musical at the Teatro de Soho. We are not allowed to know which one it is yet, because the purchase of the rights is still being finalised. It will not premiere until late 2021, as Banderas plans to continue the international tour of A Chorus Line beforehand.

Although everything depends on the evolution of the pandemic, his schedule "in an ideal world" is to take A Chorus Line to London in July and New York in August, and then return to Malaga to star in the new musical on which he is already working and is longing to be able to announce.

It's a wrap for the Film Festival

The 23rd Malaga Film Festival, a prestigious international event focusing on Spanish language work, ended last weekend with its traditional awards ceremony. This year's festival had been delayed from March due to Covid-19 and had a very different format as a result. Winner of the Biznaga de Oro, the top prize, was director Pilar Palomero (pictured centre) for her first film, Las Niñas (The Girls). The work explores adolescence in the 1990s with autobiographical elements.



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It's not hard to find a flavour of Scotland on the Costa del Sol and the rest of southern Spain. Now a favourite place for Scots to holiday and live, the connections with Scotland go back even further.

Somewhere to stay On the celebrity trail

In the 80s Marbella was associated with Scotland, or rather a Scottish actor. Famous "Agent 007" Sean Connery became one of the best known celebrity residents of Marbella. The actor and his wife Micheline Roquebrune settled in 1970 in the stylish villa Casa Malibú close to Puerto Banús, an area full of hotels and holiday villas today.

Scottish-born Deborah Kerr also enjoyed life in Marbella for 35 years. They say that early success on the stage and on the screen made the actress look for "a haven to get away from the paparazzi". It seems like in 1972 Kerr and her second husband, Peter Viertel, found their haven at one of the most peaceful spots of Marbella - Río Real. In recognition of Kerr's talent, Marbella has a street named after her - Calle Deborah Kerr. Close by you can find the first boutique hotel of Marbella - Río Real Boutique Hotel that offers all guests a VIP stay in its luxury rooms.

The atmosphere Back in time

Teba is a small town in the province of Malaga with a special Scottish connection. Since 2005, the Douglas Days Festival has taken visitors back to the Middle Ages to the days of Sir James Douglas,

also known as Black Douglas. This Scottish knight had the task of taking the embalmed heart of Robert the Bruce, King of the Scots, to the Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem. His mission was unfortunately not completed as Douglas was killed during the siege of Teba castle in 1330. A Scottish atmosphere is created in Teba every August with the help of several bagpipe bands.

Experience Bagpipes on the Costa

Last year, Leslie Thompson, an Argentinian of Scottish descent, founded 'The Sur Pipe Band' - the coast's first Spanish bagpipe group. Leslie moved to Benalmádena in 1990 and since then has been teaching locals how to play the Great Highland Bagpipes.

Benalmádena's ice rink was once the scene of a sport that originated in Scotland in the early 16th century - curling. At the beginning of the 21st century, curling made an appearance on the Costa del Sol. The local team - Los Compadres - started playing at the Club Municipal de Hielo in Arroyo de la Miel almost ten years ago. They have also trained in Madrid and even in Edinburgh.

Scottish menu Haggis, neeps and tatties

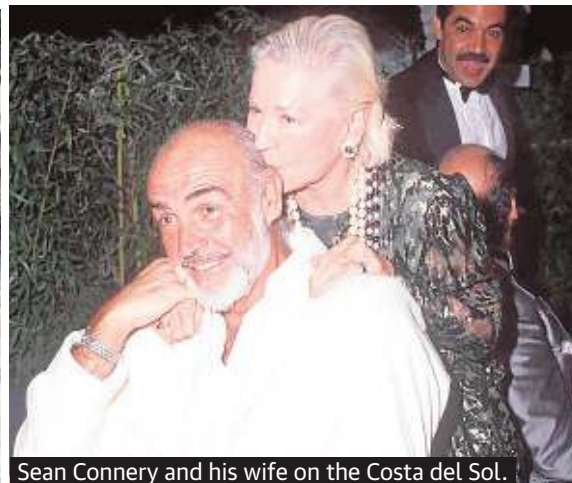
On the Costa del Sol there are plenty of bars with Scottish owners. One of them is Ollie's Bar in Benalmádena. Several venues in the area have hosted Burns Nights in honour of the poet Robert Burns over the years. In Marbella this year a typical Scottish



Douglas Days festival in Teba.



Deborah Kerr in Marbella in 1973.



Sean Connery and his wife on the Costa del Sol.

dinner was prepared at La Sala Banús on 24 January. The menu consisted of authentic dishes including Scottish salmon, haggis, neeps and tatties, along with other typical local dishes.

While haggis is the national dish of Scotland, a similar type of dish is made in Spain called 'Chireta'. This Aragonese savoury pudding is made with sheep ofal, ham, pork belly with fat trimmings, and rice instead of the oatmeal used in the Scottish recipe. The meat is minced, then combined with cooked rice and flavourings such as sweet pa-

prika, garlic, cinnamon and parsley. Just as in Scotland, the mixture is then packed into a sheep's stomach and boiled. Every November, the Fiesta de la Chireta is celebrated in the village of Pozán de Vero.


Souvenir Tartan made in Spain

Grazalema is said to be the wettest town in the whole of Spain. It is famous for its goats and its cheese and the frequent rains make the wool from the local goats very special - cleaner and more thoroughly

washed than any other. Unsurprisingly, in Grazalema there is a long tradition of hand-crafted blanket weaving with natural fibres, natural colours and hand-crafted methods of production. At the Grazalema woollen mill some of the blankets, ponchos, scarves, shawls and other wool accessories are inspired by Scottish traditions. Today tartan is the flagship design of the Grazalema woollen collections, including scarves, shawls, ponchos and hats made in the Scottish style (mantas-degrazalema.com).



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DENISE BUSH



GARDENING

Berkheya purpurea

This prickly plant is a member of the Berkheya genus, a group of 75 species all indigenous to South Africa. A member of the Asteraceae family, the genus contains both shrubs and perennials with spiny pinnate leaves and yellow, white or purple daisy-like flowers.

Berkheya purpurea is one of the most attractive of the group, with a rosette of dense,

shiny leaves up to 45 cm long which are downy white on the underside and edged with spines. The leaves are unusual as they form broad wings running down the stems which can grow to around 75cm tall.

In summer the flowers open,

each one approximately 8cm across, on branched stems; sometimes as many as fifteen per stem.

The outer ring of pale blue or purple petals surround a button of darker purple florets in the middle and each flower will last for several days before fading. The whole flower is protected at the back by a spiny green bract which closes over the seed head as it ripens. Common names

for this pretty plant include South African thistle and the purple sunflower and it will provide plenty of food for bees and other pollinating insects.

The natural habitat of Berkheya purpurea is on river banks and steep mountain slopes. It has a long tap root and, once established, will tolerate short periods of drought. However, regular watering during the summer will ensure lush growth. It prefers free-draining soil with lots of organic material added and although it will grow in full sun, some afternoon shade is preferable.

A German botanist founded the genus in 1788 and named it after Dutch botanist Jan le Francq van Berkhey (1729 - 1812).

Propagation by seed is easy although named species may be sterile or not come true to type. Plants grown from seed should flower in the first year as it is a very fast grower.



Berkheya purpurea and a close-up of a flower (inset). WIKIMEDIA

READERS' PHOTOS



ALISON DENT

Aechmea fasciata

Alison Dent sent in this photo and says, "This plant is growing on my terrace. It's Aechmea fasciata - Silver Vase or Urn Plant. Native to Brazil. This is the first year that it has flowered and the flower lasts all the summer!"



CYRIL TODD

Spotted in Sabinillas

This photo of fun red and white spotted flower pots on a white-washed wall was sent in by Cyril Todd.

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 (surenglish) or Twitter (@SUR_English).

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TONY BRYANT

WHAT HAPPENED TODAY?

4 SEPTEMBER 1936

Leader of workers' union (UGT) designated PM

Francisco Caballero joined the PSOE in 1894 and was known as one of its historical leaders

On 4 September 1936, Spanish politician and trade unionist Francisco Largo Caballero was designated the 134th Prime Minister of Spain. He also became Minister of War, and just a few months into the Spanish Civil War, he spearheaded a campaign to maintain military discipline and government authority.

Born in Madrid in 1869, Caballero began his career as a decorator who specialised in stuccoing, a decorative sculptural technique used in architecture.

At the age of 21, he participated in a construction workers strike, and four years later, he joined the PSOE (Spanish Socialist Workers Party). He suc-

ceeded party founder Pablo Iglesias (who died in 1925) as leader of the party, and he also became head of the UGT (Workers General Union). Known as one of the historic leaders of the socialist party, Caballero played an integral role in persuading the CNT (National Confederation of Labour) to join the government in November 1936.

Two years previous, he was one of the instigators of the failed armed rising of workers, a revolt that was quashed by the CEDA-dominated government. The right-wing Spanish Confederation of the Autonomous Right (CEDA) came to power after the elections in November 1933. It was during this period that Caballero, who claimed he would become a 'second Lenin', began talking of a socialist revolution: he also formed a pact of alliance with the Communist Party of Spain (PCE).

In February 1936, Largo dismissed fears of a military up-



Caballero was one of the 'historical leaders' of the socialist party. **sur**

rising, claiming that any attempt to overthrow the government would be defeated by a general strike. However, the Civil War began just months later and the conflict ultimately destroyed the republic.

Caballero was forced to resign in May 1937, after the Barcelona

May Days, when communist and anarchist supporters of the Spanish revolution engaged each other in a series of street battles in various parts of Catalonia, especially Barcelona.

Following the collapse of the Republic in 1939, he fled to France: he was arrested by the

occupying Germans and spent most of WWII in a concentration camp.

Following the liberation of the camps in 1945, Caballero remained in exile in Paris, where he died one year later. His remains were returned to Spain following the death of dictator Francisco Franco in 1975.

LANGUAGE FOOTNOTE

Sindicalista	Trade unionist
Oficio	Trade
República	Republic
Movimiento	Movement
Obrero	Labourer
Albañil	Builder
Ministerio	Ministry
Discípulo	Disciple
Exilio	Exile
Folleto	Leaflet
Sindicato	Trade union
Derrumbe	Collapse
Concejal	Councillor
Dimisión	Resignation
Aprendiz	Apprentice
Líder	Leader
Autodidacta	Self-taught

Bilingual crossword inside back page

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EXHIBITIONS

Julio Anaya

MARBELLA. Until 10 September. Galería Yusto/Giner. La Ermita industrial estate, C/Madera, 9.

Before 1881 is an exhibition by Julio Anaya Cabanding. Open in August only by previous appointment. Email: galeria@yusto-giner.com Call: 951507053

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.

Diego Ruiz Cortés

FUENGIROLA. Until 25 September. Casa de la Cultura, Avda Juan Gómez 'Juanito', 12. Open Monday to Friday 10am to 2pm (also 5pm to 10pm from 16 September).

The exhibition 60 Years of Painting explores the evolution of the work of Diego Ruiz Cortés (Seville, 1930-2009).

Centro de Arte Contemporáneo



José María Córdoba, Fuengirola.

MALAGA. C/Alemania.

Philippe Pasqua. From 11 September until 29 November. El Lado Oscuro is the title of this exhibition which encompasses 40 works completed by artist Philippe Pasqua over the last 30 years. It includes large format paintings, drawings and sculptures. The majority of the pieces portray faces and nudes of disabled children, transgender persons, prostitutes and members of his own family.

Carmen Thyssen Museum

MALAGA. C/ Compañía, 10. 9.30 - 2.30pm. 7 - 9pm Tuesday to Friday.

9.30am - 9pm Saturday and Sunday. **Toulouse-Lautrec.** Until 13 September. During a brief stay in a sanatorium, Henri Toulouse-Lautrec created 39 drawings in crayon about the circus. These works were conserved after his death by his friend Maurice Joyant and reproduced in two stages using a photographic technique in 1905 and 1931. The reproductions were bound in two folders entitled Au Cirque. Thirty-nine prints of these drawings are on display in the museum until 13 September.

Masks. Metamorphosis of Modern Identity.

Until 10 January 2021. The new season's exhibition running consists of over 100 works by national and international artists.

Lola Guerrero

MALAGA. Until 8 September. Sala Alfajar, C/Císter.

Fragilidad-Es is the name of the new, seasonal exhibition at the Alfajar gallery in Malaga. The artist, Lola Guerrero, reflects the fragility of nature in a series of delicate ceramics.

Pepa Caballero

MALAGA. Until 12 September. Ignacio del Río Studio, C/Lorenzo 29.

The exhibition consists of colourful

The Free Soul Band offer a night of nostalgia in Mijas

The Malaga-based ensemble perform hits of legendary artists such as James Brown, Otis Redding and Amy Winehouse

TONY BRYANT

MIJAS. Live music fans will enjoy a night of soul, funk and disco next week, when Malaga's popular Free Soul Band take to the stage at the Coyote Bowling Saloon in Mijas.

The band have been together for more than 20 years and in that time, they have built a reputation as the most popular, and certainly the most energetic, group on the local music circuit.

Consisting of a large ensemble of well-established Malaga musicians, the band has taken its animated stage show to venues all over Spain, and they have become one of the main attractions during the daytime celebrations of the Malaga's August feria.

The band performs hits of legendary artists such as The Blues Brothers, The Commitments, James Brown, Otis Redding and Amy Wine-



The Free Soul Band have been together for more than 20 years. **SUR**

house, and their incredible musicianship promises to make the event a night to remember.

The concert will take place at 11pm on Friday, 11 September.

Entry to the show, which has a maximum capacity of

120, is free and organisers are advising that reservations are made to avoid disappointment (639930010).

The first 30 reservations will be entitled to a free glass of cava on arrival.

paintings by the late Granada artist Pepa Caballero.

Ángeles Caídas

MÁLAGA. Until 20 September, Archivo Municipal, Alameda Principal, 23.

Artists Paco Aguilar, Pilar Bandres, David Burbano, Carmen Campos, Pablo Caro Revidiego, Juanjo Fuentes, Isabel Garnelo, María Gkaliata, Julia Holtman, Mister Kaikus, Ismael Kachtihi, Roy Laguna, Marta O Nilsson., Eryk Pall, Cayetano Romero, Javier Roz, Tina Sánchez, Sara Sarabia, Cristina Savage and Marta Troya have collaborated to present this exhibition of their work which includes canvases, ceramics, videos and photographs.

18X2. Coleccionismo Institucional de Málaga



Mascarillas, Thyssen Malaga.

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.

LIVE CONCERTS AND MUSIC

Malaga Philharmonic Orchestra

MÁLAGA.

10 September, 9pm. La Malagueta bull ring.

Conducted by José María Moreno, the orchestra will be playing Dvorak's New World symphony among other classics. Tickets <https://www.malagaentradas.com/>.

Joven Orquesta Barroca

MÁLAGA.

11 September, 9pm. La Malagueta bull ring.

Conducted by Barry Sargent, the orchestra will play Vivaldi's Concerto for two violins and cello as well as Concertos 1-4 of The Four Seasons.

Chamber Music Festival

ESTEPONA. Plaza del Reloj. 8.30pm

13 September. Cuarteto Tobía perform as part of the Classical 2020 CIEC International Chamber Music Festival. Liliya Makarova, violin; Kameliya Naydinova, violin; Irina Yonkova, viola; Sergio Gómez, cello.

20 September. Trío Pompeo perform as part of the Classical 2020 CIEC International Chamber Music Festival. Liliya Makarova, violin; Irina Yonkova, viola; Sergio Gómez, cello.



Berna Perles, Terral, Malaga.

Alhaur Festival

ALHAURÍN DE LA TORRE. 11 September. Finca El Portón.

A total of eight concerts by well-known Spanish musicians including El Kanka, Arco and Annie B will take place during the summer. Places are limited. Tickets on the webpages Oh Salvaje and King Ocio as well as from post offices. <https://ohsalvaje.com/conciertos/>

Terral de Málaga

MÁLAGA. From 8 September. Teatro Cervantes.

A total of 16 concerts will take place including jazz, R&B, hip hop, rock, pop and flamenco. Tickets are on sale now and cost 12€ per concert.

8 September, 8pm. Los Tres Tenores.

9 September, 8pm. Ana Cisneros Jazz Quartet.

13 September, 8pm. Berna Perles &

Rubén Fernández Aguirre. More information and tickets: www.teatrocervantes.com

A televised Celebration of Opera

GIBRALTAR. 9 September, 9.30pm.

The concert with soprano Nadine Sierra, tenor Xabier Anduaga and pianist David Aronson, has been organised by the Gibraltar Philharmonic Society for the National Week Celebrations. Because of Covid-19, this concert will not have a live audience. Instead it will be aired live on GBC television.

Movie Score Málaga (MOSMA)

MÁLAGA. From 10 September. Teatro Cervantes.

10 September, 8.30pm. The Malaga Symphony Orchestra pay a tribute to Ennio Morricone, composer and trumpet player famous for his atmospheric scores of spaghetti westerns.

11 September, 8.30pm. 'Distant Worlds', the music of Studio Ghibli and the musical world of Alex Pina.

12 September, 8.30pm. The Malaga Philharmonic Orchestra plays some of Spain's greatest film scores.

FLAMENCO

Rocío Bazán

ESTEPONA. 5 September, Plaza Diario ABC, 10pm

Flamenco singer Rocío Bazán performs her show Intrépida.

Tu Otra Bonita

MÁLAGA. 4 September, 10pm. La

Cochera Cabaret. Avda de Los Guindos.

Flamenco fusion. <https://lacoheraentradas.com/>

THEATRE AND DANCE

Cervantes outdoors

MÁLAGA. September. Open air events to accompany the Max theatre awards.

4 September, 8pm. Plaza de la Merced. El Espejo Negro is a show with singing, dancing and acrobatics.

5 September, 10pm. Facade of the theatre. Æthér. De la oscuridad a la luz is performed by the REA Dance company high off the ground against the facade of the theatre.

6 September, 8pm. Plaza de la Marina. The Rolabola Circus Company combines circus characters, acrobatics, theatre and rock. www.teatrocervantes.es



Nadine Sierra, Gibraltar.

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MORE IDEAS

Guided tour of the Cemetery

MALAGA. 4 September, 5pm. *The English Cemetery.* 6€. Visit the first Protestant cemetery on mainland Spain. Discover the stories behind the gate of Avda de Pries, 1. www.cementerioinglesmalaga.com.

Lux Mundi

TORRE DEL MAR. *Lux Mundi Ecu-menical Centre, Avda Moscatel.*

14 September 10am - 1pm. Enrol-ment for Spanish classes Tuesdays and Thursdays 9am - 1pm.

16 September 10am - 1pm. The Art Group will start. Every Wednesday.

21 September 10am - 1pm. Knitting and crochet group, learn how to knit / crochet or help make items for charity. Mondays 10.30am - 1pm.

21 September 10am - 1pm. Craft group. Mondays 10.30am - 1pm.



English Cemetery tour, Malaga

O. V. FILMS

SUR in English advises calling cine-mas to check for any last-minute time changes.

Yelmo Cines, Plaza Mayor

MALAGA. *Centro de Ocio, Plaza Mayor, Avda Alfonso Ponce León.* Tel: 902902103. www.yelmocines.es
A Million Little Pieces: 22-15 (Tues).
Tenet: 20.05 (every day).
Antebellum: 20.25 (Tues).

Yelmo Cines, Rincón

RINCÓN DE LA VICTORIA. C/ Arroyo Totalán. Tel: 902220922. www.yelmocines.es
Antebellum: 19.55 (Tues).
Tenet: 19.15 (Tues).

Yelmo Cines, Vialia

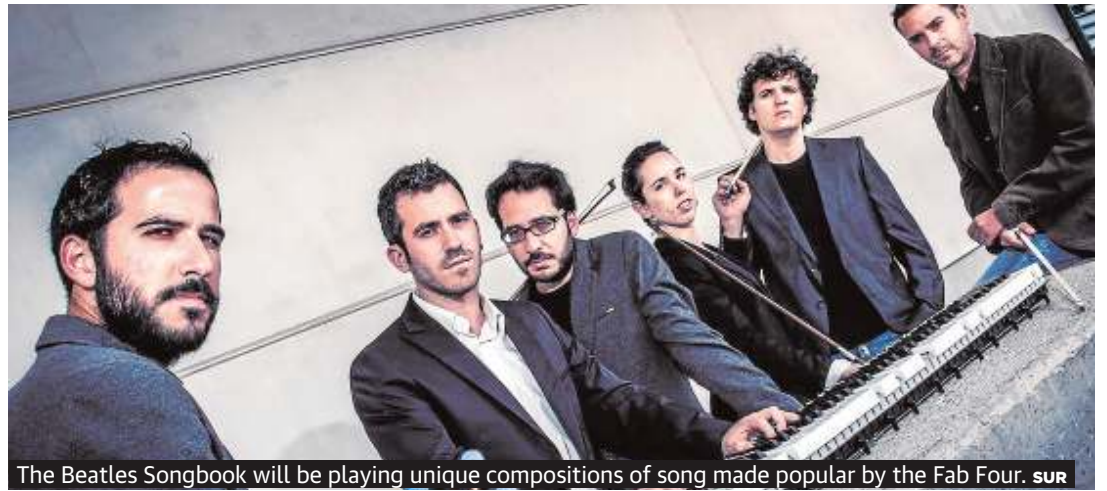
MALAGA. *Centro Comercial Vialia.* Tel: 902220922
A Million Little Pieces: 20.00, 20.40 (Tues).
Antebellum: 19.55(Tues).
Tenet: 18.25 (every day); 21.45 (Tues).
The Breakfast Club: 20.00(Tues).

Cine Albéniz

MALAGA. C/ Alcazaba, 4. Tel: 902360295. www.cinealbe-niz.com
Baby Teeth: 18.40.
Military Wives: 16.30.

Cinesur Ingenio

VÉLEZ-MÁLAGA. Avda Juan Carlos, 1. Tel: 667773187.
Tenet: 20.30 (Mon, Tues, Thurs).



The Beatles Songbook will be playing unique compositions of song made popular by the Fab Four. SUR

A classical string quartet and a jazz duo 'Come Together' at the Terral festival

The Beatles Songbook perform some of The Fab Four's most popular songs at the Cervantes Theatre in Malaga

SUR IN ENGLISH

MALAGA. The Beatles Songbook is an instrumental ensemble that interprets the enormous musical legacy of the legendary British band, The Beatles. They

will be performing at the Cervantes Theatre as part of the Terral de Málaga festival on 15 September (8pm) in a concert that combines unique compositions with the most deeply rooted traditions of a classical string quartet and a jazz duo.

The string quartet, Cuarteto Granada, consists of violinists Mario Navas and Emilia Ferrín; Manuel Moreno on the viola; and Jeremías Sanz playing

cello. The jazz formation is composed of Javier Navas on vibraphone and José Carro playing the piano.

"Talent, freshness, enthusiasm and a dazzling technique...", "Original, daring and quality show" are some of the opinions from critics during almost two years of concerts across Spain.

More information and ticket purchases can be found at www.teatrocervantes.com.

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3 OCTOBER

EUROPE - POLITICAL
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Surgeons warn of the risk of low-cost weight loss operations carried out abroad

Because the cost is three or four times lower than in Malaga, patients are going to clinics abroad although there is no guarantee that the surgeons are trained in this type of surgery

ÁNGEL ESCALERA



MALAGA. As the saying goes, something cheap can turn out to be expensive. Unfortunately that is often the case for patients who undergo bariatric surgery for obesity in countries where such operations cost three or four times less than they would in a private hospital in Malaga, where the complete process is likely to range from 14,000 to 15,000 euros.

The problem is that bariatric surgery is complicated and should only be carried out by experienced surgeons who are authorised to carry out this type of operation. They also need to work as part of a multidisciplinary team so that they are able to immediately resolve any complications that may occur.

One of the reasons that morbidly obese patients go abroad for bariatric surgery is the long waiting list to have the opera-



File photo of bariatric surgery being carried out on a patient whose weight couldn't be controlled by diet and nutrition. SUR

tion on the health service in Malaga. The delay can be as long as six years, because these operations were not included in a decree which sets a maximum waiting time.

The situation has become even worse with the present co-

ronavirus pandemic, because operations for obesity have been suspended for several months in health service hospitals in Andalucía.

Complications

While there is such a long wait

here, there are clinics in Turkey offering to carry out these operations for 3,000 euros, and others in Lithuania for just over 6,000 euros, so some people decide to travel to these countries for surgery.

The problem is when compli-

cations arise and the patient has to stay in hospital longer than expected, because the hospital bill can then become much more expensive.

There can also be problems after the patient has returned home to Malaga





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and they have to be treated by the health service, or a private hospital if the patient can afford to pay for it.

"Surgery for obesity isn't something that any surgeon is able to do. It is a complicated operation and it requires a multidisciplinary team of professionals who carry out a complete study of each case before the surgery takes place. Health comes first.

"People need to be very careful in choosing where to have their operation, because their life is at stake," says César Ramírez, who is the head of General and Digestive Surgery at the Quirónsalud Málaga hospital.

Because these patients need complete care, they should be

seen by endocrinologists, nutritionists, surgeons, psychologists, interventionist radiographers and intensive medicine practitioners, insists the head of the Gastroesophageal Surgery and Obesity Unit at the Regional Hospital (formerly called the Carlos Haya), Javier Moreno.

He warns of the dangers of low-cost bariatric surgery abroad because of the risks associated with these operations, and says they need to be carried out in accredited and solvent hospitals.

"No patient needs to leave Malaga to undergo surgery for obesity, because in both the health service and the private sector there are highly-trained professionals and guarantees of quality," says César Ramírez.

He stresses that with these patients surgery is a last resort and should only take place if an endocrinologist recommends it.

It must be carried out with very safe technology, and he says the surgeon who carries out the operation should be the person who monitors the patient afterwards. This is often not the case when the surgery takes place in a private clinic abroad.

Bariatric or obesity surgery is the final solution for people whose weight is so excessive that it is causing different health problems. Once other slimming methods have failed, and after being seen by an endocrinology specialist, surgery is sometimes considered the best option for a sufficient weight loss.

The gastric band and bypass: techniques that reduce the size of a patient's stomach

Surgery for obesity is the last resort, when diet and nutrition have not been enough to reduce the patient's weight sufficiently

Á. ESCALERA

MÁLAGA. Bariatric or obesity surgery is the final solution for people whose weight is so excessive that it is causing different health problems. Once other slimming methods have failed, and after being seen by an endocrinology specialist, surgery is sometimes considered the best option to achieve a sufficient weight loss.

César Ramírez Plaza, who is the head of General and Digestive surgery at the Quirónsalud Málaga hospital, explains that

two procedures are used for obesity surgery.

The first technique is known as gastric band (a vertical gastrectomy, which is a restrictive method used to reduce the size of the patient's stomach).

The second technique is the gastric bypass, which is a restrictive and derivative procedure. Dr Ramírez says the bypass can enable diabetes to be cured in obese patients.

He also stresses that this type of surgery must only be carried out with very safe technology, and only by well-trained surgeons who have recognised experience in this field.

"You have to resort to surgery for obesity when diet and nutrition have not been enough to reduce the patient's weight sufficiently," says Javier Moreno, an expert in bariatric surgery who

is the head of the Gastroesophageal and Obesity Surgical Unit at the Regional Hospital in Malaga.

He also stresses how important it is for patients to change their lifestyle habits once they have had the operation, and that they follow the recommendations from doctors because otherwise they are very likely to put weight on again.

Serious health problems

Morbid or extreme obesity is a serious health problem. Patients with a pronounced excess weight are at greater risk of suffering cardiovascular illnesses and cancer. They also frequently suffer joint pain, diabetes, respiratory pathologies and high blood pressure. All this means they don't feel well in general and they see surgery as the only way they will be able to lose weight successfully.

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Looking after children's eyes as they head back to school

Specsavers Ópticas is encouraging students to have their eyes tested before they return to school following months of lockdown learning

SUR IN ENGLISH

With children spending as much as six hours a day on smartphones and other digital devices, Specsavers Ópticas is encouraging students to have their eyes tested before they return to school following months of lockdown learning.

It is estimated that we've logged an extra five billion hours online globally since our daily lives went virtual due to the pandemic, with the increased screen time having an impact on eye health.

In fact, in a Specsavers' survey, 87 per cent of parents have said they are concerned about their children spending too much time in front of screens.

Judith Borland, store director of Specsavers Ópticas Fuengirola says: "Often children do not take adequate breaks from their



Eye health is especially important for children. **SUR**

screens, which can cause eye strain and potentially damage their eye health, so they may notice differences in their vision when they go back to full-time education in school."

The 20:6:20 rule

Borland therefore advises students to follow the 20:6:20 rule, getting children to look up or away from their screen and or whiteboard every 20 minutes at something six metres away for at least

20 seconds, as this helps to relax the eye muscles.

Children are also encouraged to make the most of their breaks through using outdoor time in the playground. "Aerobic exercise is vital for children's eye health as it increases essential oxygen supplies to the optic nerve and lowers pressure in the eyes," she says. "The outdoors also provides many things for us to look at and helps to prevent eyes straining when fixated on a single object for a prolonged period of time. In fact, studies have shown that if children just spend an extra hour outdoors a week, then their risk of developing myopia (shortsightedness) drops by 14 per cent."

Stay hydrated

"It's also good general health advice for pupils to keep their water bottle topped up, particularly when students are stuck indoors in classrooms, the weather is particularly hot, or if the school has air-conditioning, as good hydration can help avoid dry eye," Borland adds.

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Bodegas Dimobe win three new awards in the VinDuero 2020 competition

MOCLINEJO

A. PELÁEZ. The Moclinejo winery, Antonio Muñoz Cabrera-Dimobe, has been presented with three medals at the Premios VinDuero-VinDouro 2020 competition, which took place in Trabanca, Salamanca.

The El Lagar del Zar wine, a naturally sweet red made from Tempranillo, Syrah and Romé grapes, received one gold medal.

The Arcos de Moclinejo PX Seco, a vintage wine over 40 years old made from Pedro Ximénez grapes, received two gold medals, one for the XVI Edición, and another for the IV Edición.

The wines were selected by a tasting jury consisting of some of the most prestigious enologists and sommeliers in Spain.

Around 1,000 wines were entered in the VinDuero-VinDouro Awards 2020 competition, representing hundreds of wineries from 80 geographical areas, or Denominaciones de Origen, in Spain and Portugal. All were of a very high standard with many receiving near perfect scores (100 points).



Carob honey, which won a platinum award at the London Honey Awards 2020. **SUR**



Avocado honey La Milagrosa, which won gold at the awards. **SUR**

Sweet success for Axarquía honey in London

Awards. The Apícola La Milagrosa company won platinum and gold medals for their avocado and carob honeys at the international London Honey Awards 2020

AUGUSTÍN PELÁEZ



▲ Manuel Jesús and Manuel López show off their award winning honeys.

Every effort has its reward. At least that is what they believe at Apícola La Milagrosa, a family company that produces honey at Los Romanes, La Vinuela.

The company has just won awards for their honey at the international London Honey Awards 2020, one of the most important competitions at European level.

The Axarquía company has been awarded two medals, one platinum and one gold for two of their 100 per cent local honeys.

The platinum medal was presented to the carob honey, and the gold, for the avocado honey.

The family business, which has been running for forty years and is now led by the 32 year-old beekeeper Manuel Jesús López Ortega, is overjoyed with its success.

This was the first time that the carob honey La Milagrosa, had been entered in a competition and, said Manuel Jesús, "for it to win a platinum medal, the highest award you can achieve at the London Honey Awards, has been a proud moment."

The avocado honey was awarded with a gold medal.

"They were the only two hon-



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DETAILS

► **La Milagrosa.** The company is located in Los Romanes, in the area of La Viñuela, and was started in 1986.

► **Varieties.** Apícola La Milagrosa produces between 4,000 and 5,000 kilos of different honeys (orange blossom, rosemary, thyme, chestnut, woodland, coriander, eucalyptus, aniseed and mango among others) a year.

► **Awards.** Platinum medal at the London Honey Awards 2020 for the carob honey La Milagrosa and gold for the avocado honey.

eyes we presented, although we make many other varieties. We chose these because we thought they best represented the region of La Axarquía.

“The carob is very characteristic of the area and the avocado, although it is a more recent introduction, is also a product associated with the Axarquía.

“We are feeling very proud as it is a recognition of all our hard work and it gives us the motivation to continue doing well,” explained Manuel Jesús López, who learnt his profession from his parents, Manuel and María, who started the business in 1986.

Guaranteed variety

For López, the real secret of Apícola La Milagrosa is that it analyses all of its honeys to ascertain the type of pollen that predominates and therefore guarantee if it is of one or another variety.

According to López, the prize-winning carob honey is characterised by being quite liquid, not particularly aromatic but with a strong flavour and ability to crystallise,

“It has relaxing properties, regulates the secretion of acid in the stomach and is very good for preventing bronchial ailments.

“The flavour is distinctly that of carobs with added notes of figs and grapes,” he pointed out.

The avocado honey, on the other hand, has a dark brown

Apícola La Milagrosa entered the two honeys in the competition that they thought best represented the Axarquía

colour and “a fruity taste, like toasted sugar and licorice”.

“It doesn’t usually crystallise. It is rich in vitamins D, E, B1, B2 and contains important quantities of potassium, calcium, magnesium and phosphorus.

“It is a diuretic which helps prevent or relieve water retention and has antioxidant properties,” he added.

Hives

According to López, Apícola La Milagrosa has a thousand bee-hives and produces between four

and five tonnes of honey of different varieties, (these include orange blossom, rosemary, thyme, chestnut, woodland, coriander, eucalyptus, aniseed and mango, among others), every year.

“We move the hives to the different production areas, although we don’t label them by variety until we analyse the pollen content they have,” explains Manuel Jesús.

The province of Malaga is the main market for this company, although they do deliver to some other areas of Spain and also some countries throughout Europe.

“The medals we won at the London Honey Awards 2020 have now aroused the interest of many buyers in our products, although we are a small company with a small production rate.

“For example, this year we have only been able to make 300 kilos of carob honey,” explained López.

Like many other beekeepers, Manuel Jesús rents out his hives to farmers to help with the pollination of various types of produce.

Many farmers are increasingly using this technique to increase the yield of fruit from their avocados.

Apícola La Milagrosa is aiming to get a certificate for ecological production and also to become included in the ‘Sabor a Málaga’ promotional brand of the Diputación provincial authority.

Record grape harvest - for what?

ANDREW J. LINN



It never rains but it pours. Or, if you prefer, it’s the Paddy factor. What should have been one of Spain’s record grape harvests will never happen as planned, due to the Covid-19 effect. Usually a bumper harvest would mean millions more bottles to be enjoyed at home, in restaurants, and exported. Instead the general drop in wine sales will almost certainly cause an unusable surplus. In greater sums than ever before 90 million euros will be ‘wasted’ on distilling grapes to make industrial alcohol or leaving them on the vine to rot. Potentially the 2020 harvest would have resulted in a fifth more wine than previous years, but restaurant sales have fallen by 65% and exports by half since the start of the pandemic.

In many regions, such as Rioja, Rueda and cava, the controlling organisations (Consejos Reguladores) have set limits on growers’ production. Regrettably these measures have had the unfortunate side effect of enabling bodegas to screw growers down to even lower prices than previous years.

Another complication is the shortage of labour, in normal

harvests provided mainly by pickers from North Africa and Rumania, but this year many of these are afraid of being infected by other workers in the cramped accommodation provided by the bodegas for them.

In Penedés they have other problems. Some crops have been completely destroyed by the worst mildew attack in 30 years. It seems like the normally bucolic life of the winemaker is turning into a nightmare, with no relief on the horizon.

WINE OF THE WEEK

Matsu El Picaro

From the youthful winemakers at Vintae who are regularly bringing us excellent wines at incredible prices, this young Toro actually does not taste at all young. Full-bodied (alcohol 15.5%) using grapes from old vines, it is unfiltered and as natural as you get without using the word. Recommended at around 7 euros



Malaga bring in reinforcements but face race against the clock before the season begins

The club completed the signings of Escassi, Dani Barrio, Calero and Rahmani this week, with at least four more in the pipeline

SERGIO CORTÉS / BORJA GUTIÉRREZ

MALAGA. A week after the club announced that it was seeking to let go of the entire first-team squad as part of an ERE collective re-

dundancy plan, Malaga have now reinforced the squad with six new faces. Following Orlando Sá and Cristian Rodríguez through the door early this week were three new boys, all from Numancia: 33-year-old goalkeeper Dani Barrio, midfielder Alberto Escassi, who is 31 and can also play in defence, and 24-year-old right-back Iván Calero.

Winger Yanis Rahmani became the sixth signing of the summer on Tuesday, joining on a season-long loan deal from Almeria with

an option to buy at the end of the campaign.

However, with practically a whole new squad to build, the transfer activity won't stop there. There are believed to be at least another four new arrivals in the pipeline.

After allowing his contract to expire, Luis Muñoz has flirted with the idea of moving elsewhere, engaging in talks with recently promoted Elche. However, the defender has now decided that he wants to stay at Malaga and has agreed terms on a new deal. This, however, must still be ratified by La Liga before it can

be announced by the club.

The same can be said of Cadiz forward Caye Quintana. A loan deal has been agreed by all parties but the deal is waiting for the final green light.

Other players on sporting director Manolo Gaspar's radar are Alavés left-back Saúl (25), who spent last season on loan at Rayo Vallecano, and another wide player in the form of Jairo.

The former Racing man is a free agent after his contract with German-side Hamburg came to an end, but personal terms are thought to be a hurdle with Malaga's limitations in the market.

Local bed and mattress company MiColchón set to become new shirt sponsor

B. GUTIÉRREZ

MALAGA. Locally based bed and mattress company MiColchón is set to become one of Malaga's main sponsors.

The company, which has been in operation for some 40 years, is close to sealing an agreement with the club for one season, plus the option for a one-year extension.

MiColchón will sign as a new 'premium' sponsor, (a one-off custom-made arrangement), which means that it can share a space on the shirt with the main sponsor, Tesesa, which will continue on the chest, below the badge.

It's likely that the Mi-Colochón logo will appear vertically down one of the sides of the shirt for the 2020-21 season whose design will be unveiled next week.



Escassi, Dani Barrio, Calero and Rahmani all signed this week. **MALAGACF**

La Liga expected to reduce number of professionals required on the field at any given time - a huge boost for Malaga

The Blue and Whites kick off their league campaign a week on Sunday, away to Tenerife, and could benefit from new regulations to minimise the impact of Covid-19

B. G.

MALAGA. La Liga hopes to bring in a raft of new measures to minimise the potential impact a coronavirus outbreak could have on the competition.

The organisers of Spain's top two tiers of men's football are keen that the new season, which will get under way next Friday, 11 September, won't suffer any setbacks, such as the case when an outbreak of the virus in the Fuenlabrada camp caused the promotion play-offs to be delayed.

Of these new measures, the one

which will be of most interest to Malaga (because of the headaches it caused last season) will no doubt be the reduction from seven to five of the number of professionals required on the field at any given time.

This is also advantageous as far as salary limitations are concerned as youth players are not included in these calculations.

This could have a strong bearing on how Malaga complete their squad between now and the closure of the transfer window on 5 October.

Fixtures announced

Their season begins on Sunday 13 with a trip to Tenerife (kick-off 9pm) but the squad is likely to be nowhere near the one with which sporting director Manolo Gaspar would like to close the window. Before the window closes, the side must face newly promoted Castellón (away, 18

September), Alcorcón (home, 27 September) and Rayo Vallecano (away, 4 October).

Preparations, far from ideal

With the futures of all of the first-team (minus new arrivals) up in the air, preparations so far have been far from ideal.

Sergio Pellicer's side have scored just the one goal in their four preseason games so far (in the 2-1 defeat to Cadiz on 26 August). Since then, the side has drawn 0-0 with Granada on Sunday before being on the receiving end of a 3-0 hammering by Espanyol on Wednesday.

Because of delays over PCR testing, the new players are only slowly being incorporated to the team's preseason training camp in Alhaurín el Grande, which has seen players coming and going with great frequency - something that is unlikely to change before 5 October.

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A LOOK AT LA LIGA
ROB PALMER
Commentator, Sky Sports

No napkin big enough

For Lionel Messi to leave Barcelona, a major compromise needs to be made somewhere and a whole load of conditions met



When 12-year-old Lionel Messi agreed to sign for FC Barcelona, a signature on a napkin was enough to seal the deal; now there aren't enough napkins in the world to cover the paperwork. It threatens to be the most complicated legal battle the business of football has ever seen if it is allowed to rumble on.

In many ways it's complex; in others it's so simple.

Let's start with the simple. The great man is hacked off with the way things have evolved at the Camp Nou, his car-share mate is leaving, and he's had enough of carrying the team. This isn't too different to when I left The Queens for rival pub The Avenue. Football can be simple at times.

Messi has always played at

Barcelona, his formative years have been in the city, his family reside in a mansion on the coast, his children are educated there, and his wife has developed a business there.

If he moves to Manchester it will mean the first upheaval in his life since he tied himself to Barcelona two decades ago. He'll need to locate a property in Alderley Edge (all footballers seem to live there), his children will have to move schools, learn a new language and he'll have to work out how to get into work.

At Barcelona, he car-shared with Luis Suárez and their wives opened a high-grade shoe shop together. This is where football Gods become suddenly human. I've known one major deal collapse because a footballer's wife couldn't access her friends, sister and hairdresser if she was



Jorge Messi is at the centre of the negotiations. AFP

living abroad. Quite often partners refuse the move to keep the family home and unit together.

Mrs Messi, Antonella, has al-

ways kept a low profile and continued her education as he developed his amazing career.

The same can't be said for his

father Jorge. He was the one who insisted on the napkin contract when Real Madrid were courting his teenage son. He's the one trying to negotiate the exit strategy.

Barcelona have been quieter than most people expected about keeping him. Even the president-elect Victor Font has been making noises about life without the little magician. The truth is that Barça have a huge 300-million-euro black hole in their finances and one day they must adapt to life without their greatest ever player.

Manchester City would love to add him to their collection but even their owners can't find the buyout of 700 million euros and that fee would give them another Financial Fair Play headache.

So, a compromise needs to be reached. If most of Barça's debt can be cleared by a transfer fee, if City can satisfy his wage demands, if Pep Guardiola wants to inherit the circus and if Messi doesn't have a change of heart then the deal can be struck. Only then can he work out where he lives, what schools his children attend, who teaches them all English, how he gets to training and what days the family hairdresser jets in.

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SUR
in English

Marbella, capital of Spanish professional football this preseason

Football Impact has offset the effects of the pandemic, which has prevented the arrival of foreign teams, by attracting national clubs

PEDRO LUIS ALONSO

MALAGA. "We have managed to save the summer." With that stark statement the head of Football Impact, Andrés Roldán, explained how his company has responded to the setbacks caused by the pandemic, which prevented international clubs coming to use its extensive facilities, which include numerous pitches to play on and organised stays in Costa del Sol hotels.

The solution was to make Marbella a paradise for Spanish professional football. Nearly a dozen Primera and Segunda teams have been there recently to prepare for the start of the competition on 12 and 13 September, and in some cases, such as Granada and Betis de Pelle-



The Valladolid players during a break in training in Marbella. **SUR**

grini, they have come twice.

Football Impact has organised around 20 friendly matches between different Primera and Segunda teams, including this

week's Malaga-Granada game. The pitches at the Marbella Football Center, La Quinta and La Dama de Noche Football Pitches are in good condition, and that

makes them an ideal setting for events such as this.

It hasn't just been Spanish professional clubs who came, either. A more modest type of football

has also alleviated some of the pain for Football Impact's finances. The play-offs for promotion to Segunda (between Marbella, Malaga and Algeciras) and also those for promotion to Segunda B brought a total of 16 teams, who stayed on the Costa del Sol and generated a repercussion in terms of image and publicity worth 5.7 million euros, according to a report produced by the Spanish Football Federation.

And what is the future looking like? It will, of course, be determined by the way the pandemic evolves in the next few months in Spain and other countries. In that sense, the quarantine imposed by the UK for returning tourists has been a real blow.

"We have confirmation pending of the arrival of Asian and South American teams to play friendly matches here, because this season Europe has no FIFA dates for that. There are also some bookings already made from the Russian, Norwegian, Czech, Swiss and Belgium market. In that sense, things aren't looking too bad, but in Germany there will be no winter break this season because the Bundesliga starts later," says Roldán.

In 2019 alone, Football Impact organised stays for 227 teams, (including Liverpool, Manchester United and Borussia Dortmund) and more than 250 matches.

Davidovich makes history by reaching third round in the US Open

In a display of maturity and skill, he beat Hurkacz (24th seed) in four sets and has gone further than any other tennis player from Malaga

PEDRO LUIS ALONSO

MALAGA. He did it again. It was another landmark in Alejandro Davidovich's triumphant career. On top of his junior Wimbledon title, the first Challenger win (in Seville) and the ATP 250 semi-

finals in Estoril, we now have to add the third round of a Grand Slam to the list of his achievements, something no other local player has ever done before.

Neither Emilio Álvarez or Adrián Menéndez got further than round one in a Grand Slam, but Davidovich has done it at the age of 21, at the US Open in New York, amid a cold start to the season and the problems caused by the Covid-19 pandemic.

Jorge Aguirre's pupil saw off his Polish rival Hebert Hurkacz in two hours and 46 minutes,

winning 6-4, 1-6 and 6-2. The result was unexpected in many quarters: the 24th seed had been widely expected to beat his Spanish rival and had predicted beforehand that he would do so.

From the very first point in the game, there was a feeling that Davidovich had the ability to win. After a good start, though,

he badly lost the second set to Hurkacz, who trains under Craig Boynton (who has also coached Jim Courier, John Isner, Sam Querrey and Steve Johnson, among others) but then everything changed again, with Davidovich showing the same mental strength and focus that led him to victory over Novak in the previous round. His opponent fought valiantly to regain the upper hand in the final set, but to no avail. The player from Malaga is on his way to the next round, and has set his mind firmly on making it to the very top.



Alejandro Davidovich celebrates a point. **EFE**

Malaga city's half marathon postponed until November next year

PEDRO LUIS ALONSO

MALAGA. The 30th edition of the Malaga Half Marathon has been moved to 7 November 2021, organisers Asociación Deportiva Málaga Sport have announced.

Given the current circumstances regarding coronavirus restrictions, especially those put in place by the Junta de Andalucía regional government which limit the number of participants in mass events, organisers believed that the best option was to move the event altogether.

All those who had registered to take part in the event will be automatically eligible for the postponed event next year.

However, in October, those interested in completing the distance virtually will be able to do so. Once verified, participants will receive the official merchandise of the Half Marathon (bag, T-shirt and medal). Those who choose this option cannot then participate next year.



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THE STARS



Aquarius
January 21st - February 19th
Although your mind may be all fired up you also need to do the same for your body. Getting out in the fresh air and moving makes all the difference to your mood this week.



Pisces
February 20th - March 20th
Taking a practical approach even if it seems boring at first serves you well this week. Clear out the clutter and make room for the sparks of inspiration.



Aries
March 21st - April 20th
This week could see you trying to please everyone. If that were possible you would deserve a pat on the back! Don't expect perfection.



Taurus
April 21st - May 21st
Any extra attention coming your way is likely to be well deserved. That being so, don't be modest about enjoying it. A change of scenery is welcome.



Gemini
May 22nd - June 21st
With your mind sharp and some of your niggles gone you should be firing up well. Usually I'd say the past should stay in the past but a bit of backtracking can make things clearer.



Cancer
June 22nd - July 23rd
With a little bit of last-minute polishing up, something is now ready to see the daylight. Throw yourself into the fun of it rather than take a low-key approach.



Leo
July 24th - August 23rd
Have you sent out those invoices? Have you clipped off all those coupons? Did you get that lottery ticket? This is a time to make the most of what is on offer.



Virgo
August 24th - September 23rd
It may be your intention to blend finances with someone else. As long as your hearts can agree then this really can be a plan for future fun. Aren't you about due for some of that fun now?



Libra
September 24th - October 23rd
You cannot expect a life without a few ripples in it. There is an inner feeling, though, that somewhere there needs to be a bit of a sea change. Rocking the boat won't help.



Scorpio
October 24th - November 22nd
Start bringing your personality more to the fore. Appearance is a good start. Be brighter and smile more. If you want to give a serious appearance, buy some glasses.

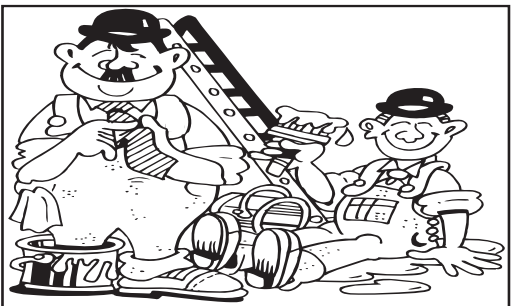
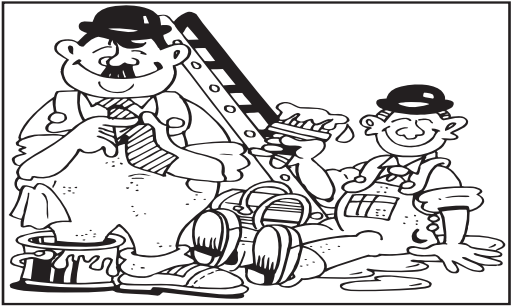


Sagittarius
November 23rd - December 21st
Yours is not the only opinion that matters at the end of the day, especially if you are trying to sell something. Think that you cannot just sell an idea? This week you could sell water to a fish.

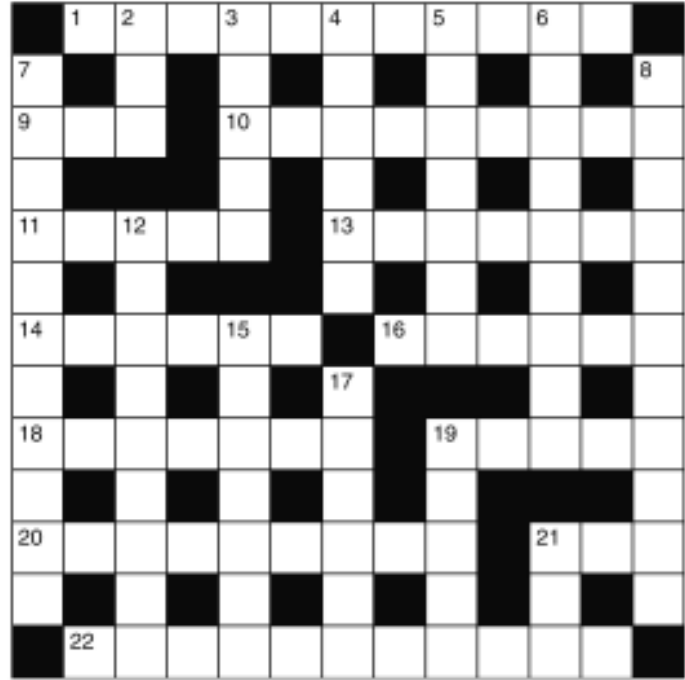


Capricorn
December 22nd - January 20th
In a time of negotiation it is probably best to keep Plan B under wraps. The ace is best played last when you think that someone is likely to be sneaky.

THE SEVEN DIFFERENCES



CRYPTIC CROSSWORD N° 11425



Across

- 1 Pay for being the least celebrated act? (4,3,4)
- 9 Help some maidens (3)
- 10 Ruler with strong tea, perhaps (9)
- 11 Don't take time off (5)
- 13 And I see new flavour for sweets (7)
- 14 Child who pinches things? (6)
- 16 Fame of owner up north (6)
- 18 Upset - even run out (7)
- 19 Go in with some Aberdeen terriers (5)
- 20 Communications system in the plant? (9)
- 21 A number said to have triumphed (3)
- 22 Relax before speech concerning historical period (11)

Down

- 2 Some soldiers could be elderly (3)
- 3 Record set in golf peg tent (5)
- 4 One may be turned on in top hat, perhaps (3,3)
- 5 No brief about what Guy's put on (7)
- 6 Omits what trees have in spring (6,3)
- 7 Lug a bandage around cursing (3,8)
- 8 Band appearing in marriage ceremony (7,4)
- 12 Add the number of years at the tail (9)
- 15 Serious man, say (7)
- 17 Speciality of having a row with myself (6)
- 19 Build upright (5)
- 21 Court the first woman with rings (3)

SUDOKU BY HANZO

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

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

THE WORDPUZZLER

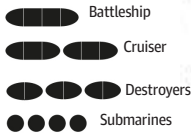
U	C	L	E	A	R	G	O	W	S
C	O	I	N	B	R	I	G	H	T
S	P	R	I	S	A	V	L	I	A
T	U	R	F	I	R	E	L	L	Y
O	T	I	N	G	I	N	G	E	T
A	R	C	O	N	F	C	O	T	A
B	O	I	L	O	R	A	B	O	K
O	V	F	G	R	O	R	E	M	E
N	I	U	O	M	A	R	V	U	N
A	L	L	S	A	M	Y	E	S	T

Can you identify the words that may precede 'away' from the clues listed below?

- 1. Sack
- 2. Accept
- 3. Cook in water
- 4. Period of time
- 5. Bear
- 6. Correct
- 7. Place
- 8. Portent
- 9. Donate
- 10. Obtain

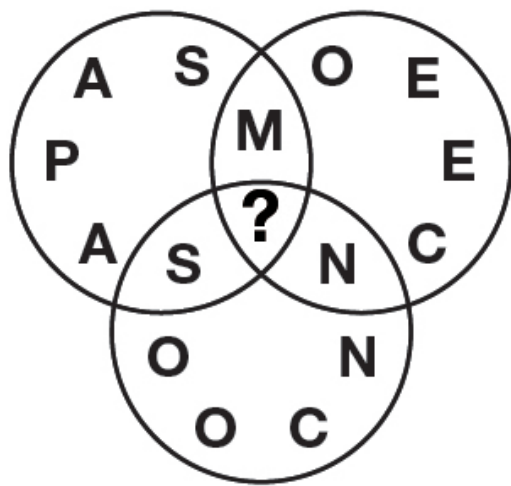
BATTLESHIPS

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.



	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
A											2
B											2
C											3
D											1
E											2
F											1
G											3
H											1
I											4
J											1
	1	3	0	5	1	2	3	1	4	0	

CIRCLEGRAM



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

LANGUAGE CROSSWORD FILL IN THE SPANISH WORD

Across

1) Representation (14)

7) Carpenter (10)

13) Matches (8)

14) She was shaking (7)

15) Leaflets (8)

17) Olive grove (6)

19) If (2)

20) Confrontation (14)

21) They were going (4)

23) Ally (f) (6)

24) Attic (10)

27) Breed (4)

30) Movement (10)

32) I walk (4)

34) Stress (6)

35) To go (2)

36) The (f) (2)

40) Monkfish (4)

42) Grandson (5)

44) Maid (6)

45) Unconnected to (m.pl) (6)

46) Celery (4)

47) I went up (4)

48) Soft (5)

49) National (8)

52) He would have (7)

54) Day (3)

55) Resignation (8)

56) Roses (5)

57) Collapse (8)

58) River (3)

59) Organisation (12)

60) Trade unionist (12)

Down

1) Republic (9)

2) Person (7)

3) Exile (6)

4) Us (3)

5) Self-taught (11)

6) Eleven (4)

8) Registered (m) (10)

9) Intermediary (13)

10) Exam (6)

11) Labourers (m) (7)

12) He was saving (8)

16) To take (6)

18) Builder (7)

22) Trade (6)

25) Leader (5)

26) Councillors (10)

28) Cotton (7)

29) Intelligence (12)

31) They finished (11)

33) Ministry (10)

37) To agree (7)

38) Disciple (9)

39) Naked (m) (7)

41) Bored (m.pl) (9)

43) Apprentice (8)

50) Villages (6)

51) He clears (6)

53) They use (4)

ANSWERS

Quiz answers

Answer: Goldfish

Of interest: Although the name suggests that goldfish all have a bright body colour, wild populations vary in colour from gold to olive green or even creamy white.

Answer: Chicken

Of interest: Tissue containing the oldest preserved proteins ever found and belonging to an Tyrannosaurus Rex that died 68 million years ago, has been used to identify living relatives. Surprisingly it turns out that chickens have the closest link to this ferocious carnivore.

Language Crossword

ACROSS

1. REPRESENTACION 7. CAMPESINOS
2. PERSONA 8. DISCIPULO
3. EXILIO 9. LABORADORES
4. NOSOTROS 10. EXAMEN
5. AUTODIDACTA 11. ELLOS
6. ONCE 12. EL AHORRA
7. ALIADO 13. INTERMEDIARIO
8. CEBOLLA 14. EL MONJE
9. EL SUAVE 15. EL CILINDRO
10. EL CILINDRO 11. EL CILINDRO
12. EL CILINDRO 13. EL CILINDRO
14. EL CILINDRO 15. EL CILINDRO
16. EL CILINDRO 17. EL CILINDRO
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28. EL CILINDRO 29. EL CILINDRO
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54. EL CILINDRO 55. EL CILINDRO
56. EL CILINDRO 57. EL CILINDRO
58. EL CILINDRO 59. EL CILINDRO
60. EL CILINDRO

DOWN

1. REPUBLICA 2. PERSONA
3. EXILIO 4. NOSOTROS
5. AUTODIDACTA 6. ONCE
7. ALIADO 8. CEBOLLA
9. EL SUAVE 10. EL CILINDRO
11. EL CILINDRO 12. EL CILINDRO
13. EL CILINDRO 14. EL CILINDRO
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55. EL CILINDRO 56. EL CILINDRO
57. EL CILINDRO 58. EL CILINDRO
59. EL CILINDRO 60. EL CILINDRO

Cryptic Crossword

Solutions: Across: 1 Foot the bill; 9 Add; 10 Politician; 11 Leave; 13 Answered; 14 Mopart; 16 Panaway; 18 Liner; 19 Enter; 20 Conqueror; 21 Won; 22 Restoration; Down: 2 Old; 3 Tepee; 4 Hot tips; 5 Daring; 6 Leaves out; 7 Bad language; 8 Wedding ring; 12 Appendix; 15 Earnest; 17 Meteor; 19 Erect; 21 Who.

Wordpuzzler solution

1. Fire

2. Take

3. Boil

4. While

5. Carry

6. Right

7. Put

8. Sign

9. Give

10. Get

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Sudoku solution

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

Circlegram

The letter represented by the question mark is R. Sampras, McEnroe, Connors, all former Wimbledon champions.

Battleships

HERE IS THIS?

Town linked to US city

Last week: Torre Alh quime

This well-cared for roundabout, with a sculpture of a donkey being led by his owner, is situated on the edge of Torre Alh quime in Cadiz, near Olvera.

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Dyslexia is a reading disorder that changes the way millions of people read and process information, but not many people understand how it shapes the confidence of people who have it, especially those with artistic tendencies.

Born in Dublin in 1972, established architect and artist Ciaran McCoy has struggled with dyslexia all of his life. Because he was born on Dublin's Northside, he was at first embarrassed to show people his art for fear they would think he was an "eejit", but he eventually overcame his inhibitions and today he has received much recognition for his work, which he describes as the "no phony approach".

His father worked as a tiler who specialised in mosaic designs and he has also nurtured a lifelong passion for painting, so it was only natural that Ciaran would develop a passion for art.

After enjoying multiple successful solo exhibitions in Dublin, Ciaran, who paints under the alter-ego Pigsy, has now moved to Malaga to take a break from architecture and focus on his painting and drawing.

Prior to arriving in Spain, Ciaran was featured in a short film that was selected for the Irish Film Festival in London. The eight-minute film - which at first he was not keen to make - tells the story of an artist who struggled with severe dyslexia. It focuses on his school days, when being dyslexic brought him feelings of shame and inferiority.

"At first, Mum just said I was slow. My dad didn't want me to be labelled, so dyslexia was never really discussed. I was enrolled in additional classes to learn how to deal with the disorder for the majority of my academic life. It was initially a lot of frustration, but this eventually turned into negative energy," the 48-year-old Dubliner explained to SUR in English.

Ciaran began venting his frustration by drawing with chalk,



Pigsy in his Malaga studio with the Seven Spanish Angels painting. **TONY BRYANT**

Portrait of an artist with dyslexia

Pigsy. The 48-year-old Dubliner has struggled with dyslexia all his life and he explains to SUR in English how he used his disorder to influence his art

TONY BRYANT



which he would steal from school: today, depending on what feels right at the time of painting, he uses a mixture of chalk, charcoal,

acrylics and spray paint.

Semi-biographical

Many of his paintings are self-portraits,

or semi-biographical. His work has been described as 'angry' and 'aggressive', but the artist disagrees, claiming he is simply

expressing "the frustrations of someone who lives with dyslexia".

"I like to draw quick and loose. I think if you're drawing fast there's an honesty to it because there is no manipulation and over thinking, it's just straight from your head onto the canvas. Sometimes a word comes into my mind and I need to get it out because it's wrecking my head. This leads me down a rabbit hole of emotions and thoughts. I like to see where this leads me, because it's what is going on in my head at the time," Ciaran said.

Spontaneity and frustration

The canvas becomes his "battle-ground" and the media he uses are the "tools of resolution and understanding". His paintings have added text and they are unique in that they have no boundaries: they portray spontaneity, frustration, simplicity and emotion.

The artist does not correct misspelt words, and, unlike before - when he tried not to reveal too much of his disorder to the outside world - he does not try to conceal them with splashes or spills of paint.

"Words frustrate me and fascinate me at the same time. I sometimes don't understand the sounds of the letters, what they mean and why they don't do what they are supposed to do, but I never correct them," he explains.

One of the first paintings he has produced since arriving in Malaga is called Seven Spanish Angels, a huge canvas that is dedicated to seven revered Spanish artists, which includes Picasso, who Ciaran refers to as the "god-father of art".

"When I arrived in Malaga I thought, OK, I'm in Picasso territory now.

"Seven Spanish Angels is a nod towards the Spanish masters. Basically, I'm saying, 'I've arrived here on your turf and I am going to create lots of great things here'," the artist concludes.



▲ The Red Book was inspired by a book that Ciaran had to read as a child. It reflects his lifelong battle with dyslexia. **T.B.**

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