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PREHISTORIC FIRSTS FOUND IN ANTEQUERA

Experts from Seville and Southampton universities have unearthed human remains in a new dolmen **P13**



An archaeologist works on the site near the 'Lovers' Rock'.
ANTONIO J. GUERRERO

Costa hotels close en masse after disastrous summer season

Many have no date for reopening - "The virus and tourism are incompatible"

Some of the Costa del Sol's iconic hotels have closed for the winter season for the first time ever. Hoteliers estimate that only 20 per cent of hotels will stay open during the low season and most don't know when they will reopen. **P6**



Malaga province sees 19 Covid-related deaths in a week as cases soar

The Andalusian president has not ruled out new restrictions and advises against non-essential family gatherings

Six new coronavirus-related deaths were reported on Thursday in the province of Malaga, making 19 fatalities so far this week. The number of cases in the area grew by 350 on Thursday. The Andalusian president, Juanma Moreno, said

that he had not ruled out new restrictions if the number of cases continues to soar, although he said that the infection rate in this region is half that of Spain as a whole, where more than 10,000 new cases were reported on Thursday. **P4&18**

Struggling expat bar owners call for more support from local council **P8**

Two injured in crash with drug-packed car in Estepona **P10**

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Life never before

Experts blame mafia groups for the increase in illegal property occupation

The mafias break into the properties, damage them to make them look abandoned and then 'sell' them to people who need a roof over their head

F. TORRES/I. LILLO

MALAGA. The problem of 'squatters', people who break into someone else's property and refuse to leave, appears to be getting worse. According to the Ministry of the Interior, last year 350 cases of this type were reported to the police, and in the first six months of this year there were 170 cases in Malaga province and 1,183 in Andalucía as a whole. However, these figures only show part of the picture, because they are the cases reported to the Guardia Civil or National Police and do not include those which are resolved through direct negotiation or intermediaries, private court cases or those handled by the regional police.

In many cases, squatting has become a business, and a growing one at that: those who use this method of obtaining a roof over their head are sometimes advised by mafia groups who find and even break into the property for them.

José María Páez, a judge in Malaga, says these mafia groups often cheat people who are in real need of somewhere to live, by telling them a property belongs to a bank or has been

abandoned when in fact it is owned by a private individual.

He also says there are manuals on the internet with advice not only on how to choose and break into a property, but what to say to the police or the court "and even what type of lawyer to choose to act on your behalf". These documents also explain what tactics to use if the situation ends up in court. At the very least, the squatters can use them

to delay and prolong the legal proceedings.

"There are real 'underground' estate agencies," says Luis Quiñones, a lawyer and founder of the Recupro (Recuperación Profesional de Propiedades) company, which helps people to get their homes back from squatters. The mafias look out for empty properties, find people to move in to them, electricians and plumbers to carry out illegal con-

nections and locksmiths to change the locks so the owners can't get in. They 'sell' the squatters the keys, usually for around 1,000 to 1,500 euros.

Under the existing law in Spain, if squatters move into your property it is often difficult to get them out, which is why many people, especially those abroad who have a second home here, are investing in reinforced doors, alarms and other security meas-

ures to try to protect their property during their absence.

In theory, if squatters move in to somebody's home the eviction process should be rapid, but lawyer Javier Morales, who often acts for people in this situation, admits that this is not always the case because the police cannot identify the person or people who have taken it over. The backlog of work at the courts doesn't help. An eviction should be carried out in a matter of days, but it can take weeks or even months, even if everything is straightforward.

Recovery firms

So, what can people do if 'okupas', as they are called in Spanish, move into their home? Or how do they prevent them doing so? One option is to turn to what has also become a growing business as a result of the increase in squatting, and use a 'desokupación' company.

There are half a dozen of these specialist firms in Malaga province, all working completely legally and with a double strategy: to control entry to the property, with a security guard and support staff, so that if someone is occupying it illegally they can't get back in when they have gone out anywhere, and to negotiate with the squatters so they move out quickly and as peacefully as possible. It costs around 2,000 to 3,000 euros to contract a service of this type, depending on the danger level and how many people are needed. These firms



Recovery firms are seeing a surge in business across Malaga province during this period. FERNANDO TORRES

Government introduces new measures that will make it easier for property owners to evict squatters quickly

CRISTINA VALLEJO

MADRID. Malaga lawyer Luis Quiñones says the law needs to be changed. "In other countries, squatters would be arrested," he says, "but not in Spain".

It seems the Spanish government now sees the need for a change and announced this week that it is introducing measures to help owners to evict people who are occupying their property illegally.

The new measures will apply to main residences, holiday homes and vacant properties, although for the latter they differ depend-

ing on whether the owner is a person or a company.

Breaking into and occupying a property which is somebody's home or holiday residence is considered more serious than that of a vacant property, because it violates the owner's privacy.

In this case, courts will be able to order that squatters be evicted as a precautionary measure before the legal proceedings have been completed, where there are "solid indications" that somebody has broken into the property and is occupying it illegally, that there is evidence that the owner's rights are being affected and that this

reasonably justifies the unlawful situation being brought to an end. The measure must be 'proportionate' and does not apply if the occupants of the property have been given permission by the owners to be there.

In the case of empty properties, a swift eviction order may be granted if they are owned by an individual or non-profit-making company of public interest, and it can be shown that the squatters are contravening the property owner's rights. Where the property is not used or expected to be used, not for sale or being reformed, the owner may apply to evict the squat-



Police are called to investigate an illegal squat. SUR

ters as long as a further set of conditions are also fulfilled.

If a vacant property is owned by a company, an eviction order may be applied for when it is found that there is an effective risk of the property being damaged. However, the condition that the property is not

being used and there are no plans to use it will also apply.

Another change is that swift evictions may be granted before the end of legal proceedings even if the squatters are classified as being in an especially vulnerable situation.

do not usually intervene if children are involved.

Companies such as Desokupa Exprés, Evictions Staff and Recupro have now been joined by others such as Antiokupas Group, which was recently set up in Marbella in response to the increase in properties being illegally occupied by squatters. In just one month they have successfully resolved around a dozen cases in Malaga and Seville.

These companies work with lawyers to make sure they act legally at all times, and must have permission from communities of owners for a security guard to control who enters the building or urbanisation. Once the squatters have been persuaded to leave, they change the locks and often install an alarm.

Evictions Staff, which says its business has increased by 50 per cent recently, explains that professional squatters often blackmail owners by demanding money to leave. "We get them out but we know that the next day they'll just move in somewhere else. They make a good living out of it," he says.

Desokupa Exprés says squatters should never be given money, because that just encourages them. It has also seen a big increase in business in recent months, especially in Malaga city, Marbella, Torremolinos and Benalmádena.

"I used a private company and in two days the squatters had gone"

We talked to three property owners who have experienced a problem with squatters, to see how they resolved the situation

IGNACIO LILLO

MALAGA. Ana (not her real name) received a phone call from a neighbour in Mijas Costa, where she has a holiday home. "I see you're here!" he said. No, Ana said. "Well, somebody is. There's a family in your apartment," was the answer.

Ana, who lives in Madrid, came to Mijas Costa to see what was going on. She spoke to the family, explaining that the apartment was hers and that they had to leave. They said they would - if she gave them 5,000 euros.

"I was furious. You feel totally helpless," she says now. She also had to pay for the electricity and water the squatters had used during the six months it took to get them out. "At least they didn't have children, though. I knew that if they did I couldn't have



The state an apartment was left in after an eviction. SUR

done anything."

After consulting a lawyer, Ana realised the eviction process would take a long time and she turned to a private company that deals with these situations. "It was amazing. In two days they had gone!" she says.

Manuel Jiménez Caro's situa-

"I told them the apartment was mine and they had to leave. They said they would, if I gave them 5,000 euros"

tion was resolved differently. A young couple with a baby moved into an apartment his family owned in Malaga city during the lockdown. They said they had been told it was owned by a bank and they could rent it cheaply. They paid 1,500 euros for the keys. Manuel reported them to the police but didn't hold out much hope of success in evicting them. The locks had been changed, they had the keys and they also had a tiny baby, which complicates matters. However, he was in for a pleasant surprise.

"The police didn't give up," he says, and finally the couple agreed to go but asked for a day to remove their belongings from the property. They did so, and handed over the keys with good grace. "There was quite a bit of damage to the apartment," says Manuel, "but they said the people who had given them the keys must have done that because that's how it was when they moved in."

Another owner, Pedro, had a lucky escape. Advised by a neighbour that someone had tried to break in, he drove down to Malaga from Madrid and found the lock had been forced but nobody had entered. He installed a security door and an alarm, and says it has given him peace of mind. "I'm not surprised it happened," he says. "A lot of people have lost their jobs in this crisis and times are hard".

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Junta advises against non-essential gatherings, even with relatives, as case figures soar in Andalucía

The regional president Juanma Moreno has not ruled out new restrictions if the case figures continue to rise during the rest of September

M. D. TORTOSA / A. ESCALERA

MALAGA. The president of the Junta de Andalucía, Juanma Moreno, said on Thursday that he would consider bringing in further Covid-19 restrictions in the region if the case figures and hospitalisations continue to soar for the rest of September.

He expressed his "concern" over the evolution of the pandemic with the feared second wave coming earlier than ex-

pected. He stressed though that the infection rate in Andalucía is half of that of Spain as a whole.

Moreno advised against non-essential gatherings, even those with relatives "whenever possible". Infection was easier at gatherings where people drop their guard, he said.

The region of Andalucía chalked up 25 new Covid-related fatalities in the figures released on Thursday with a new daily case figure of 1,389 for the region (positive PCR lab tests).

Thursday's figures showed six new deaths in the province of Malaga in 24 hours, taking the week's total up to 19, twice as many as the three registered on Wednesday. All those three were residents in the Vitalia care home in the Teatinos district of the city.

In Malaga province 350 new



Juanma Moreno during a visit to Osuna on Thursday. EFE

diagnoses were reported on Thursday, 44 more than the 306 of the previous day. This takes the ongoing total in Malaga to

12,125.

On Thursday there were 225 Covid patients in hospitals in the province of Malaga, 33 in in-

tensive care units. In all Andalusian provinces on Thursday 940 Covid patients were in hospital, 120 in intensive care.

While some of this week's case figures have reached all-time highs, the pressure on the hospitals is lower than it was in March and April when as many as 2,708 people with Covid were in hospital at one time. Nevertheless on Tuesday the Junta activated its emergency plan to have 3,000 beds ready for Covid patients if necessary

Cases in schools

While many secondary school children do not go back until Monday, this week classes at several primary schools in towns including Nerja, Alcaucín and Coin had been sent home to quarantine for two weeks.



The new hospital will be built on the car park of the current Hospital Civil in the city. FIRMA

Opening the new hospital in Estepona is included in the billion-euro package of infrastructure projects announced this week

hospital will have around 1,000 beds, 214 consulting rooms, 46 operating theatres, a critical care unit and accident and emergency department, among other services. It will be built on an area of 85,000 square metres.

Billion-euro plan

The third hospital has been declared a scheme of strategic interest and included in a one-billion-euro package of infrastructure projects across the region, based on a public-private alliance model, announced this week.

Other healthcare projects included in the package include equipping and opening the new hospital in Estepona, where construction was completed earlier this year.

More details of the package, designed to revive the region after the Covid health crisis, were given by the vice-president of the Junta, Juan Marin, earlier this week.

As well as the Malaga and Estepona hospitals, among the other projects in the province of Malaga to benefit are the dry port in Antequera, improved access to the PTA technology park, the new sewage works north of the city, new schools in Malaga, Mijas and Benalmádena, and the expansion and improvement of others around the province.

Regional authority to seek private funding for 400-million-euro new hospital in Malaga

The Junta de Andalucía is to use private funding to pay for the city's much-needed "third" hospital which will be managed by the health authority

M. D. TORTOSA / Á. ESCALERA

MALAGA. The much-needed new Andalusian Health Service (SAS) hospital for Malaga will be delivered using a mixed public-pri-

vate financing model. The Junta de Andalucía plans to tender a 400-million-euro contract for the plans and the construction of the new hospital to be located on land currently used as a car park for the Hospital Civil in the city. The authority will resort to private funding for the construction of the building, but the hospital will be run by the regional Health Ministry.

Details have not been given regarding how the contract will be

granted or what the authority will offer the firm that puts up the funds for the hospital. One option could be to pay the funds back in instalments; another could be to allow the firm to run hospital services (such as kitchen, laundry, cafeteria, maintenance, car park, etc.).

This project is known as Malaga's third hospital, the first two being the Hospital Regional complex (formed by the General - formerly Carlos Haya, Civil and

Materno hospitals), and the Virgen de la Victoria (Clínico). New facilities have been called for for some time to guarantee healthcare for the population of Malaga and the surrounding catchment area for the coming decades.

By using private funding the authority's aim is to speed up the construction process with the hope of opening the facility before the end of 2027.

According to the authority the



Can a UK-based adviser continue to support you from 2021? Four things to consider

By Kelman Chambers, Partner, Blevins Franks

Reassuringly, even if there is a no-deal Brexit, citizens' rights for UK nationals legally settled in Spain by 31 December 2020 are protected under the UK-EU Withdrawal Agreement. There are no such guarantees, however, in the area of financial services, which could affect whether you can continue to receive UK-based advice and services as an EU resident.

With no certainty that negotiations will be resolved in time, make sure you check that your financial planning – and adviser – will stand up to the challenges that Brexit may bring. Here are four key considerations.

1. The end of passporting

If you have a good relationship with your UK-based financial adviser, you may understandably wish to continue using them, despite now living elsewhere. However, you need to make sure they can legally continue to advise you after the Brexit transition period.

Under today's rules UK-based financial businesses can 'passport' out of the UK and into Europe – but this will no longer apply after 31 December 2020.

'Passporting' enables cross-border transactions between EU member states through shared financial regulation. It is currently possible because the UK Financial Conduct Authority (FCA) is bound by the same rules and standards as other regulators in the EU. But once the UK leaves the EU, the regulation of financial activity and consumer protection may not continue to line up on both sides. As such, unless a mutual deal is agreed on financial services, the EU will not permit ongoing passporting arrangements for UK financial businesses and advisers from 1 January 2021.

Some UK financial firms have put provisions in place to continue working in an EU/EEA country post-Brexit, but others have not. We have already seen letters from major UK banks to EU-based clients, advising they will be withdrawing some services and recommending they make arrangements now with an alternative provider who can support them.

Make sure you understand your provider's legal position for clients in Spain.

2. The limits of UK advice

If you still retain UK investments, a UK-based adviser may be able to continue supporting you there. But if you hold savings and investments with an EU-based institution, from 2021 they may not accept instructions, such as top-ups, from a UK adviser. The financial regulator in France, for example, has already confirmed it will be illegal for French banks and insurance firms to do business with a provider who is not authorised in the country. Similarly, while the Central Bank of Ireland has enabled a three-year grace period for servicing existing insurance contracts, it will not allow unregulated entities to renew or create new policies from 2021.

We can expect similar positions to be taken by other EU regulators seeking to protect consumers in their country, so this could limit the planning opportunities for expatriates using UK-based advisers.

Also, make sure you check if there will be any practical challenges to keeping a UK-based adviser. Will you have to travel to the UK for meetings and paperwork requirements? Consider how this would work in situations where you need funds quickly or if you are unable to travel through illness or

sudden travel restrictions.

3. The advantages of local knowledge

As well as the legal and practical implications, you consider whether an adviser based in a different country is best placed to help you take advantage of opportunities available in Spain.

Will they fully understand the intricacies of the Spanish tax regime and how it interacts with UK taxation? Will they have in-depth knowledge of the local residence, domicile, tax, succession law and reporting rules? Do they know about – and have access to – tax-efficient solutions that offer significant benefits to Spanish residents? Who will foot the bill or face the consequences if they get things wrong?

While UK-based advisers may be experts on the ins and outs of the UK system, it is unlikely that they have the same in-depth knowledge for another country. Nor should they!

4. The suitability of UK planning

Financial planning that is tailored for a UK resident is unlikely to remain

suitable once you become resident elsewhere. Ideally, review your arrangements before you move to minimise taxation when changing residency and make the most of tax-efficient opportunities in Spain.

If you are holding on to UK investments, beware that they can lose their tax benefits once you are in Spain. Meanwhile, Spanish residents have access to locally-compliant alternatives that can offer other advantages besides tax-efficiency – such as multi-currency and estate planning flexibility – so explore your options.

As full Brexit draws ever nearer, it has never been more important to ensure your financial affairs are both compliant and suitable for your life in Spain. Secure financial peace of mind by talking to an experienced, locally-based adviser, as soon as possible before the 2020 Brexit deadline.

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

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.

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Costa hotels close en masse with no reopening date on the horizon

Hoteliers predict that only 20 per cent of the Costa's establishments will be open this winter, as many local icons close for the season for the first time ever

PILAR MARTÍNEZ



MALAGA. The first half of September has seen a massive closure of hotels on the Costa del Sol, with no one daring to suggest a reopening date.

The area's tourism industry has been hit from all sides during the pandemic: demand for hotel accommodation plummeted when quarantine restrictions were imposed by key countries such as the UK; and the financial situation of Spanish families, with thousands of workers still on furlough schemes and companies failing to survive the



Covering up for the season at the Meliá Costa del Sol and the iconic Pez Espada. SALVADOR SALAS

pandemic, has kept away national visitors.

This year's disaster comes just as tourism figures for the month of September were picking up. During this month last year 72%

of the Costa's hotel rooms were full, and with higher-spending tourists. This year the month's occupancy is expected to be no more than 23%, according to the Costa del Sol hoteliers' associa-



tion, Aehcos.

The hotels that have already closed their doors this month include numerous Costa icons that have never before closed during the low season: the Pez Espada, the Alay, the Meliá Costa del Sol and the MS Amaragua are among them.

Aehcos president Luis Callejón Suñé has described the situation as critical, and said that around 80% of the Costa's hotels are likely to remain closed this winter season. In recent years, as the industry made progress to-

wards reducing the gap between summer and winter seasons, the percentage was the other way round, with only 20% closed.

This year the hotels have not ventured a date for their reopening; as with everything, the pandemic will decide.

"The virus and tourism are incompatible," said Callejón Suñé.

For many this summer season has been little more than one month long. The Alay hotel in Benalmádena reopened on 1 July and closed on 1 September, but commercial director Álvaro Reyes pointed out that August was more like November.

"There's no demand. That's the reality. We've never closed in winter. We hope to be able to reopen on 1 March," he said.

The Med Playa group has also confirmed the closure of its Costa del Sol flagship, the Pez Espada.

"There's no reopening date," said a spokesperson.

Meanwhile the last guests checked out of the Meliá Costa del Sol on Monday.

"The forecasts were bleak. Since 1976 we have never closed, but this situation is unheard of," said director Carlos Franco, who hopes to open "at the first opportunity".

Similarly, the CEO of the local MS hotel chain, Miguel Sánchez, has also closed the two establishments of his four on the Costa that he reopened after the lockdown. The MS Amaragua closed on Thursday last week and the Pepita apartments in Benalmádena on Friday.

"Nothing's moving and we have to think about saving businesses and jobs," said Sánchez, who predicted that after this weekend few hotels on the Costa del Sol will be still open.

Junta to offer 25 per cent discount on local hotel stays

Residents of Andalucía are eligible for the discount if stays are of three nights or more and are booked through a travel agency

JOSÉ LUIS PIEDRA

SEVILLE. The Andalusian regional government plans to grant a 25 per cent discount on travel made within the region between 1 October and 31 May next year in a bid to reactivate tourism, a sector that has been badly hit by the coronavirus pandemic.

This scheme was announced on Wednesday by Junta vice-president and minister for Tourism, Juan Marín, who indicated that the discount would be applied at check-in and that it would apply to residents of An-

dalucía and on stays of a minimum of three nights in a hotel, booked through a travel agency.

This incentive will be valid for a maximum of three trips during this period (October 2020 to May 2021), up to a maximum of 300 euros for each trip, says Marín.

The regional head of tourism gave the example of an Andalusian family who travelled for four or five days in the region: "If the bill for the trip amounts to 1,200 euros, they would receive a direct subsidy of 300 euros," he said.

This measure to support tourism was discussed at a meeting held on Wednesday in Seville between Marín and the Andalusian Federation of Travel Agencies, which will work closely with the Regional Government to promote this initiative.



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Belgian woman freed from kidnapper boyfriend in Mijas after call to her brother

A distress call to her home country triggered an international operation which managed to locate the victim in a remote farmhouse

F. TORRES / J. CANO

MALAGA. A 28-year-old Belgian man, accused of kidnapping his girlfriend and holding her captive in a remote farmhouse in Mijas, was on Tuesday sent to prison without bail, pending trial.

He is under investigation for alleged offences of illegal deten-

tion and ill-treatment.

The apparent victim of these crimes was located by the Guardia Civil following a joint operation with Belgian police which was triggered last Wednesday when the woman took advantage of a brief moment of freedom to call her brother in her home country, appealing for help.

She told him that she was being held in a remote building against her will, according to sources close to the case.

The brother then called the police in Belgium who then made contact with their counterparts in Spain. As a result,

the local Guardia Civil patrol in Mijas was mobilised.

While the woman didn't know the exact location of this farmhouse, she told her brother that she was inland from Las Lagunas, around five or six kilometres in a straight line from the coast.

The Guardia Civil acted quickly, having been informed that the suspect had been consuming "a lot" of drugs and could be suffering from some kind of mental pathology. Officers combed the area and eventually tracked the distress call to a farmhouse in an isolated area of Mijas.

When they knocked on the door, they presumed kidnapper opened the door. Inside, in a room, was the girl. When she was found, her body was covered in bruises. Her left eye was swollen, and she had cuts on her arms and face, according to sources consulted.

Although she was not handcuffed, it would appear that she was unable to leave because her boyfriend had threatened her with further violence.

The man was immediately taken into custody while the woman confirmed in a statement that she had been held in the property against her will.

Sentence reduced for man guilty of sexual assault of unconscious woman on beach

EUGENIO CABEZAS

MIJAS. The man found guilty of sexually abusing a woman on a sunbed on Burriana beach in Nerja while she was unconscious has had his sentence reduced to two years by the Andalusian High Court.

The individual from Cordoba acknowledged that he and another man had spent the evening with the woman at a local flamenco venue where they drank a lot of alcohol but the pair denied carrying out any sexual acts on her.

However, several witnesses, including minors, alerted the Local Police, after allegedly seeing one of the men, Javier A., "lying down on the body of the victim, with his penis erect while being encouraged by Jorge Luis M. to insert his member who waited his turn to do the same".

The officer who attended the scene said that he "saw the girl asleep on the lounge" but that "at a distance of 15 metres it's not possible to know if penetration occurred". Doctors also said that there were no signs of injuries on the victim while forensics found no traces of semen on her underwear.

Javier A. was originally given a three-year sentence by the Provincial Court but it has now been reduced. Meanwhile, the fine of 4,320 euros for Jorge Luis M.'s failure to prevent the crime against sexual freedom has been ratified, as well as 15,000 euros in compensation.



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Local Police use Instagram to find then report organisers of an illegal rave in Álora

Videos of groups of young people dancing, without wearing masks or social distancing, were shared on the popular social network

F. T. / J. C.

MALAGA. The so-called 'cyber patrol' of the Local Police in Malaga were able to track down an illegal rave taking place in Álora after footage of the event was shared on Instagram.

In the videos, several groups of young people are seen dancing while gathered around a DJ, none of whom were observing social distancing or wearing a face mask.

Through investigations, po-



Dozens of people danced in close proximity without masks. SUR

lice were able to identify who they consider to be the organisers and the promoters of the event, as well as the owner of the property in Álora.

This information has been passed on to the Junta de Andalucía regional authority with the organisers now facing hefty fines.

112 REPORTS

MALAGA

British fugitive stopped at Malaga airport

SUR. A 40-year-old British man was arrested by National Police at Malaga Airport last Friday in connection with a European Arrest and Surrender Order issued by authorities in the UK.

The individual, with initials D. J. H., was born in Glasgow and was wanted for alleged crimes of arms and drug trafficking and membership of a criminal group.

He faces between 14 years and a life sentence behind bars.

ESTEPONA

Police stop woman committing suicide

J. M. MARTÍN. Three National Police officers, later joined by two others, stopped a woman from taking her own life on a beach in Estepona on Tuesday morning. The incident took place at around 10.45am, when 091 received a call that a woman was more than 100 metres from the shore and clearly drowning. Officers took her from the water and stayed with the woman, who was suffering from mild hypothermia, until paramedics arrived.

VÉLEZ-MÁLAGA

Arms sales point discovered in a brothel

E. CABEZAS. National Police have uncovered an arms sales point in a brothel in Vélez-Málaga and have arrested two people, the head of the establishment and a client, for their alleged involvement in the crimes of arms and drug trafficking. Searches carried out in the club and in the homes of the detainees located five firearms, one of which was modified for use with a silencer; ammunition, a high-end vehicle, 6,900 euros in cash and 390 grammes of hashish.

FUENGIROLA

Man held for sending drugs in the post

EFE. A 49-year-old man has been arrested by the National Police in Fuengirola for allegedly sending drugs to the US by post. The suspect, who has been arrested for his alleged involvement in a drug trafficking crime, was hiding substances in packages labelled as containing key rings or greeting cards. Some 1,817 grammes of cocaine and 202 small packages containing LSD have been seized.

Expat bar owners complain of lack of support from Fuengirola town hall

FUENGIROLA

Bar owners in the resort's port claim that business has almost come to a standstill due to an absence of tourists and no help from the council

TONY BRYANT

FUENGIROLA. A group of expats who own businesses in the port in Fuengirola held a meeting on Wednesday to discuss the current crisis they are facing regarding the fall in trade caused by the Covid-19 pandemic. The group, which has set up a Facebook protest page, is appealing to the town hall to help with the problem, which, they say, is affecting more than 20 bars in the area.

The worried owners were upset by comments made by Fuengirola Mayor Ana Mula last week, when she described the port as "lively". In a post on her Facebook page, the mayor also said, "Like any area of Fuengirola, we cater to the needs of the neighbours who work in it on a daily basis." However, the comments were strongly contested by the bar owners. They claimed that instead of support, the town hall is enforcing laws that are making it impossible for them to survive.

Tolga Erguda, owner of the White Rose pub, told SUR in English that he felt as though the town hall had "let them all down".

"When we first reopened after the lockdown, the town hall promised they would do everything possible to help us. We are suffering from the loss of tourism, but the council is now insisting that we pay a fee to play back-



Bar owners come together to discuss lack of town hall support. T. BRYANT

The owners are appealing to the mayor to offer help rather than enforcing laws they say are making it impossible to survive

ground music and to show football on our TVs. If we don't have the licence, the police fine us, even though many of us have not even been able to pay our rent."

The group, which included British, Dutch, German and Turkish expats, also claimed that the town hall had not done enough to promote the port. Tolga said they had asked for signposts to be installed to direct visitors to the port, but he claimed that, even though the proposal was accepted, the signs have never materialised.

"Nothing has been done. It has

all fallen on deaf ears, but they do not realise that this is our livelihood," he said.

Another business owner, who has had a bar in the port for more than 25 years but did not want to give his name, said that the situation is "devastating".

"We have had a terrible summer and we have all struggled over the past few months. The town hall's refusal to support us is making it even more difficult for us to make a living. Several bars have already shut up shop because they simply don't have the money to survive. The mayor's comments were an insult," he said.

A spokesperson for the town hall told SUR in English: "All bars in the port are subject to the same rules. If anyone has a proposal or complaint, they should make an appointment to discuss it with the town hall."

TV studio tower to be shortened to avoid interfering with airport

MALAGA

F. JIMÉNEZ. Andalusian television and radio broadcaster RTVA is finalising plans to reduce the height of the aerial tower at its Canal Sur TV studio in Malaga. The move comes after the civil aviation authority ruled last year that the tower was among structures blocking space required by aircraft manoeuvring to approach Malaga Airport's second runway from the south.

Other structures in the area deemed last year to be too high to allow full use of the second runway included billboards and the abandoned shell of a privately owned building.

Town hall initiates scheme to help vulnerable people pay their rent

BENALMÁDENA

T. B. Benalmádena town hall has launched a new grant scheme in order to help people in vulnerable situations. The project will focus on victims of gender-based violence, the unemployed, tenants who have been evicted and the homeless.

The assistance includes help with rental payments, community fees and basic utility bills.

The grants must be requested through the Social Services department (618 679 735). The application deadline is 30 November.



The bridge is still closed. M. F.

Cyclists indignant over Guadalhorce estuary bridge prohibition signs

MALAGA

F. J. / I. L. Cyclists in Malaga have been up in arms this week after the city council put up no-cycling signs at each end of the still-unopened wooden bridge linking the west side of the city with the Guadalhorce delta nature reserve.

The controversy was heightened after both the regional and provincial authorities said they had no objection to the bridge, which forms part of the province-wide Senda Litoral coastal path, being used by cyclists.

While the city hall said it would study whether the bridge could be shared with cyclists, it pointed out that the crossing was essentially a footbridge.

The Ruedas Redondas cyclists association has since suggested that a speed limit be set at 10km/h. The bridge would not only save cyclists from crossing the river using the more dangerous road bridge, but also make it easier for people from Guadalmar and even Torremolinos to cycle into the city.

No date has been given for the opening of the bridge.

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All the options on the table for future growth in Marbella 'meet environmental goals'

The council has presented its initial strategic document before writing the long-awaited new PGOU, with four routes to expansion

HÉCTOR BARBOTA

MARBELLA. Each of the four options under consideration for the future growth of Marbella, contained in an initial scoping document for the town's new master town plan (PGOU), meet the government's green agenda.

The council has said that even the most ambitious plan for urban growth is within Madrid's Agenda Urbana Española road map to make towns and cities "more human" by 2030. Under the councillors' plans, the current Marbella PGOU planning blueprint, which dates back to 1986 and urgently needs replacing, could be developed in one of four ways.

The main strategy under consideration is called Alternative 1; it takes as its starting point the current PGOU and

proposes building in the empty land between already developed areas in order to achieve a more compact town. The undeveloped land in the current PGOU would remain that way.

The other three alternatives are more ambitious. Alternative 2.1 extends urbanisable land to the edge of the AP-7 toll road; 2.2 goes further and proposes greater growth with the expansion of the main town to the east of the La Torrecilla, La Cañada and Los Monteros areas. Alternative 2.3 is more radical, as it frees up as much land for development as possible.

The Initial Strategic Document for the new PGOU indicates that Alternative 1 and Alternatives 2.1 and 2.2 all show a high level of environmental integration, as explained in Monday's council session by the councillor for Land Use and Housing, Kika Caracuel.

She added that doing nothing, the so-called 'alternative zero', and sticking to the old 1986 PGOU, would have the most negative environmental impact.

HERE AND THERE



The vehicle, filled with packages of hashish, was seized following the accident. SUR

ESTEPONA

Pregnant woman and cyclist injured in crash as 4x4 full of drugs tried to flee from police

J. CANO. A pregnant woman and a cyclist were injured early on Thursday morning after a 4x4 vehicle loaded with drugs was involved in a crash during a police chase in Estepona.

National Police had been monitoring two suspicious vehicles in the town but upon discovering that they were being followed, the

drivers decided to flee.

During the chase, one of the vehicles crashed into a car near Costalita on the eastern edge of the municipality, driven by a young woman in her thirties who suffered injuries.

A nearby cyclist was also injured. While it was initially thought that he was hit by the car,

other sources suggest that he was injured by a package that was sent flying during the accident.

Officers managed to arrest the driver involved in the crash and intercept the vehicle, which SUR has been able to confirm was loaded with hashish.

The second 4x4 vehicle was able to get away.

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The ceremony on Tuesday. J. M. M.

ESTEPONA

Cancelada-Bel-Air bridge works under way

J. M. MARTÍN. The first stone of a bridge and pedestrian walkway that will connect two areas on the outskirts of Estepona, Cancelada and Bel-Air, was laid on Tuesday. The bridge will avoid the need for residents to use the A-7 motorway to move from one to the other.

The event was presided over by the mayor, José María García Urbano, who pointed out that this is "the most important road infrastructure built in the Cancelada area", highlighting that it will benefit more than 4,000 residents living in this part of the town.

ESTEPONA

Project to renew seafront promenade to start within a month

J. M. M. Work to revamp the Estepona promenade will begin in less than a month, the town hall announced on Monday, after awarding the 1.7-million-euro contract for the first phase to Prodesur Construcción y Proyectos, S.L.

The first phase, which applies to the stretch of seafront between the Avenida Andalucía and Avenida Juan Carlos I roundabouts, will see all existing pavement and installations replaced.

The street furniture (benches, pergolas, fountains and litter bins) will also be changed and the old lights will be replaced by more environmentally friendly LED lights, which will result in "significant" savings for the council.

What's more, Plaza García Caparrós (popularly known as Plaza de las Gaviotas) will also be completely renovated with the substitution and modernisation of the water and drainage networks that run along the whole paseo.

The works should take four months to complete.

MARBELLA

Marbella theatre to reopen on 27 September

J. M. M. The Ciudad de Marbella theatre will reopen on 27 September with a series of anti-Covid measures in place. The capacity has been reduced, access will be by two different entrances to avoid crowding and an interpersonal distance of 1.5 metres must be observed at all times. Temperature checks will be conducted on entry and the use of a mask is obligatory. The theatre will reopen with some new plays as well as cancelled performances from March.

MARBELLA

Environmentalists and divers to clean shipwreck

J. RHODES. Beach cleanup organisation, Mi Moana, along with diving company, Diving with Nic, will be clearing wet wipes and other waste from a 17th-century shipwreck off the coast of San Pedro this Saturday morning. Mi Moana founder, Natasha Wegloop, said, "There is a sewer pipe near to the shipwreck which is full of wet wipes." The meeting point is La Pesquera restaurant in San Pedro at 10am. For further information go to: www.mimoana.com

Carrefour



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OFFERS OF THE WEEK



THE ORIGIN MARKS THE DIFFERENCE

The Carrefour centres in Estepona, Mijas, Fuengirola, Torremolinos and Valle del Guadalhorce have butcher's departments that follow the brand's latest standards to guarantee the maximum freshness and quality

Fresh products are one of the cornerstones of the Carrefour centres in Estepona, Torremolinos, Mijas, Fuengirola and Valle del Guadalhorce.

That's why the butcher's sections in these stores have implanted Carrefour's meat blueprint 2.0. This means, among other things, that complete pieces are purchased and prepared on site on a daily basis. This new system allows for greater freshness as the cuts are made progressively in response to demand.

Thus, the system allows the pieces to be configured to optimise each part and adapt to demand and the customer's individual needs.

Moreover, with customers' comfort in mind, the meat can be purchased from the butcher's counter or in pre-packed trays. These products are prepared daily to offer customers who don't want to wait a wide range of meat products ready to pick up in an easy, comfortable way and as fresh as possible.

Along with their varied selection of top quality meats which include not only beef but also

pork, chicken, poultry, products made on site and of course Málaga goat, the Carrefour centres in Estepona, Mijas, Fuengirola, Torremolinos and Valle del Guadalhorce offer a selection of matured meats from the best sources. There is also a range of Bio products such as their famous free-range chicken, fed naturally and ecologically.

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The Carrefour centres in Estepona, Mijas, Fuengirola, Torremolinos and Valle del Guadalhorce make the most of their strategic locations to offer consumers natural, closely-sourced products.

It's worth stressing that this consumption system vastly shortens the production chain, lowers costs and increases the environmental benefits. This is due, among other things, to the reduction of the transport and distribution required to bring food products from other regions or even other countries.

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SOHA wants homes built more than 12 years ago to be accepted without review

The Axarquía campaign group thanked regional government for officially recognising the existence of irregular properties but raised several concerns

AGUSTÍN PELÁEZ

TORRE DEL MAR. Save Our Homes Axarquía (SOHA) presented on Wednesday the organisation's proposed changes to a draft regional planning law - the Ley de Impulso para la Sostenibilidad del Territorio de Andalucía (LISTA). If passed, this law will replace the existing urban development law, Ley de Ordenación Urbanística de Andalucía (LOUA).

Included in SOHA's proposals is a reduction in the time after construction, from the proposed 20 years down to 12, beyond which licences would not automatically undergo detailed examination before irregular homes could be absorbed into local town plans with official status, the so-called AFO (Asimilado Fuera de Ordenación).

This would benefit hundreds of homes built before 2008, said SOHA spokesperson, Mario



Mario Blancke and Philip Smalley at Wednesday's meeting. **SUR**

Blancke. To go back 20 years, he pointed out, could see up to 600,000 official documents of 300,000 Andalusian homes potentially reviewed, which would hold up the process for many and lengthen uncertainty. Getting AFO status allows irregular homes to connect to mains supplies and protects from demolition.

The other SOHA proposal highlighted was for land on which individual, scattered houses have been built to be classified as urban instead of rural, and so ending disputes over historic rights

of way, allowing more homes to apply for the AFO status.

SOHA also called on the Axarquía's town halls to agree on fixed fees to obtain AFO status. Blancke said that there is currently a big difference between town halls.

SOHA president, Philip Smalley, thanked the regional government, the Junta de Andalucía, for including in the draft law the existence of irregular houses for the first time. He pointed out that irregular homes are very different from illegal homes, as owners paid fees for licences in good faith.

HERE AND THERE

NERJA

Local businessman plans world's longest zip wire

E. C. Nerja businessman, Jonathan Méndez, has approached a company in Catalonia with the idea of constructing the world's longest zip wire along the town's Chillar river. Méndez, who owns a firm called Meynber, has asked Zip-trans Systems S.L. to provide a report on the technical and environmental viability of installing a 700-metre-high and 3.1-km-long zip wire. Méndez has estimated that the project would cost "around 500,000 euros".

NERJA

Town hall will pay fine in illegal dump case

E. C. Nerja town hall's legal services department has said that the council would meet any fine handed to mayor José Alberto Armijo and urban and housing councillor, Nieves Atencia, in the Rio de la Miel illegal dump case. A judge has put forward an initial sum of 10.8 million euros in civil responsibility for the environmental damage caused to the site, which Armijo and Atencia could be fined for their involvement, if found guilty.



Club members and politicians announce the challenge on Tuesday. **SUR**

PERIANA

Boy with Cerebral Palsy to ascend La Maroma with adapted wheelchair

E. C. Two local sports clubs will be helping a 12-year-old boy with cerebral palsy to reach the top of La Maroma mountain on Sunday.

Being able to enjoy the views and nature at the top of Malaga province's highest mountain (2,066 metres) is the dream of Periana resident Álvaro Molina.

Álvaro will be using a Joëlette one-wheeled adapted wheelchair for the ascent and will be joined by his parents as well as

members of the Torre del Mar beach running club and Periana's Periana club who will assist him and his wheelchair.

Periana town hall and the Mancomunidad de Municipios de la Axarquía, which oversees the area's town halls, are also collaborating in Álvaro's challenge.

Álvaro hopes his ascent will pave the way for a project to help people with reduced mobility to enjoy mountains and nature.

PERIANA

Authorities ignoring fly plague, say neighbours

A. P. Residents in the hamlets of La Muela and Vilo, which belong to Periana, have denounced a "plague of flies" and said that the local authorities aren't doing enough to prevent the problem. Mayor, Rafael Torrubia, said he believes the problem is due to farmers using fewer chemical products in fertilizer on their land. Residents have said that the problem started two years ago and that traditional fly traps and insecticides don't work.



A resident's photo of the flies. **SUR**

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Human remains found at what may be the first dolmen of Antequera

A team from Seville and Southampton universities is excavating a megalithic site at the foot of Lovers' Rock and they believe it could be even older than the Menga dolmen

ANTONIO J. GUERRERO

ANTEQUERA. The famous dolmens of Menga, Viera and El Romeral are no longer alone. Another prehistoric structure has been discovered, and is currently being excavated at the foot of the Peña de los Enamorados or Lovers' Rock just outside the town of Antequera.

The project is being carried out by archaeologists from Seville and Southampton universities and coordinated by Leonardo García Sanjuan, who is a professor of Prehistory at the University of Seville.

Radiocarbon and luminescence tests have indicated that this site is possibly older than the Menga dolmen, which is



Archaeologists working on the site below Lovers' Rock in Antequera. **ANTONIO J. GUERRERO**

thought to have been built around 6,000 years ago. And it may have been bigger and used for more purposes, as well as a burial ground, including a possible settlement. The site was discovered in 2005 and sound-

ings were carried out in 2009 and 2013, but excavation has only just begun.

García Sanjuan said Lovers' Rock is a hugely important archaeological complex, which will need a great deal of investiga-

tion in years to come. He believes it will reveal important information and that there are many remains beneath the ground in the area around the rock. The present excavations have revealed two human skulls

so far and stones which had been cut by hand, on the north side of the rock.

"We have found flint tools and a betyl, which is a kind of sacred stone, at the entrance to the burial chamber and some ceramic elements from the end of the Neolithic period," said García Sanjuan.

These discoveries suggest that this dolmen is similar in age or possibly even older than that of Menga, and that could be why the later structure was built facing the Peña de los Enamorados.

As the Menga dolmen is so magnificent, said García Sanjuan, experts have always wondered where those who built it obtained "the knowledge, the technique and the engineering" to make something so spectacular. "It could be that the megalithic tradition actually began here, at Lovers' Rock, and culminated in the construction of the Menga dolmen," he explained.

The age of the site currently being excavated will not be confirmed until carbon dating tests are complete, which could take two or three years.

The rock itself (which resembles the head of a resting man) is listed as part of the Dolmens of Antequera complex which was classified as a World Heritage Site in 2016.

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Government says "not an inch" of sovereignty will be ceded as part of Brexit

In a statement issued this week, the chief minister said people should "absolutely ignore" speculation over sovereignty in the media

DEBBIE BARTLETT

GIBRALTAR. The chief minister of Gibraltar, Fabian Picardo, has warned people against taking any notice of speculation about the future of the Rock in the media, say-

ing they should "absolutely ignore" such reports and trust the government to deliver on its promises, even in the midst of a pandemic.

The press and social media often feature claims that Gibraltar will be "handed back" to Spain as part of the Brexit negotiations, or that the Gibraltar government will want to do a deal with Spain because Gibraltarians voted 96 per cent Remain in the EU, something the authorities on the Rock have al-

ways denied.

In a statement issued on Monday, Picardo said with regard to any change in sovereignty that "we're also in the thick of the negotiations before the end of the year on Brexit, and as I said on National Day, this is an area where the Government of Gibraltar, led by me, will give not an inch....We will never agree to anything that dilutes British sovereignty, jurisdiction or control over Gibraltar in

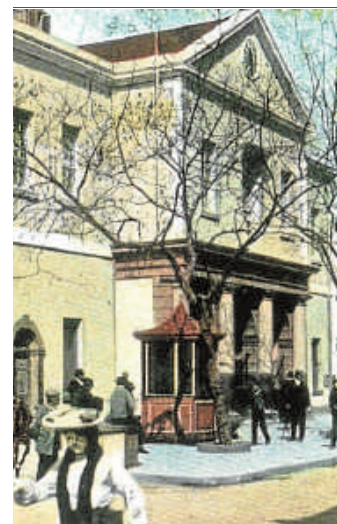
the negotiations. We are tough, we are the hawks. We will not allow them to get anything past us".

Some people in Gibraltar have expressed concern that the government is getting too close to its Spanish counterpart in the discussions over the post-Brexit future both sides of the border, and that this could lead to concessions over sovereignty. The government refutes this, and insists that it is working to achieve "shared prosperity" which will benefit both Gibraltar and the nearest area of Spain.



Fabian Picardo

IN BRIEF



The original building. **SUR**

HISTORY

Parliament House is to be restored

D.B. Parliament House in Main Street, which was built in 1817, is to be restored to its former glory, including taking back the commercial premises on the ground floor and returning them to their original use. The building began as the Exchange and Commercial Library, then housed the Gibraltar Legislative Council from 1950, then the House of Assembly after the 1969 Constitution and became the seat of Parliament following the 2006 Constitution.

SPORT

San Roque Golf to sponsor Gibraltar team

D.B. San Roque Golf Club has agreed to sponsor a 3-person team of disability golfers from Gibraltar at the 2021 edition of the Cairns Cup, a biannual competition organised by British Inclusive Golf for golfers with a range of disabilities from Europe and the USA. San Roque Golf Club will also be sponsoring one of the holes at the event, and the organisers have also made it an offer in principle to host the Cairns Cup in 2029.

NAVAL NEWS

HMS Argyll makes logistics visit

D.B. The RN's longest serving Type 23 frigate, HMS Argyll, made a routine logistics call into Gibraltar on Thursday morning. She has been deployed in the Gulf for the past six months, working alongside her sister ship HMS Montrose to provide reassurance for merchant shipping in potentially dangerous waters. She has also taken part in exercises with Japanese, Saudi and Pakistani navies, and is now on her way home to Plymouth.

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Unions and bosses disagree with ministers over furloughing plans

The government has been accused of "slight of hand" in its draft agreement to extend ERTes beyond 30 September

LUCÍA PALACIOS

MADRID. Negotiations aimed at getting the ERTE furloughing scheme extended to the end of January 2021 from the end of September were stalled this week.

Ministers met with union and company leaders in Palma de Mallorca earlier this month but there is still no agreement and, unusually, workers and bosses find themselves on the same side against the government. Some involved are even accusing ministers of manipulating them.

Business representatives accuse the government of deliberately exaggerating the cost of the ERTE scheme, and the numbers taking part so far, in order to justify its view that it needs to be less generous from now on. Neither bosses nor unions are in favour of a blanket exclusion or inclusion of certain sectors or types of company, but want a more versatile tool for hardest-hit workers; they don't believe the govern-



Business and workers leaders with ministers in Palma earlier this month. EFE

ment's draft agreement will achieve this.

The large UGT union has accused Madrid of "slight of hand", adding clauses that weren't discussed earlier. The union doesn't want people's rights to future social security cash, if made unemployed, to start to be eroded after 180 days receiving ERTE benefits. "They could have told us in Palma and we wouldn't have posed for such a happy photo," the UGT said.

On Thursday, it appeared the

government would cave in and not erode future social security rights on ERTes in force up to end of January.

Unions also want the obligation for firms to keep a worker at least six months after bringing them back from furloughing to stay, which businesses don't. Ministers said on Thursday that the restriction could stay and were working on a revised draft to present to unions and business leaders, despite little sign of any complete agreement on its contents soon.

Inditex profits rebound after Covid closures, but sales are still well down year-on-year

The owner of Zara says it has reached one million online orders in a single day for the first time

JOSÉ MARÍA CAMARERO

MADRID. The huge Inditex clothing group has started making a profit again after the worst of the

pandemic. The Spanish firm, which owns Zara, Bershka and Massimo Dutti, among other brands, saw profits of 214 million euros from May to July, reversing the 409-million loss in the previous three months. Its shares surged 7.5% on the Madrid stock market on Wednesday with the news.

The turnaround in the group's fortunes coincided with the re-

opening of its stores worldwide. Inditex said that at the height of the pandemic 87% of shops were shut. It added that 98 per cent of stores globally are now trading again, albeit with restrictions in some areas.

Turnover is still a lot less, with a 37% drop in sales from February to July compared to a year earlier, at just over eight billion euros.

Internet sales have continued to grow. From February to July, there was a 74% increase in sales via the web, and, for the first time, Inditex reached one million online orders in a single day during the crisis.

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One thing is certain



In a gloomy press conference on Wednesday, the Bank of Spain lowered the already-low expectations about the pace of Spain's economic recovery from Covid, on the back of a disappointing third quarter. The predictions for post-Covid GDP contraction, unemployment and debt levels were bad enough in the first place, but the latest don't see Spain returning to economic "normality" before 2023. Even if that happens, it will be a return to a state of affairs that was already in need of substantial improvement, especially where unemployment rates were concerned.

To arrive at its latest forecasts, the Bank imagined two different scenarios playing out. In Scenario One (which is already happening), localised outbreaks would lead to regional, minimal restrictions of movement or confinement measures, which would mainly affect the hospitality sector. But in Scenario Two (which remains unlikely), a more widespread spike in cases might lead to a "wider lockdown", affecting several sectors and inflicting greater damage on the economy.

In the first case, the Bank predicts Spain's GDP contracting 10.5% this year, a figure which rises to 12.6% in Scenario Two. Both are worse than its previous forecast, released in May, of a contraction between 9% and 11.6% in 2020 - which was itself a downward revision of an earlier projection of 6%.

That the Bank of Spain is already on its third Covid-related forecast of the year highlights the huge amount of uncertainty inherent in the

current situation, both epidemiologically and economically speaking. Although this doesn't exactly render such projections redundant or futile, it should remind us that they're no more than rough guidelines, capable only of giving an approximate idea of how Covid and the resulting confinement measures will affect Spain in the medium-to-long term.

The Bank admitted as much itself, when it said in a release this week that its forecasts are "highly dependent on epidemiological developments, in respect of which there remains a high degree of uncertainty". In other words, there's a possible Scenario Three, which the Bank hasn't modelled for and implied that it can't model for at this time. Which is somewhat odd, given that the dreaded third possibility doesn't need to be imagined: it was our reality back in March and April and it's called "total lockdown".

Despite their provisional nature, the latest GDP forecasts do show one thing very clearly: that to avoid further economic damage, Spain's Socialist-led government must do all it can to avoid a second nationwide quarantine. Despite temporarily slowing the spread of a virus, country-wide-lockdowns, as we've seen here and elsewhere, are extremely damaging - not only economically and socially, but also to people's mental and physical wellbeing. Spain can't afford - in any sense of that word - another one. That's the only certainty we can take from a very uncertain set of statistics.

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Hunt for wild big cat still on, as official sighting is confirmed

Granada villagers have been terrified and national media excited, but Seprona said on Thursday it isn't a panther and 'nothing can be ruled out'

SUR

GRANADA. Several villages outside Granada have been struck with panic for most of the past week over repeated sightings of a black panther in the local area.

Since last Saturday, 12 September, Guardia Civil officers have been looking for a wild animal, possibly a huge feline, spotted roaming in the countryside between Ventas de Huelma, Escúzar

and Agrón, some 20 kilometres southwest of Granada.

Residents have been told to stay in their homes while searchers, accompanied by specialist Seprona officers and officials from the regional government have been searching by land and air.

One neighbour said they had seen it again on Tuesday, while others heard it. A cyclist reportedly photographed it in a ravine, near initial sightings, although the exact location and circumstances of the published photograph weren't revealed.

On Thursday, after several tense days, false alarms and a lot of excited national media coverage, there was a breakthrough.

The Guardia Civil said that they



A Guardia Civil officer on the hunt earlier this week. Inset, an alleged image of the suspect animal. IDEAL / ATLAS

had finally been able to catch sight of the animal and were continuing the search.

"What our Seprona agents

have spotted isn't a panther, but we can't rule anything out until we capture it. All we can say is that the search is still on for a wild

animal." The suspicion remained that if not a panther, it was another sort of big cat. Officers have laid a trap with a cage.

Girl held for hitting mum over internet ban

Police had to be called out to the home twice as the 15-year-old would not accept having the router turned off at midnight

JUAN CANO

MALAGA. Coronavirus has kept children away from peers and pushed them in front of screens, causing some to suffer from an overdose of them.

A 15-year-old has been arrested in Malaga city for hitting her mother for turning off her router.

Local Police were called over a heated argument between a woman and her daughter. Offi-

cers arrived and the mother answered the door, visibly shaken.

She said she had had a huge row with her daughter over her compulsive use of the internet. The addiction was such that she had imposed a midnight curfew on use of the small screen. The woman said that the teenage girl had objected and broken one of the bedroom doors in disgust before going out.

The girl returned to be calmed by officers, telling them that she couldn't be told what to do.

The police left only to be called again at 4.30am by the mother who said this time she had been physically assaulted. After forcing the girl out of her room, police arrested her.

Weather warning issued for rain and storms along Costa del Sol for today

SUR

MALAGA. As the first drops of rain in many weeks landed on the Costa del Sol on Thursday afternoon, a yellow weather warning was issued for heavy storms today, Friday, 18 September.

The warning was for the Costa and Guadalhorce valley and was expected to be in force until 3pm.

Although initially forecasters

spoke about a Dana low-pressure air pocket, in the end the rain is coming as "a low pressure with tropical features" in the last stages of its existence before burning out, according to José María Sánchez-Laulhém, the Malaga area director for Aemet, the Spanish meteorological office.

According to his forecast, the front will leave widespread rain, at times very heavy with hailstones and lightning.

The average monthly rainfall for September in Malaga province is 20mm. Sánchez-Laulhém expects some 15mm along the Costa and 30mm on the Serranía de Ronda, where it will rain the hardest.



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High Covid rate in Madrid pushes Spain over 11,000 cases in a single day

The vice-president of the regional government has called on national government to do more to help, saying they cannot do it alone

SUR

MADRID. Official national government data on Thursday afternoon reconfirmed the upward trend in new cases of Covid-19 in Spain, laying to rest further hope that the constant increases were a short-term blip.

Of the 11,291 new cases added in the previous 24 hours to the rolling national count, the government was focussing on two causes: Madrid overall and localised outbreaks elsewhere.

Just as it had been all this week, the capital region made up over a third of the daily total, despite being home to just 15 per cent of the national population.

All signs were that much stiffer

In reply, the national government said it was waiting to hear what the regional government was proposing

control measures would come into force in some parts of Madrid from today, Friday, according to ongoing speculation among local officials and media.

Ignacio Aguado, the vice-president of Madrid region, which includes the city and surrounding towns and countryside, asked national government on Thursday, "to get fully involved in the control of the epidemic in Madrid", without going into details of what his regional ministers would propose.

It had been suggested that there would be localised partial lockdowns, not on whole districts, but rather on smaller, health-centre catchment areas, known as 'zonas básicas de salud'. In these areas, free movement could be restricted and social contact limited.

"It is absolutely impossible to finish off an epidemic with these characteristics from the regional government alone," said Aguado in his online appearance.

On Wednesday, the deputy regional minister for Health in Madrid, Antonio Zapatero, had mentioned measures "along the lines of selective confinement" in the worst affected areas, which include poorer areas to the south-east of the city.

In reply, the national government said it was waiting to hear what the regional government was proposing and would give its full support.



Torra in Madrid. REUTERS

Supreme Court decides whether to ban defiant Catalan regional president from public office

MADRID

SUR. Supreme Court judges in Madrid were debating this week whether to uphold a Catalan court's verdict to ban Quim Torra, regional president, from public office for not having taken down a politically motivated sign during an election campaign.

A defiant Torra sat in the public gallery on Thursday while his lawyer defended him. Despite splits in his coalition government and the independence movement taking a back-seat during the pandemic, he said in a press conference afterwards that he has ruled out calling regional elections if he is banned from office.

Torra explained that he wouldn't subject Catalonia to the upset of regional elections in the middle of a pandemic, ignoring pressure from coalition partners and nationalist rivals, ERC.

He sought to shift the blame for adding stress at a difficult time to Catalan politics onto the Supreme Court and urged them to overturn the earlier decision by Catalonia's top court.

The judges are expected to rule on the appeal in the next few days. Torra said that any disqualification from office would be "disproportionate and absurd" and his lawyer told them that an appeal would be made to EU judges.

Speaking to journalists afterwards, Torra said, "I have come to Madrid to look into the eyes of a court that wants to unseat another Catalan president. I have come to Madrid to explain to them that they have no right nor reason and we are not scared of them."

Partido Popular party alleged corruption back in the political spotlight again

MADRID

SUR. The corruption spotlight has swung back on to the conservative Partido Popular (PP) over developments in another long-running investigation, called 'Operación Kitchen'. An English code word was chosen for the inquiry into alleged spying using the police in 2013 to find out and steal what compromising information

was stored up on PP leaders by the party's former treasurer, Luis Bárcenas. Bárcenas had been implicated in other high-profile party-funding inquiries, such as the notorious Gürtel case.

In a new twist in Operation Kitchen, former Interior Minister Jorge Fernández Díaz and ex-Defence Minister and Party Secretary María Dolores de Cospedal could be investigated and previously secret court papers have been released.

Current PP leader Pablo Casado has said he was a mere local MP at the time of any scandal. But he was close to Cospedal, giving opposing MPs fresh ammunition against him in Congreso, and this week plans for a parliamentary inquiry were advancing.



The monastery at Valle de los Caídos in the Madrid mountains. REUTERS

New law to get even tougher on remnants of Franco's regime

MADRID

RAMÓN GORRIARÁN. The Cabinet approved on Tuesday plans for a new law to redress the remaining effects of the Franco dictatorship on Spanish life and replace existing 'Memoria Histórica' (Historical Memory) legislation, in force since 2007.

The new 'Memoria Democrática' (Democratic Memory) rules will, among other wide-ranging measures, convert the infamous Spanish Civil War monumental cemetery at Valle de los Caídos into a civil cemetery and monks will stop overseeing it. Last year General Franco's body was removed from there to a private cemetery.

The law will also ban charitable associations that defend totalitarian regimes, among

them the foundation dedicated to General Franco.

Government vice-president Carmen Calvo said it would be a law to help "everyone find themselves", so that Spain would never again, "be deprived of its freedoms".

In reply to the Socialist-led cabinet's plans, right-of-centre parties have reacted negatively. The conservative PP said it was "scary" and designed to distract from the real problems of the country. But the PP hasn't said which way its MPs will vote on the law. Far-right Vox said it would vote against it.

The new law will also allow for victims of the previous regime buried in common graves to be reburied with public funds; the creation of a database of victims; a pardon for those imprisoned or executed over political offences from 1936 to 1978; cancelling noble titles awarded during the dictatorship and the possibility of descendants of the International Brigades, foreign volunteers who fought Franco, receiving Spanish citizenship.

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LETTERS
TO THE EDITOR

Travel and Covid

I've just read the letter (Comment, September 11th) from a lady complaining about the situation of travelling during Covid. Just think for one moment; the less we travel, the less the Covid-19 spreads. I have not seen my parents, who are in the UK and are in their 90s and 80s, since last year. No way would I fly to the UK and put them at risk at the present time. We make do with Skype and emails until we can see each other again. People have to be sensible and have patience and wait. We don't want to make this worse.

SUSAN CORTES

Death of 902

Interesting to see the government intend abolishing 902 telephone numbers which they say impose unnecessary expense particularly for poorer families.

About 20 years ago I looked into the reason for 902 numbers. I was told using that prefix makes it easier for the subscriber to switch the location of where the call is answered. So maybe, out of office hours the call goes to an address other than the business address. Whilst such calls are not charged at premium rates, they are significantly more expensive than local calls. And now of course many peo-

ple can make even long-distance calls within Spain at no charge: not so with 902 calls.

The cost of a five-minute call to a 902 number from a fixed line with Movistar is 0.56 euros; from a mobile it is from 2.82 euros. Such calls to service departments etc. are often considerably longer than five minutes.

I have been "complaining" for years that making call to 902 102 112 to give details of a crime or a loss, to the Police should be free. Hopefully the government will put an end to this "insult to injury" and provide a free 900 number.

JOHN CARRINGTON

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Phone not a friend

Everton 1 Salford City 0, 32 mins - this was very bad news indeed. Not because the rivals of my childhood football favourites - Liverpool - were winning, and not because - that rarest of beasts these days - a giant-killing FA cup result now looked even more unlikely. No, this was bad news because this latest score had come through on my mobile phone completely unbidden. Just as the dubious fortunes of Blackpool, Rochdale and somebody else I can't remember had been thrust upon me at the weekend.

I never asked for any of this. All I did was activate a swanky phone a friend (who loathes football, incidentally) sent to me. Since then, I've been besieged by a constant barrage of unsolicited information of every stripe imaginable, including weather forecasts for Malaga (I don't care, I'm not a farmer), stocks and

share prices (I don't care, I'm not a gambler) and random bits of news about things I've no interest in (I don't care - they're things I've no interest in).

Amid this incessant onslaught of old tosh, the most disturbing messages are the ones that demand to know my location, often under risible pretexts. "Please turn on your location - without it you will be unable to use some application or other you haven't even got/remember the capital city of Portugal/go to the pub tonight." Somebody somewhere is quite desperate to know my location at all times - it's like being married but without the good bits.

And then there are all the whistles, pings, buzzes and toots that invade my space constantly. I'm not sure which corresponds to what but one of them is for emails, I'm sure. Why on earth would I want to know the very

instant an email arrives? Surely it can wait, like letters used to - laying forlornly on the doormat in your hall from 11am when they were delivered until six in the evening when you got home from work, at which point you'd leave them on the hall table for a couple of hours while you did something more useful like eat beans on toast and have a bath, possibly both at the same time.

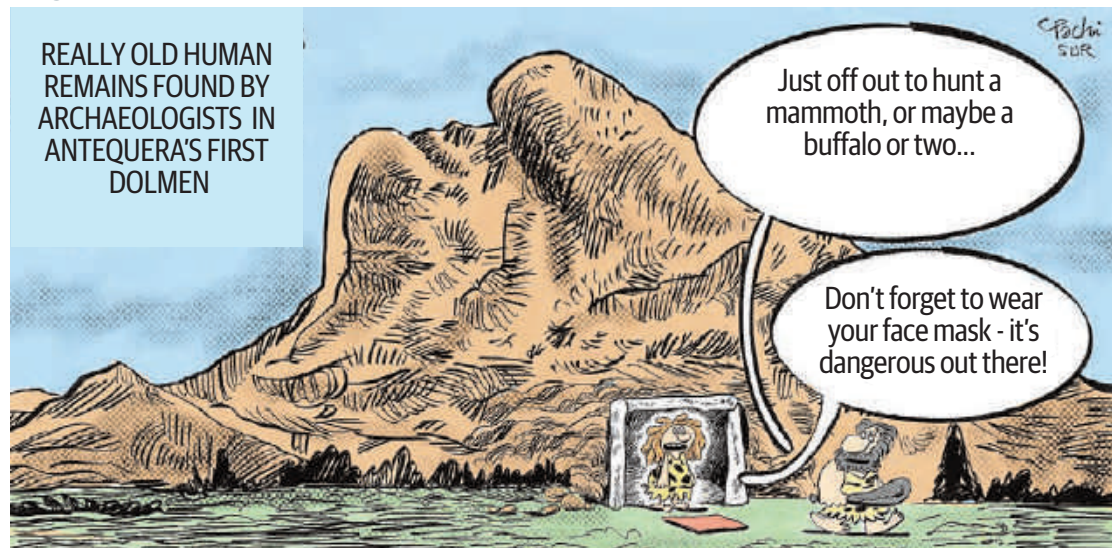
It was very good of my friend to give me this contraption and it's going to appear rather ungrateful of me, but I'm going to have to take action. That means disabling the internet, no sounds except for that of a ringing telephone and certainly no location settings. I'll continue to take it out of the house only when necessary and, with any luck, my sanity will return forthwith.

That match finished Everton 3 Salford City 0, by the way.

Where did all the romance go?

PACHI

REALLY OLD HUMAN
REMAINS FOUND BY
ARCHAEOLOGISTS IN
ANTEQUERA'S FIRST
DOLMEN



SUR in English

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PILAR MARTÍNEZThe devastating effects of
a Costa with no tourists

When a hotel opens, the area around it is almost spontaneously revitalised. Likewise, when one closes, even for a few months, it has a devastating effect on local shops, bars and restaurants. That's why the spine-chilling forecast that 80 per cent of hotels will close for the winter is likely to have a major impact on the economy of the province.

The knock-on effect of tourism has yet to be seen and its consequences will be measured in loss of wealth and employment. Not even the hotels that stayed open or the busi-

est resorts have been spared the Covid-19 crisis. The sector sees no sign of the decision to stop tourists coming 'sine die' being reversed. The times in which we are living make it more inviting to save companies and jobs than to take risks.

And how have we come to be in this situation? Well, the general answer is that there is no demand. Occupancy levels are at a minimum, even though prices are starting to touch rock-bottom. Recommendations by countries such as Germany, Holland, Belgium and Denmark not to travel to Spain,

and the UK's quarantine on travellers coming from Spain, have taken the sector to the limit.

There is no activity from tour operators, no bookings from the clients who always come in winter, because most of them are retired Europeans and are now too scared to leave their homes, and little in the way of leisure options to tempt brave souls who would like to travel. In addition, there are continual last-minute cancellations and events and conferences are being called off.

The Costa has entered a tunnel which, at the moment, appears to have no end. Experts say the authorities should have anticipated this situation and carried out massive testing before departure and upon arrival as the only way of selling safety after the borders reopened, not when peak tourist season is over for most Spanish destinations; they are only trying to save this situation now with rapid testing at airports in the Canary Islands.

The sector has felt abandoned and the

government has been stabbing in the dark, the consequences of which will be seen later on.

The winter closure is just the first step in an unprecedented crisis which will get worse as companies fail to cope with the debts incurred during three months of enforced closure and a disastrous peak season with occupancy levels lower than the quietest months of the year.

Some have no idea when they will reopen, because they don't know whether in 2021 there will be Holy Week celebrations or not, whether there will be a peak season or not, or whether the Malaga Fair will take place again or not.

The virus is incompatible with tourism, even though the sector has invested in looking after visitors and its employees. The zero contagion figures in hotels speak for themselves. Now the administrations and businesses will need to work hard together to get over this. They need to start now, and to do it with determination and purpose.

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This latest instalment of the series The World On Your Doorstep seeks out French connections here in Spain.

The atmosphere**Bridges and lavender**

Not too far across the border, Barcelona can substitute Paris with help of the Arc de Triomf in the Parc de la Ciutadella. In fact it was in Barcelona that the French architect Gustave Eiffel designed his famous tower, now the symbol of Paris.

Closer to home, though, the Andalusian capital Seville boasts a metal arch bridge constructed by two French engineers. Fernando Bernadet and Gustavo Steinacher created the Puente de Isabel II, also known as the Puente de Triana. Walking on it feels a bit like being in Paris because indeed the design is similar to that of the Paris bridges over the River Seine - Pont Saint-Michel and Pont du Carrousel.

In Malaga, you can even walk on namesake of Paris's Champs-Élysées - or Calle de los Campos Eliseos. It leads from Paseo de Reding to a spot with the fantastic view over the bay. Superb views of the neighbouring bullring are offered by the Hotel Eliseos.

The region of Provence in France is associated with its lavender fields. However, just one hour from Madrid you can find Spain's own sea of purple around a little town called Brihuega, which has its own Lavender Festival.

The experience**Language and De Gaulle**

The Alliance Française de Málaga is the only examining centre in the city of the internationally recognised official diplomas in French. Moreover, it supports schools in Malaga province promoting multilingualism. The Alliance Française - La Alianza Francesa - was created in 1883 in Paris, around personalities such as Jules Verne, Louis Pasteur, Ferdinand de Lesseps. It currently has 1,040 centres in 136 countries on five continents.

The Lycée Français de Málaga (Liceo Francés de

Málaga) - a French international school - opened its doors on 15 September 1968 through the merger of three smaller schools located on the Costa del Sol.

The former president of France, Charles de Gaulle, was a visitor to the Costa del Sol. In 1970 the famous French general stayed at the out-of-the-way Refugio de Juanar - an old aristocratic hunting lodge located 10 km from Ojén. They say he really found tranquillity among the forests of pine, chestnut, unique fir trees and even a variety of wild orchids.

There, 79-year-old De Gaulle managed to finish his memoirs. At Juanar he got up at 5 o'clock and started writing. At a quarter to eight he ate his breakfast and then was writing again until lunchtime. In the afternoon, he went hiking. Every day he took a walk of 2.8km to the viewpoint over the Costa del Sol. Whisky was a daily must for the general as well.

Gastronomy**Eating French**

Black truffles are most famously associated with French haute cuisine. Truffle hunting in the Perigord region brings a bounty of the black diamonds to markets. However, the world's most prized foodstuff also grows nestled in the roots of hazelnut and oak trees in the arid and thinly populated hills of east-central Spain - Teruel, Soria, Huesca, Navarra, Girona. These Spanish truffles are sold at the central market of Malaga - Mercado Central de Atarazanas.

French truffles of the sweet kind, softly melted dark chocolate ganache lavishly dusted with cocoa powder, have also been made in Spain for centuries. Goyo Marbella - a pastry and delicatessen shop - offers a selection of truffles with 16 flavours.

The French macaroon is a meringue-based sweet delicacy, loved by locals. Locally made versions can be easily found in numerous Costa del Sol cake shops, and the supermarket Mercadona prepares its own version filled with ice-cream



Seville's Triana bridge, the work of French engineers.



Paris Plage, Malaga



Leather bags made in Ubrique.



The view enjoyed by De Gaulle in Ojén.

Last year, Malaga gained a piece of Paris, by the sea. French couple Isabelle and Cristian Pischis moved to Malaga from Paris where they had their bistro Le P'tit Canon not far from the Arc de Triomphe. There they cooked dishes typical of all regions of France. In Malaga Isabelle and Cristian chose Pedregalejo, where they created the beach restaurant Paris Plage, reminiscent of any cafe in the French capital. On the menu you can find boeuf bourguignon, a stew of beef with pearl onions, mushrooms and bacon; and a special dessert, Far Breton, a French prune flan.

Somewhere to stay**French themes and chains**

La Francesa Suites boutique hotel in Malaga occupies a magnificent house built in the

purest Andalusian style. Until the end of the 20th century, it was the former residence of the British Consul. The hotel has five themed rooms: La Lidia, dedicated to the world of bullfighting; Autour du Monde recreates the atmosphere of the world of travel; Belle Époque! is decorated with Art Nouveau furniture; and the room with the name La Mer has not only marine decoration but from its terrace guests can see the Mediterranean.

In Malaga there are two Ibis Budget hotels, next to the river Guadalmedina in the very centre of the city and close to the airport. This is a low cost hotel brand from France, specialised in essential comfort at a budget price. The first Ibis Budget opened in Tangier in 2011. Two years later, the French brand became Spain's

first super-economy hotel chain with 15 hotels in the country. In Spain, Ibis Budget tested the installation of solar thermal collectors capable of yielding power on rainy days and during the night.

Something to buy**Art, groceries and leather**

The Centre Pompidou in Malaga, which opened in 2015, provided tourists with the chance, not only to admire contemporary art, but also to buy a French gift. The first branch of the Paris-based art museum outside of France offers not only a walk through art from the 20th and 21st centuries but also some art that you can buy at affordable prices in the museum shop. There are lots of different gifts for children as well.

If you're looking for furniture by French designers, go no further than Habitat, in La Cañada, Marbella. The international chain is actually of British origin as it was created by Sir Terence Conran in 1964. However, since September 2011 it has been owned by a French group. The brand specialises in the sale of furniture and contemporary decorative accessories.

Carrefour is well known on the Costa del Sol. For 60 years this French multinational corporation has been innovating and revolutionising shopping in the world. Spain is the third most important international market for Carrefour after France and Brazil.

French-designed leather goods are manufactured by the Ubrique leather artisans. The town is situated among mountains close to the border between Cadiz and Malaga provinces. It is known that bags, belts and other leather accessories designed for Chanel, Dior, Givenchy, Cartier or Comme des Garçons are really made in Andalucía.

The Phoenix Singers: an amateur choir with a difference

The group's founder Kevin Turner expresses his passion for music using classical phrasing within modern musical arrangements

TONY BRYANT

ALHAURÍN EL GRANDE. The Phoenix Singers, the Costa del Sol's most recently formed choir, is currently holding auditions for a series of live shows to raise funds for local charitable organisations. The choir is based in the Coin area and was formed last year by jazz enthusiast Kevin Turner.

Born in Windsor, Kevin studied music at college and then opened his own music school offering private tuition. He moved to the Costa del Sol in 2008, and was soon looking for a musical project to keep himself occupied.

The 57-year-old musical director and his choreographer wife Suzanne became members of TAPAS (The Andalucía Performing

Arts Society). After four years with TAPAS, Kevin left the group to form a new choir because he had visions of creating something completely different: he believes he has achieved this with The Phoenix Singers.

Kevin adapts and arranges all of the music to produce innovative four-part harmonies. Kevin expresses his professionalism and passion for music through his choir, using classical phrasing within modern musical arrangements. Under his direction and guidance, the choir learns, practices and performs songs that encompass many different genres and languages.

"The choir is mainly British, but we sing in a multitude of languages. For example, we sing in English, Spanish, Italian, German, Dutch and even Latin. I am a task master, but the choir are very talented and they are quick learners. I try to make it easy for them, but they are a great bunch of people and they are very hard working," Kevin explains to Sur



The Phoenix Singers are currently rehearsing a special Christmas show and are appealing for new members. **SUR**

in English.

Anyone can join the group. Kevin welcomes all people that have a love of singing, regardless of previous experience, race, age, religion or gender.

"You do not have to have had experience. I believe everyone can sing. Everything is done with harmonies, so I offer lessons twice a week. I am a huge jazz fanatic and so I arrange many of the songs in a big band, jazzy

style. Although we take it seriously, we all have great fun," he says.

The choir have been busy rehearsing its Christmas show, although Kevin is waiting for confirmation that this will go ahead. The new show is scheduled to take place in Mijas the second week in December and will be used to raise funds for the groups chosen charity.

"We are a non-profit group and

everything we do is to raise money for local charities. We are affiliated with ARCH, but we also select a chosen charity. Along with my music, my passion is helping animals, Kevin says.

The choir meet every Tuesday at El Chuletón Restaurant in Alhaurín El Grande.

i For more information, contact:
phoenix.kst@hotmail.com





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READERS' PHOTOS



MIGUEL FRANCISCO

Stunning colours

This photo was sent in by Miguel Francisco who says, "From my terrace this hibiscus exhibits all its beauty."



LES CARROLL

A rescued Bougainvillea

An explosion of colour greets people who visit Leslie Carroll in Alcaucín. This Bougainvillea was rescued and has certainly repaid the kindness ten-fold with this bright display.

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).

GARDENING

Long-lived Stephania

Stephania is a genus of around 45 species found mainly in Asia and Australasia. It is a herbaceous perennial vine in the menispermaceae family (moonseed family).

This unusual-looking plant genus has a distinctive, woody, caudex (a thickened stem structure from which new growth sprouts) which in mature specimens can weigh up

to 50 kilos. Stephania are said to be able to live for over 100 years although they are not the easiest plants to care for.

From the caudex grow delicate vines up to four metres long. The light-green leaves are shield-shaped and arranged

spirally. The leaf stem is attached near to the centre of each leaf.

Once Stephania reaches around 1.5 metres, it may produce greenish-yellow, dioecious flowers (some are male and have six to 10 sepals and some are female with three to five sepals) but they are usually hidden under the lush foliage.

In their natural habitat they are found growing in evergreen scrub and bamboo forests and need a dry, warm and frost-free climate. Although they need bright light Stephania should be kept out of direct sunlight, preferably in dappled shade.

Stephania is not drought resistant and care must be taken when watering as the caudex will rot in soggy soil. It goes dormant in winter and is best not watered at all during the colder months.

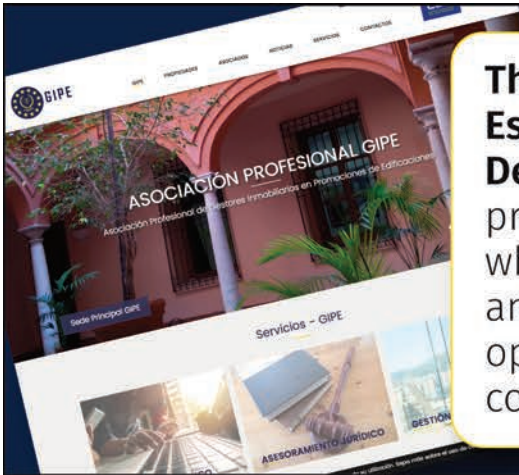
Propagation is by seed; after flowering the fruits (drupes like the olive) can be harvested and the flesh removed before planting the fresh seed.

Stephania tetandra is one of the 50 fundamental herbs used in traditional Chinese medicine and is used to treat high blood pressure among other ailments.

The genus name comes from the Greek 'stephana' meaning 'crown' and refers to the crown-like arrangement of the anthers.



S. suberosa with its large caudex; close up of leaves inset. WIKIMEDIA



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



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SOCIETY SCENE

Pearly fun in aid of Age Care

MIJAS

Well-known entertainer Alexandra Avery and her supporters recently put on a charity show that raised more than a thousand euros for Age Care Association.

The event was held at La Sierra restaurant in Cerrado del Águila golf, where more than 120 people enjoyed Alexandra's Pearly King and Queen show. Taking part in the performance were 18 entertainers aged between 16 and 86, who had been rehearsing for just two weeks.

The funds raised, 1,030 euros, were presented to Age Care vice-president Tom Tarr.

Alexandra Avery is known on the Costa del Sol for putting on the Mania shows and Old Tyme Music Halls at the Salon Varietés theatre in Fuengirola.



Part of the Pearly King and Queen performance. SUR

ESTEPONA

New ICE season off the ground

ICE, the International Club of Estepona, opened its doors for a new season last week after a six-month break due to the Covid pandemic.

The ICE clubhouse, in Urbanización Bahía Dorada, hosts a range of organised classes and activities as well as special events.

The bar is open to members and guests on Sundays and Thursdays.

For more information about the club visit www.theiceclub.es, email info@theiceclub.es or telephone 952 802 549.

SOTOGRADE

Costa chaplain relicensed

The Revd Adrian Low has recently been relicensed as Chaplain of Costa del Sol West Anglican Chaplaincy. The service was conducted by the Area Dean, Revd Nigel Stimpson, Chaplain of Costa del Sol East, who was acting on behalf of the Bishop of Europe Robert Innes.

The ceremony took place at the church of Nuestra Sra. de la Merced in Sotograde and was the first Anglican service to be held there since lockdown in March.

Worship will now resume in Sotograde, with Methodist services on the first and third Sun-



Adrian Low and Nigel Stimpson.

days and Anglican services on all other Sundays at 12 noon.

Revd Adrian takes Anglican Eucharist services each week at the Parroquia de la Virgen Rocío chapel in San Pedro at 10am.

Full details of services and other events can be found at www.costachurch.com

Elisa Cook shows her work in Puerto Banús

An exhibition by the Barcelona-born artist has been at the Leyton Art Gallery this week

JUNE RENDLE

Friends, clients and all art lovers enjoyed a special viewing of some of Elisa Cook's paintings on Thursday last week.

The event took place in the Leyton Art Gallery, next to the Goya Cinema in Puerto Banús. With more than 600 square metres of space it is a delight to see paintings and sculptures in many mediums in a large and beautifully lit area.

Elisa was born in Barcelona and studied higher education in Geneva where she obtained three university degrees. She lived until recently in Geneva and currently resides in Marbella.

As an internationally acclaimed painter she has exhibited in different cities in several countries including Switzerland, the United

States, France, Spain, China, Austria and Germany. In addition, her works have been exhibited at the United Nations and in the Nantong Museum in China. One of her paintings is in the Museum of Contemporary Art of Mataró in a building built by Gaudi, next to works from Miró, Picasso, Leger and Moore.

Elisa's paintings (www.elisacook.com), in oil and acrylic with occasional touches of gold leaf, have developed different styles over the years. They are generally abstract land and seascapes, and all transmit serenity with a definite clear sense of light.

It was a delightful evening, and Puerto Banús is now even more 'the place to be' with this haven of beauty and tranquility.



Elisa Cook. SUR

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WHAT HAPPENED TODAY?

18 SEPTEMBER 53 AD

The birth of Rome's 'Spanish' emperor

Trajan, the best of ancient Rome's 'Five Good Emperors' was born in what we now call Andalucía

In history he is known as Trajan, though his birth name was Marcus Ulpius Trajanus. Trajan was born in the Roman province of Hispania Baetica on 18 September 53 AD. His birthplace of Italica, north of modern-day Santiponce and northwest of Seville, was founded as a Roman military colony of Italic settlers in 206BC. According to another version, however, Trajan was from Pedraza in today's Extremadura. In any case he was the first Roman emperor born outside Italy.

Trajan's father, who was also called Marcus Ulpius Trajanus, belonged to the gens Ulpia family, who originally came from the Umbrian city of Tuder.

His mother - Marcia - came from a noble and politically influential family, thought to be descended from the King of Rome, Ancus Marcius. In the north of Italy, Marcia owned clay-bearing estates called the Figlinae Marcianae. She married Trajan's father - a military commander - and they moved to the Iberian Peninsula, living for a time in Italica. There is little documentation of Trajan's early life. It is thought that the future emperor grew up in military headquarters where his father served.

Trajan became an army commander like his father. Before he was emperor, he had been a senator, and even governor of Germania Superior (Upper Germania), an imperial province of the Roman Empire.

This experience helped him gain the support of both the emperor Nerva and generals of the Roman army. Later Nerva named him as his successor. Nerva himself had been declared emperor

A replica of the statue of Trajan stands in the ruins of Baelo Claudio. **SUR**

by the Roman Senate when Domitian was assassinated. This, incidentally, also happened on 18 September, but in the year 96.

Trajan ruled from 98 to 117. He spent most of his life on military campaigns. The Senate officially declared him 'best ruler' - optimus princeps. By the time of his death, the Roman Empire extended over three continents - from Scotland down to Northern Africa and swept east across the Mediterranean as far as Mesopotamia, or modern-day Iraq.

potamia, or modern-day Iraq.

Trajan is known for implementing the first social welfare programme in history to help thousands of orphans and poor people. Unsurprisingly, he was named as the second of the Five Good Emperors who presided over an era of peace and prosperity in the Mediterranean world.

Back in Andalucía, in the ancient Roman town of Baelo Claudia, located near the beach of Bo-

lonia outside of Tarifa, the courthouse was presided over by a statue of the emperor Trajan more than three metres high.

On his way to Rome, Trajan fell ill or was poisoned upon reaching Selinus in Cilicia, in late 117. He was deified by the Senate. His ashes were laid to rest under Trajan's Column in Rome.

LANGUAGE
FOOTNOTE

Emperador	Emperor
Imperio	Empire
Senador	Senator
Nacimiento	Birth
Moderno	Modern
Colonia	Colony
Comandante	Commander
Sucesor	Successor
Asesinar	Assassinate
Continente	Continent
Prosperidad	Prosperity
Paz	Peace
Filantropico	Philanthropic
Bienestar	Welfare
Huérfano	Orphan
Soldado	Soldier
Ejército	Army
Construcción	Construction
Estatua	Statue

1 Bilingual crossword inside back page

MALAGA
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JOSELE

Successful
charity
market

The association Horizonte-Proyecto Hombre, which helps people suffering addictions, held its annual charity market on Sunday in La Alameda park in Marbella with strict Covid health and safety measures in place.

EXHIBITIONS

Art Marbella

MARBELLA. From 24 September until 3 October. Palacio de Ferias y Congresos.

Art Marbella will be holding its sixth international modern and contemporary art fair. This year it will be co-ordinating with Marbella Design for the first time.



Art Marbella, Marbella.

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).

The Russian Museum

MALAGA. Edificio Tabacalera, Avda Sor Teresa Prat.

Temporary exhibitions. The two temporary exhibitions currently held at the museum are Rompiendo el Silencio. El cine Mudo en Rusia (Breaking

the Silence. Silent Film in Russia) and Andréi Tarkovsky. Maestro del Espacio (Mast of Space). Andréi Tarkovsky was one of the most influential Russian artists of the 20th century and forerunner of innovative techniques in the cinema of the time. In conjunction with this exhibition is a series of silent movies, with some of the most iconic Russian, Italian and American films available until 4 April 2021.

Centre Pompidou

MALAGA. Muelle Uno.

Nicolás de Staël. Until 29 November. Born in St Petersburg in 1914 but exiled in France, Staël exhibited for the first time in 1944. His abstract works reflect an austere and sombre time, but gradually incorporate more light and colour towards 1952 when he adopted a more figurative style of painting.

Charo Carrera. Until March 2021. The main staircase in the Centro Pompidou is the site for the painting Si yo, Si tú by veteran artist Charo Carrera.

Centro de Arte Contemporáneo

MALAGA. C/Alemania.

Nan Goldin. Until 25 October. American artist Nan Goldin is the author of a sequence of video clips entitled Siren in Espacio 5 of the gallery.

Bosco Sodi. Until 6 December. Ergo Sum is the first solo exhibition by Bosco Sodi in Spain. It consists of 30, large, black, monochromatic paintings and several golden sculptures.

Philippe Pasqua. 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.

Cela - Picasso

MALAGA. Until 4 October. Museo Casa Natal Picasso.

The exhibition entitled Trozo de Piel demonstrates the relationship between two geniuses, Pablo Picasso and Camilo José Cela. It consists of documents and photos symbolising

the shared affinities and passions of the two friends.

Carmen Thyssen Museum

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

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.

Charo Carrera

MALAGA. Until 22 October. Sala Alfajar, C/Císter.

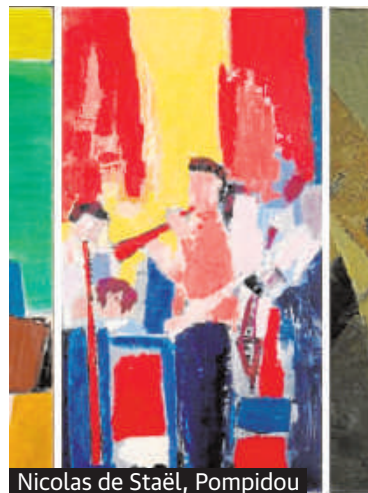
El Legado de Egeria (The Legacy of Egeria) is an exhibition by artist Charo Carrera. Egeria (Etheria or Aetheria) was a Hispanic aristocrat whose letters to friends telling of her trips around the world are some of the earliest of their kind, written in the fourth century. A fragment of her 'Itinerarium ad Loca Sancta' is kept in the library in Arezzo, Italy. The artist pays tribute to this woman, to her spirit of adventure and curiosity.

When words transform into art

MALAGA. Until 31 October. Malaga Public Library.

Patrimonio Bibliográfico Malagueño: La Biblioteca de la Económica. Una Herencia Compartida is an exhibition of around 60 books, magazines, photographs and documents from the 1850s that record the modernisation and culturalisation of Malaga.

Museo Revello de Toro



Nicolas de Staël, Pompidou

MALAGA. Closed Mondays. C/Afligidos.

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

Ángeles Caidas

MALAGA. 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.

Enrique Brinkmann

CHURRIANA. Until 5 January, 2021. Casa Gerald Brenan, Calle Torremolinos.

Artist Enrique Brinkmann has an exhibition of 12 of his works entitled Estrellas para Brenan, Obra Gráfica, a personal tribute to the writer. Brinkmann has exhibited in the MOMA in New York as well as many other museums and art galleries around the world.

Alejandra Mallén

LAS LAGUNAS, MIJAS. Until 9 October. Casa Cultural, C/San Valentín. An exhibition of oil paintings entitled El Eterno Amor de Colores Complementarios'. www.alejandramallen.com

18X2. Coleccionismo Institucional de Málaga

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



Alejandra Mallén, Las Lagunas

Francisco Martín Molina

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

LIVE CONCERTS AND MUSIC

For Women 4tet

ALHAURÍN DE LA TORRE. 18 September, 9.30pm. Finca El Portón, C/Juan Carlos. 5€. The For Women 4tet play a wide repertoire of music including jazz Manouche (gypsy jazz), swing, blues and contemporary jazz. www.mientrada.net

Suzette & More

ALHAURÍN DE LA TORRE. 19 September, 9.30pm. Finca El Portón, C/Juan Carlos. 5€. Puerto Rican / New Yorker but brought up on the Costa del Sol, Suzette started as a singer with the Lito Blues Band. She sings jazz, soul, funk and R&B. www.mientrada.net

Glass Work

MALAGA. 18 September, 9pm. The Hall, C/Héroes de Sostoa. 8€. Progressive rock group Glass Works and progressive metal band Back To R'lyeh will be on stage at The Hall this evening.



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LIVE CONCERTS AND MUSIC

Arturo Serra Quintet
MALAGA. 19 September, 9.30pm. The Hall, C/Héroes de Sostoa. 10€. Valencian vibraphonist, Arturo Serra will be in concert.

Joven Orquesta Provincial de Málaga
CUEVAS DE SAN MARCOS. 19 September, 8pm. La Morana amphitheatre. Free.
ANTEQUERA. 20 September, 6pm. Plaza Virgen de los Dolores, Bobadilla de la Estación. Free.
The Malaga Provincial Youth Orchestra, JOPMA, will be in concert playing pieces by composers such as Mozart, Dvorak and Schubert.

Malaga Philharmonic Orchestra
MALAGA.
18 September, 8pm. Teatro Cervantes.
Conducted by José María Moreno, the orchestra will be playing compositions by Ravel and H Berlioz. Tickets <https://www.unientradas.es/>.

Tango Malaga 2020
MALAGA. 18, 19 September. Teatro Echegaray. 15€.
Osvaldo Jiménez and Proyecto Tamgú perform classic tango music and dance. www.teatroechegaray.es or www.unientradas.es Call: 952 076262.



Camilla George, Teatro Cervantes



Juan Perro, Teatro Cervantes

Chamber Music Festival
ESTEPONA. Plaza del Reloj. 8.30pm
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.

Terral de Málaga
MALAGA. 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.
19 September, 8pm. Julia Martín.
21 September, 8pm. Anachronic.
25 September, 8pm. Dry Martina.
29 September, 8pm. Ernesto Aurignac and Moisés P Sánchez.
30 September, 8pm. Suzette & More
More information and tickets: www.teatrocervantes.com

Cervantes Theatre anniversary concerts
MALAGA. Teatro Cervantes.
To celebrate the 150th anniversary of the theatre the concerts are free but seats must be reserved in advance.
26 September, 8pm. The Juan Perro Sextet.
27 September, 7pm. La Quinta Estación. Pieces by Shostakovich, Handel, Piazzolla and Reina.
6 November, 8.30pm. Camilla George, Jamaican jazz band.
20 November, 8pm. Juan Diego Flores, opera singer. Accompanied by the Malaga Philharmonic Orchestra.

International Chamber Music

Festival

MALAGA. 23 - 27 September.
The Echegaray Theatre, Museo Pompidou and Museo Ruso de San Petersburgo will be the venues for a series of concerts and recitals. The five concerts themed on 'Málaga Clasica' will take place in the theatre while the recitals, showcasing young talent, will take place in the Pompidou and Russian museums. More information and tickets: www.teatrocervantes.es, www.unientradas.es.

Zarzuela

MALAGA. 5 November. Teatro Cervantes.
The theatrical company Teatro Lírico Andaluz will be performing La del Manojó de Rosas and Pablo Sorozábal in two acts. www.teatrocervantes.com

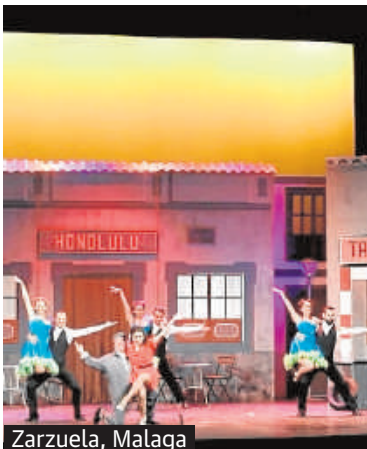
THEATRE AND DANCE

The Goodbye Ceremony

MALAGA. 20 September, 7.30pm. La Cochera Cabaret, Avda de los Guindos. Dance company, Silencio Danza performs La Ceremonia de La Despedida, in which a couple face each other, involuntary witnesses to the end of their relationship. No shouting or arguing, just an unbearable indifference. "As a poet once said, being in love is as in eating, one must know when to leave the table without having to see all the leftovers." <https://lacocheraentra-das.com/shows/list>

Salsa workshop

FUENGIROLA. Registration until end of September. Plaza Hispanidad. The Escuela y Compañía Flamenca



Zarzuela, Malaga

Juan A. Pérez is starting a new series of classes in Los Angeles Style and Cuban salsa. Email: arteazabache@hotmail.com Website: www.flamencoazabache.com

Torremolinos makes use of fairground to host live music

The town hall has rescheduled a series of concerts that were due to take place earlier this year

TONY BRYANT

TORREMOLINOS. Torremolinos town hall has announced rescheduled dates for several live music concerts that were postponed last month because of the coronavirus restrictions decreed by the Junta de Andalucía. The series of rock, blues, soul and folk concerts under the banner of Tenemos Talento will now be held in the Caseta de Asociaciones, situated on the town's fairground. The concerts, which are free, will be held over two weekends, with two performances each night.

The festivities start today (Friday), with two of Malaga's most popular bands, Doble Juego and Estrella Negra. Doble Negro perform a mixture of covers ranging from Cher and Blondie, to Boney M and Olivia Newton John; while Estrella Negra, who have been together for more than 30 years, will delight fans of classic rock music.

On Saturday, Seville rockers No Hay Tegua and local band La Cara B will present a night of rock, blues and pop music.

Part two of the series will continue on Friday 25 September, with Meskalina y Chico Quebranto (acoustic folk and rock), while the highlight, on Saturday 26, will present two of Malaga's most versatile and established musicians.



Suzette Moncrief will perform in Torremolinos next weekend. SUR

The night will get going with Suzette Moncrief and her latest group, Suzette & More. Suzette's energetic stage presence and exciting mixture of soul, funk and rock has earned the singer a huge following on the coast.

Along with her solo career, Suzette also performs with several renowned ensembles, including the Free Soul Band and the Lito Blues Band.

Former frontman of the Amargo Grupo Flamenco Carlos Bravo will close the cycle with his tribute to Hispanic artistes Luis Miguel, Bruno Mars, Niña Pastori and La Susi.

Prior reservation will be necessary and should be made by sending an e-mail to eventos@ayto-torremolinos.es indicating name, NIF/NIE and contact phone number. A minimum of two and a maximum of four tickets can be reserved.

The cultural department said it was necessary to introduce strict measures in order to comply with the health recommendations of the regional authorities, "while maintaining its commitment to support a sector that has suffered due to limitations".

Concerts start at 9pm. www.torremolinos.es

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MÁLAGA. La Térmica.

Throughout September, October, November and December, Málaga Swing will be holding courses in Lindy Hop, a style of dancing that originated in a bar in Harlem in 1927 during a celebration of the first flight across the Atlantic Ocean by Charles Lindbergh.

<https://www.malaga-swing.com/intensivo-lindyhop/>

TALKS / LECTURES

Art courses and lectures

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

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

The Arts Society

NERJA. Lectures online.

The Arts Society Nerja starts a new season of lectures free online for members and supporters. The broadcast can be seen live on the Art Society YouTube channel.

18 September, 2pm. Prometheus and his plight. Lecturer Mary Sharp.
23 October 2pm. The English Cookbook. Lecturer Peter Ross.

27 November, 2pm. Indian Modern Art. Lecturer Georgina Bexon.

18 December, 2pm. Great Exhibitions and the World's Fairs. Lecturer Matthew Denney.

CHARITY

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ALHAURÍN EL GRANDE. Open every Sunday 9am - 2pm.

The ARCH team at the Rescue Centre for Horses and Donkeys have resumed their popular Sunday open mornings. Visitors can come and meet the volunteers and the current residents. More information on Facebook: Centro Andalusi de Rescate de Caballos or www.horserescue-spain.org

Rotary Club Padel Tournament

ESTEPONA. 18 - 20 September, Club de Padel Alhambra del Golf. 20€

With the objective of raising money for poor families to buy school books for their children aged three to five, the Rotary Club Estepona are holding a padel tournament. Register: <https://padelman-ager.com/>

La Cala de Mijas Lions President's Luncheon

LA CALA DE MIJAS. 20 September, 1.30pm. Miraflores Golf Club. 35€. A glass of cava on arrival, three course meal with vegetarian and gluten free options and half bottle of wine pp. Music by Mark T Connor with Neil Diamond Tribute. Tickets from Lions shop in C/Torremolinos, La Cala de Mijas.



Málaga Swing, La Térmica

Lux Mundi

TORRE DEL MAR. Fridays, 11am - 1pm. Lux Mundi Ecumenical Centre, Avda Moscatel.

Coffee mornings with coffee, tea or fruit juice with a piece of cake. A boutique with a range of new and nearly new clothing and accessories and also a wide stock of second hand English books. Lux Mundi is unable to accept donations of clothing or books etc at the moment.

18 September, 8.15pm. Taizé Prayer at the San Andrés, Parish Church.

15 October, 19 November, 17 December. Trip to Gibraltar. Various departure times and pick-up points. Tel.952 543 334 or email: lux-mundi@lux-mundi.org

Lux Mundi Grand Sale

FUENGIROLA. Until 19 September, 10am - 3pm. Calle Nueva 3.

Everything must go, kitchenware, furniture, electric heaters and fans, other electrical goods, toys, books, CDs and DVDs, golf clubs and Christmas decorations. The boutique will also be open.

MORE IDEAS

Online choir

FIND YOUR VOICE One hour singing sessions every Wednesday at 5pm.

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

Indoor learning activities

U3A COSTA DEL SOL FUENGIROLA. The association has turned to social media to continue offering a service to its members.

Art history, bridge, quiz nights and even a choral group are just some of the online activities being offered by the U3A. Anyone can become a member, contact www.u3afuengirolacostadel-sol.com/ for more information.

Free Spanish courses

NERJA. Nerja Cultural Centre, Calle Granada, 45.

Free Spanish courses for beginners, basic and conversation levels. Limited spaces. To enrol call 671567105. Classes run from mid September 2020 to June 2021.

Lux Mundi Prayer Meetings

FUENGIROLA. September, 25 September, 8pm. Special ecumenical prayer in Malaga Cathedral for the victims of the pandemic.

Lux Mundi

TORRE DEL MAR. Lux Mundi Ecumenical Centre, Avda Moscatel.

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

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

23 September 10am - 1pm. Art group. Held Wednesdays 10am - 1pm

O. V. FILMS

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

Yelmo Cines, Plaza Mayor

MÁLAGA. Centro de Ocio, Plaza Mayor, Avda Alfonso Ponce León. Tel: 902902103. www.yelmocines.es

Summerland: 21.20 (Tues).

Antebellum: 22.40 (Tues).

Pinocchio: 17.30 (Tues).

Tenet: 21.40 (Tues)

André Rieu Maastricht Magic: 8.30pm (Fri).



André Rieu, Yelmo Cines

Yelmo Cines, Rincón

RINCÓN DE LA VICTORIA. C/ Arroyo Totalán. Tel: 902220922. www.yelmocines.es

Pinocchio: 22.00(Tues).

Tenet: 18.35(Tues).

André Rieu Maastricht Magic: 8.30pm (Fri).

Yelmo Cines, Vialia

MÁLAGA. Centro Comercial Vialia. Tel: 902220922

Pinocchio: 17.30(Tues).

Tenet: 19.30(Tues).

Antebellum: 21.55(Tues).

Leonardo Da Vinci - A Night At The Louvre 21.55(Tues).

André Rieu Maastricht Magic: 8.30pm (Fri).

Cine Albéniz

MÁLAGA. C/ Alcazaba, 4. Tel: 902360295. www.cinealbeniz.com
Summerland: 17.00, 19.15, 21.30.

Cinesur Miramar

FUENGIROLA. Avda de la Encarnación. Tel: 952198600.
Tenet: 17.45, 20.30.
Rocketman: 8pm (Tues, Thurs).

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The Last Supper
Philippe Pasqua poses in front of the striking sculpture group La Cène.
EVA SÁNCHEZ MELENDO

Philippe Pasqua finds beauty in the dark side at CAC Málaga

The French artist shows the faces of those who "often hide away", marginalised groups and children with disabilities in his first solo show in Spain

REGINA SOTORRÍO



MÁLAGA. Their names are Alma, Noah, Arnaud, Beatrice, Manel... People who "often try to hide", but who show their faces in paintings more than two metres wide that now hang in Málaga's Contemporary Art Centre (CAC).

Artist Philippe Pasqua (Grasse, France, 1965) extracts beauty from the "Dark Side" in his first individual exhibition in Spain. The retrospective show covers three decades of creation and provokes immediate reactions from visitors.

"It moves you, turns your stomach, leaves no one unaffected," said Fernando Francés, curator of the exhibition.

Pasqua has been planning this project, in Málaga until 29 November, for the last five years.

He has filled the walls with large format portraits and nudes using children with disabilities, trans-

gender people, prostitutes and members of his own family as models.

The eyes that look out from the paintings can invoke tenderness or perplexity and invite the viewer to question the moral values of our time and the concepts of beauty and ugliness.

"Philippe reflects on these people who live through suffering, pain, inflexibility and even violence and overcome these difficulties every day. He talks about life but not 'la vie en rose', but the life that we often don't want to see," said Francés, who was accompanied at the opening of the show by the mayor of Málaga, Francisco de la Torre and Culture councillor, Noelia Losada.

Thick brushstrokes

The artist paints children who are blind or have Down's Syndrome using thick, far from delicate, brush strokes, leaving stains and smudges. And there's no decoration, just their intense expressions. "They have great strength that can be transmitted and reflected. And they are people with great sensitivity, they live in the present," said the self-taught painter and sculpture, whose style is approaching expressionism.

He admits he has had the project in his head for some time. "It's not easy to access these people," he explained. He contacts them through schools and specialist centres where they ex-



The exhibition includes numerous faces of children. E. SÁNCHEZ MELENDO

THE EXHIBITION

► **Title and artist.** The Dark Side by Philippe Pasqua.

► **Content.** Around 30 works, including large format paintings and two sculptures, created between 1990 and the present day.

► **Gallery.** Centro de Arte Contemporáneo de Málaga (CAC). Calle Alemania, Málaga.

► **Dates.** Until 29 November.

change impressions and he photographs them. In his workshop he selects the image that has "trapped" him the most and transfers it to his canvas, generally with cream, red and blue tones.

"There is beauty in overcoming illness and in a person with intellectual disability. Philippe shows this with incredible naturalness," said the creator.

The artist's brush also captures marginal groups, such as prostitutes, who he paints nude, or transgender people such as Caphi, or the series he calls Trauma.

Here female postures and realities (such as childbirth) stand in contrast to the male genitals of the subjects.

However Philippe Pasqua has not ignored his closest reality, his family, in this exhibition, although he shows them with a different, "stronger" emotion. Here we can find his mother Gisele and his son Orso, who he depicts holding a skull as if it were a teddy bear.

Indeed skulls appear throughout his work. They can be found piled up in the sculpture Sans Titre from this year, which welcomes visitors as they enter the gallery.

And skulls can also be found in the piece that is perhaps the most impacting of the entire exhibition. In the centre of the CAC's main gallery Pasqua has placed the sculpture group La Cène, his version in bronze of Da Vinci's Last Supper.

Here Jesus and the 21 apostles are masked and grotesque figures, impossible to identify. They are seated at a table with clear references to Bacchus, bunches of grapes and bottles of wine on a surface plagued with rats. And the scene also has a sacrifice, the torn-up body of a baby in different dishes. A disturbing composition.

Pasqua also examines himself and the exhibition includes startling self-portraits from among his earliest works.

Philippe Pasqua converts those who were born "on the dark side of the world" into art, without forgetting that we all have our dark sides. Despite his constant smile, he is no exception.

"Once in Paris he confessed that if he wasn't a painter he would be a serial killer. What is really intelligent is managing to control the dark side and turn it into light," said the curator.

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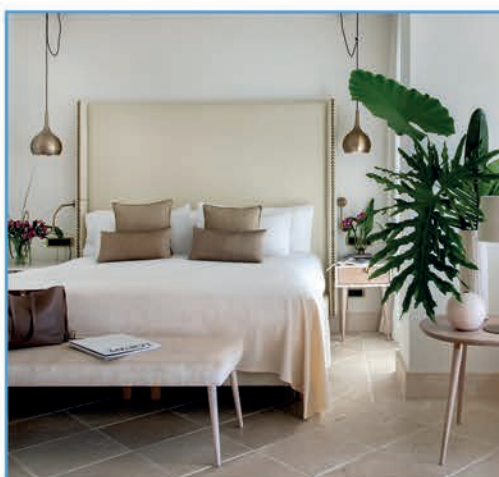
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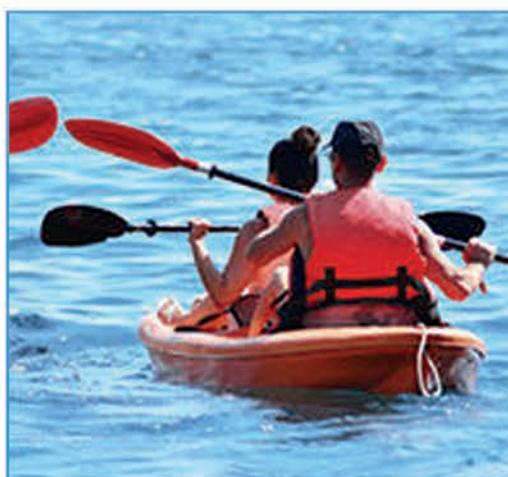
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'The best vaccine against coronavirus we have right now is for people to be very, very careful'

Julián Olalla President of the scientific committee for Spain's first Covid-19 conference

"Each person needs to do their bit in the fight against Covid-19, because if they don't behave responsibly it will be bad for all of us"

ÁNGEL ESCALERA



MALAGA. This week, doctors, nurses and physiotherapists who are members of more than 50 scientific societies and associations are taking part in Spain's first Covid-19 conference. More than 20,000 people signed up for the event, which is being held virtually and finishes this Saturday, 19 September.

The president of the scientific committee for the conference, Dr Julián Olalla of the Internal Medicine unit at the Costa del Sol hospital in Marbella, says it is a way of bringing everyone up to date about everything that has been done and is currently being done in the fight against the coronavirus.

In this interview, he calls on everybody to exercise personal responsibility in order to slow down the spread of the virus. "Right now, the best vaccine there is against Covid-19 is prevention. We hope there will be an effective vaccine soon, but in the meantime social distancing, masks and a great deal of caution are safest," he says.



Julián Olalla is a specialist in Internal Medicine at the Hospital Costa del Sol in Marbella. **SUR**

-What have you hoped to achieve with this first Covid-19 conference in Spain?

-There are three main objectives. First, we want the scientific societies to be fully informed about Covid-19, with

each of them sharing what they know about the illness so far. Secondly, to do the same with each group's research, so everyone is aware of what the others are doing. And third, to explain what healthcare profes-

sionals have been doing, because they have responded as one to this crisis and shown that, by working together, things can be achieved.

-What is your view of the present coronavirus situation in

Spain, after the large increase in cases over the summer?

-I believe anyone with common sense is concerned. It is true that the situation is nowhere near as bad as it was back in March and April, and we hope we will never go through that again, with coronavirus or any other illness, but we are still worried. The pressure on hospitals is growing slowly but surely. Some regions have quite high levels of the virus.

-At the moment there seem to be a lot of asymptomatic cases. Why is that?

-Well, we are testing and diagnosing many more cases now. In March and April we weren't doing PCR tests on people with no symptoms, or even mild cases. The picture at the moment may be better, but doctors are still very concerned. What we need to do is call on people to exercise individual responsibility.

-What do you mean by that?


-Well, each person has a responsibility in the fight against the coronavirus: young people, middle-aged and the elderly. Everyone has to do their bit, because otherwise we will all go down. We either get over this together, or we sink together.


-Why have Covid-19 cases in Malaga province increased so much this summer?

-There were more people here in the summer and more leisure events. We weren't expecting an increase of this magnitude, but it happened. In the first wave, especially in the Costa del Sol


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FUENGIROLA MIJAS COSTA TORREMOLINOS BENALMÁDENA ALHAURIN EL GRANDE
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area, the pressure wasn't as great as in other parts of Spain, but we are suffering it now, although it is true that on the Costa del Sol and in Malaga province as a whole we are not seeing the same incidence as in Madrid and other regions.

–In your opinion, what needs to be done to prevent more cases?

–We may be in a better situation than other parts of Spain but that is absolutely no reason to relax. The message shouldn't be: "Hey, we're doing well!" On the contrary, we need to reinforce our preventive measures, otherwise we will fail. If we don't all comply with the preventive measures, things will go badly. I hope the pressure on hospitals will reduce very soon. When it comes to Covid-19, those who win are those who always keep the worst scenario in mind. We need to be very cautious and follow the guidelines we are given, but at the same time not be all doom and gloom. We need to think about the health aspect, but also the economy. That's why there shouldn't be any more lockdowns unless absolutely necessary. And that, I can't stress strongly enough, depends on each and every one of us.

–Is the fact that people have relaxed too much one of the reasons for the rise in the number of infections?

HIS WORDS

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

"The scientific societies are explaining what they have found out about Covid-19"

INFECTIONS IN THE SUMMER

"The situation is better than it was in the spring, but we are still very worried"

HOPE OF A VACCINE

"We shouldn't raise people's hopes too much about a vaccine in December"

BREAKING THE RULES

"If some people don't comply with the preventive measures, it's bad for all of us"

–Undoubtedly. The whole population needs to be aware of the severe effects of the coronavirus. There is absolutely no excuse. We can see that the number of people being admitted to hospital with Covid-19 is on the increase, and people are dying from it again. Every death is important. And we are still seeing regrettable behaviour, which is very disappointing. These things always come at a price. In the pandemic we are all learning: society, the doctors and the authorities. We don't have complete information about the virus and the illness. At first we thought it was going to be seasonal, but some of us started to worry when we saw outbreaks occurring again in Iran, where the temperature goes up to 50°C in the summer.

–The more we look after our health, the more difficult we make it for the virus, is that right?

–Exactly. You have to bear in mind that what one person does doesn't just improve or worsen their own health, but also affects people around them. Those they know and those they don't. Anyone can carry the illness without having symptoms, and end up making somebody they don't know ill. The community depends on what each individual does. It's like being a farmer. Every seed you plant is impor-

tant. Everything depends on individual responsibility; the solution is not going to come from above. The politicians have to do their work, we doctors have to do ours and every single person has to do their bit too.

–The great hope for beating this virus is through a vaccine. What are your feelings about that?

–What we wouldn't give for a safe, efficient vaccine! Vaccination is a way of beating viruses. With this one, I prefer to be prudent. Also, we don't want to give people too much hope about a vaccine being available in December. We have to work with what we have right now. When the vaccine happens it will be very welcome, but we don't have one at present and we don't know what is going to happen in December. At the moment the best form of vaccine we have is prevention: social distancing, hand washing, masks and being very, very careful. When we have a safe and effective vaccine we will start to vaccinate. I really hope it will be in December. You can imagine what it is like for us as doctors, hoping for a vaccine against coronavirus. That is what we want, but the fact is that we don't have one at the moment.

–Apart from the vaccine, is it possible that there will be medication to cure Covid-19 one day?

–If you mean cure in the sense

of eradicating the virus, we don't have any such medication right now. Work is being done on it, but the process is very difficult because the pandemic has been so explosive. I don't doubt that the research will continue, but between a treatment and a vaccine, I hope the vaccine comes first.

–Is there a reason why some people catch SARS-CoV-2 and others don't?

–That has to do with the type of contact there is, and the viral load of the source of contagion. In other words, how much of the virus an individual who acts as the index case has, and the way the contagion occurred, if it was when talking, coughing or touching a surface contaminated with the virus. The state of your immune system at that time also has an influence, and how you feel physically. Whether you catch it or not is due to an accumulation of circumstances. What is the key, or what is the factor that makes the process go well or badly? We don't know. It happens with couples who sleep in the same bed. Why does one get it and the other one doesn't? There are things we just don't know. There must be a marker we haven't found yet. Let's hope we have enough time to find out and produce an effective vaccine which makes all this seem like a bad dream!



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A complex puzzle. With no infallible cure or clear cause, migraine affects nearly six million people in Spain

ROCÍO MENDOZA



When you are diagnosed with migraine, a neurological condition that is far more than a headache as it is so intense and complex, you find yourself in a cycle of uncertainty and impossible rules to follow.

You don't know when this crisis, which affects your work, family and personal life for hours (sometimes days) is going to occur. Yet at the same time you are also warned to make sure you get enough sleep (does everyone do that religiously every day?), not to miss meals (what if you have a problem at work and eat late?), go to bed and get up at the same time (no, you can't have a lie-in at weekends), avoid sudden changes to routines (what if you're going to travel?), limit certain foods (cheese and chocolate are the usual suspects), avoid loud noise (no more nights at the disco) and don't even think about having a glass of wine with friends unless you want to unleash the perfect storm.

And this storm, of course, doesn't always let you know it's going to happen, and when it does, not everyone is able to control it. Not with drugs or differ-

ent therapies. It is completely unpredictable.

Six million people in Spain are engaged in a battle with this illness, and around 80 per cent of them are women, mostly aged between 35 and 55. In other words, during the most active and fulfilling stage of their life.

Unknown and underestimated

Despite it being so common and the amount of research carried out, nobody has yet been able to come up with a treatment for migraine which is absolutely infallible and universal. At present treatments depend on the doctor's assessment of the patient and range from common analgesics to the latest-generation 'vaccines', which act on the pain mechanism and are only available in the most extreme cases.

Nor does migraine have a clear origin. Nobody knows exactly what sets it off. If they did, they could attack it at base. It is so common that the World Health Organisation classifies it as the sixth most incapacitating illness in the world. Despite this, some people still see it as a minor or passing problem, an excuse used by those who want to avoid their obligations.

September 12th was International Migraine Day, and during this week several information campaigns have also taken place to raise awareness of the condition.

The description of migraine



used at the start of this article is not subjective. It is supported by data from the principal associations and agents involved in studying it. Among all the studies, the latest survey by the Spanish Migraine and Headache Association (Aemice), stands out: it shows that stress is perceived as one of the main causes. Or to put it another way, 78 per cent of those who participated described it as such.

Specialists and therapies

If you suffer from migraines, it is important to see a neurologist who can evaluate your case and decide on the best treatment, but specialists have also begun to look at how tackling the psychological aspects may help.

The Spanish Neurology Society (SEN) says a scientific review was carried out into this some years ago and it came to this conclusion: "Relaxation and cognitive behavioural therapy for stress have proven useful. Therefore, they are techniques which should be considered for our patients." Now, they are taken into account whenever this factor could be a trigger.

"Stress can be a determining factor, but not in all patients," warn neurologists. However, if it is not known what triggers each migraine attack, learning how to control emotions and self-expression can be a useful way of dealing with it.

The latest therapies of this type consist of explaining the pain mechanism to the patient so they understand how it works and stop their body responding by using it as a defence mechanism. This is the so-called exposure therapy, which is applied in the case of phobias.

Psychology

Psychologist David Sojo uses it, and says that with work and over time it has helped many people who have found no relief with other types of treatment.

"Migraine is a warning signal, a type of alarm. It is a defence mechanism which is activated by the body, but in reality the threat as such doesn't exist, in the same way as with phobias," he explains.

The technique he applies consists of teaching the body "to respond differently to the start of a crisis". Instead of isolating oneself and ceasing all activity (which is often recommended for people when a migraine begins), it tries to 'normalise' the situation as much as possible until the body stops feeling threatened.

"You have to teach the body that its perceived threat doesn't actually exist," he says. He also says this therapy has helped 95 per cent of his patients.

Studies and statistics

Treatment

About 75% of migraine sufferers have to wait more than two years for a diagnosis, and 60% have still not found an effective treatment, according to the European Migraine and Headache Alliance and the Spanish Neurology Society (SEN), who say more than half of patients take unprescribed analgesics.

Fifty per cent abandon their treatments because of their length or side effects.

Medication

Treatments can vary, from anti-inflammatory drugs to serotonin regulators which stop pain signals being sent to the brain and

thereby prevent certain natural substances being released.

These are palliative, not preventive, and are very widely used.

There are also anti-epilepsy drugs to regulate the response of the nervous system and, finally, the 'vaccines' which work on the same pain mechanism.

They all aim to regulate the body's response, but not on the cause because this is unknown.

Other therapies

Neurologists have responded positively to the idea of psychological therapies to control stress, if that is considered a determining factor.

There are also techniques which are normally used to treat phobias and have sometimes been effective in relieving migraine.

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A cheese with cultural and gastronomic heritage

Traditional. Requesón is a delicate, light and nutritious dairy product that makes use of the whey in cheesemaking

ESPERANZA PELÁEZ



Requesón is used in sweet or savoury dishes. **D. MALDONADO**

It is thought that humans have been eating cheese since Neolithic times when, by accident or design, it was discovered that animal milk was capable of forming curds during fermentation which made it easier to preserve. During all cheesemaking processes, the solids separate from the liquid and group together. The liquid left, the whey, is rich in protein and low in fat and is the raw material from which requesón (the nearest translation is cottage cheese, although it is closer to ricotta) is made.

In Spain most of the whey from

cheesemaking is fed to livestock, but in other European countries, and in the US, it is made into a light cheese used for desserts.

In ancient times when anything with nutritional value was used, the whey was not discarded and cheese appears in Egyptian frescoes and in Homer's Odyssey (8th Century BC) it is described in detail.

Requesón is a small miracle of chemistry and physics but artisan dairies, the main producers of this type of cheese, have seen consumption drop. The regulations in Andalucía only allow cheese

makers who use milk from their own herds to make requesón.

The whey is filtered and then heated to between 80 and 85°C for 25 - 30 minutes, stirring continually so that the proteins clot and come to the surface without burning. Up to 10 per cent milk can be added to increase the yield, but, either way, the amount of requesón obtained is low, around three to five kilos for every 100 litres of whey.

The solids that rise to the surface are collected in a sieve and left to drain refrigerated at between 3 and 4°C.

Italian ricotta is made slightly differently; a small amount of whey from the previous day is added as the whey turns acidic when kept and this helps the proteins to solidify. In hot regions of Italy salt is added to the cheese to help preservation, and in some areas, such as Sicily, the ricotta is dry and hard. Spanish requesón is not salty and is therefore very perishable. The mató from Catalonia and



the Balearic Islands, the Algarve cheese, British cottage cheese and Hungarian túros are actually fresh unpressed cheeses and have the typically grainy appearance.

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Requesón is a small miracle of chemistry and physics but artisan dairies have seen consumption drop

The taste of artisanal requesón is also more milky whereas fresh cheeses have more intense and complex flavours.

Requesón is lower in fat than fresh cheese (17% per 100g as opposed to 22% in fresh cheese) and lower in protein (8.10% per 100g compared to 23%). It is lower in calories (190Kcal/100g compared to 294Kcal in fresh cheese) and has less lactose (from less than 1g up to 6g per 100g), which makes it easier to digest for people who have a mild intolerance to lactose.

In Andalucía the provinces which have the highest production of requesón are Malaga, Granada, Jaén and Almería where it is made with goats' milk.

Traditionally it is eaten as a dessert with fresh or dried fruit, honey, molasses or with a sprinkling of sugar. It is extremely versatile, ideal for cheesecakes, creams, ice creams or in cake mixes and can also be used in savoury dishes. It is a perfect substitute for ricotta in any Italian recipe.

In the province of Malaga there are at least six artisanal cheesemakers that continue to make requesón, although only by special order during the summer. It is a product that has huge cultural and gastronomic heritage as well as great nutritional value, and as such should not be allowed to disappear.

RECIPE 1

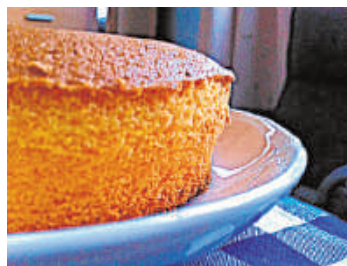
Requesón and lemon sponge

Ingredients

150g requesón, 100g extra virgin olive oil, 200g sugar, 220g flour, 3 large eggs, 1 sachet of baking powder, grated rind of 1 lemon, 50ml of Limoncello (optional).

Method

Heat the oven to 180°C and line a baking tin with greaseproof paper. Whisk the eggs and the sugar in a bowl until light and frothy. Add the requesón, the ol-



ive oil and the Limoncello if using. Mix gently then fold in the sifted flour, baking powder and lemon rind. Pour the mixture into the prepared tin, tilting from side to side so that the surface is level. Bake for 40 minutes or until a skewer inserted in the middle comes out clean.

RECIPE 2

Spinach and requesón pasty

Ingredients

For the dough: 125ml water, 125ml white wine, 125ml olive oil, flour, salt
Filling: 200g onion, 2 bunches fresh spinach, 350g requesón, 70g pine nuts, ground nutmeg, white pepper, salt.

Method

Heat the liquids together in a saucepan without boiling. Leave to cool and then add a pinch of salt and some flour, stirring continually. Add more flour until it forms a dough, then knead



until smooth and elastic. Leave to rest. Fry the finely chopped onion until soft and add the chopped spinach. Add the requesón and toasted pine nuts, and season with a pinch of nutmeg, salt and pepper. Roll out the dough to cover a baking sheet, place the filling on top. Seal edges with beaten egg and use to glaze the top. Bake in an oven preheated to 190°C for 45 minutes.

Spit or swallow?

ANDREW J. LINN



When we read about or watch videos of professional wine tastings, the most surprising thing is the sheer amount of wine the tasters get through. Professional critics and wine writers have always been capable of dealing with vast quantities, and Tim Atkin for example, previously Robert Parker's man in Spain, thinks nothing of tasting 300 wines over a two-day session - with the emphasis on tasting. He drinks not a drop, as if he did, he would not be physically or mentally capable of such stamina, but the discipline involved is not something with which every wine enthusiast is gifted.

When I started in the business, one of the hardest self-restraints at tastings was to learn to spit out good wine rather than swallow it. What a waste, I used to think, almost an insult to the poor wine-maker. There must be a better way. Even the very act of spitting in public makes most people uncomfortable, but in spite of consuming large quantities of water and unsalted biscuits between each wine sample, I finally decided

there wasn't. This was how it was done, and it was a simple choice of either spitting it out or becoming increasingly legless as the tasting proceeded.

These days we have boring online virtual tastings by Zoom, and the limited number of real tastings feature individual spittoons and one glass per taster, rinsed out with water at each fill-up. Like everything else that is happening in these strange and uncertain times, an unfamiliar situation that we must learn to live with.

WINE OF THE WEEK

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Davidovich, the highest ranked Malaga player ever

In a week in which he reached the highest ATP ranking of any local player in history (70th), the 21-year-old also qualified for his first Masters 1000 event

PEDRO LUIS ALONSO



MALAGA. Alejandro Davidovich is a force of nature. In what is the high point of his career so far, he rose to 70th in the latest ATP rankings published on Monday - the highest ever for a player from Malaga (the previous best was Emilio Álvarez who ranked 81st in June 1997).

Davidovich overtook Corentin

Moutet (69th) after beating him 6-1 6-2, in an hour and twenty minutes, to progress to the tournament proper in the Masters 1000 in Rome. Another milestone in his career.

After a month in New York where he reached the last 16 of the US Open, Davidovich has not suffered from jet lag or problems adapting to the clay. Despite the level of competition in the qualifying stage being the most difficult in living memory due to the level of the participants, Davidovich got past three top-100 players - all with better rankings at the time of play: Juan Ignacio Londero (62nd), Yuichi Sugita (88th) and Moutet (69th).

However, his opponent in the first round on Tuesday proved one obstacle too many. Sitting 24th in the rankings, Dušan Lajović wasn't in the best form coming into the game but showed his pedigree,

defeating Davidovich 6-4 6-4 in what was a closer match than many might have expected.

Davidovich was competitive and demonstrated that he is no longer overawed by more experienced professionals, fighting until the end in a match that lasted an hour and forty minutes.

This was the first time that Davidovich had qualified for a Masters 1000. He didn't get past the initial rounds in Cincinnati a few weeks ago (against Ričardas Berankis) nor in Madrid in 2018 (against Taylor Fritz). He did compete in the latter tournament in 2019 by invitation, however, but was eliminated in the first round by Richard Gasquet.

Now, the 21-year-old, resident in Fuengirola must prepare to take part in another Grand Slam, at Roland Garros, where he hopes he can continue his climb up the rankings.



The local star ultimately came unstuck in Rome against Dušan Lajovic on Tuesday. **SUR**



The international airport is a logistical advantage. **EFE**

Gibraltar, Unicaja's back-up home for Eurocup matches

All clubs playing in Europe face sanctions if they cannot provide an alternative venue should pandemic restrictions prevent the visiting team arriving

JUAN CALDERÓN

MALAGA. With the start of the domestic and European basketball seasons just around the corner, the upsurge in the pandemic in Europe, but especially Spain, is causing great uncertainty.

While the domestic ACB league is largely unaffected at present, in the case of European competition there are serious doubts. That said, the Euroleague is determined to start the season and last Thursday warned clubs that they face strong sanctions if they do not do everything possible to organise and play their matches.

Among the obligations for participating clubs in the Euroleague and the Eurocup (in which Malaga-based Unicaja will compete) is to find an alternative country and venue for games should travel restrictions stop

visiting teams from arriving. The host team would also have to foot the bill.

In the case of Unicaja they have found a close and feasible solution with an international airport: Gibraltar. Such an arrangement has already been sounded out; Gibraltar plays in minor FIBA competitions and has a court approved for international matches. The president of the Gibraltar Federation, John Goncalves, confirmed to Unicaja that they have the court at their disposal if needed throughout the season.

In the group phase of the Eurocup, Unicaja will be facing a team that comes from a country that has limited the transit of travellers to Spain, Buducnost of Montenegro. What's more, Ratiopharm ULM would, in theory, have to quarantine on their return to Germany, something that could be replaced by a coronavirus test.

In contrast, it would seem that Unicaja will have problems travelling to play Maccabi Rishon, as Israel has closed its borders and this week decreed a new lockdown of its population. For their part, the Israeli team has said that it would pull out of the competition altogether.

Miguel Ángel Jiménez racks up his tenth victory on the Champions Tour

The veteran golfer from Malaga led the tournament in South Dakota practically from start to finish

P. L. ALONSO

MALAGA. Churriana golfer Miguel Ángel Jiménez added yet another win on the Champions Tour on Sunday as he came out on top in the Sanford International at Minnehaha Country Club in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. This was his tenth victory on the tour since his debut in 2014.

Just weeks after making the

news for his 707th appearance on the European Tour, Jiménez dominated the tournament from start to finish. With 65 and 66 in his first two rounds, he was already in a comfortable position to push for victory.

His main rival was Steve Stricker, but with just one bogey on Sunday (and five in the whole



Jiménez poses with his trophy on Sunday. **RFEG**

Go-ahead given for return of federated athletes to action and spectators at sporting events

Teams sports will be limited to stable groups of 25 with details of participants all logged to facilitate infection tracking if necessary

P. L. A.

MALAGA. The return of a certain level of normality to the world of sport in the region moved one step closer this week with the Junta de Andalucía publishing an order from the Regional Ministry of Health and Families, allowing for the return of federated sport and for spectators to attend matches and competitions - both with certain restrictions put in place.

These new rules will allow more than 500,000 Andalusian federated sportsmen and women to return to training, take part in friendly matches and participate in competitions on an official basis. Depending on the sport, becoming federated can cost as little as three euros.

These measures are in addition to those previously announced, such as the requirement for antibody tests to be carried out before the start of competitions, in collaboration with the Andalusian sports federations, as well as respecting the general health and safety measures established by the health authorities (the use of masks and interpersonal distancing while not practising sport, good hand hygiene etc).

If the nature of the sport makes it unfeasible to maintain the established safety distance, the maximum number of participants must be limited to stable groups of no more than 25 for group sports and ten in other

tournament) and with three birdies and an eagle on the 12th, Jiménez was on course for victory. A Stricker bogey almost handed him the title on the 17th. Not even Flesch's 63 and Langer's 65 could prevent Jiménez winning again. On the 18th hole, with his usual calm, he made an almost perfect putt of about eight metres to seal victory.

Jiménez now has two victories on the Champions Tour in 2020. The first came in January at the Mitsubishi Electric Championship, where he beat two legends, Ernie Els and Fred Couples in a play-off.



Crowds were present at the recent handball Copa de la Reina final. EFE

disciplines. In addition, the details of participating athletes and trainers must be recorded to facilitate tracking in the case of a positive Covid-19 test.

Doors open to spectators

Another major element of the order issued by the Junta this week is the potential return of spectators. Provided that approval is given

by the Health authorities following a risk assessment and there is consensus with the federations, spectators will be allowed to return as long as they have an assigned seat. Outdoor venues can now fill to 65 per cent of their capacity (up to 800 spectators), while for indoor pavilions or arenas, 65 per cent of seats can be filled, up to a total of 500 people.



Leyva on the podium at the Spanish Championships in Madrid. RFEA

Nerja athlete becomes surprise Spanish pole vault champion

Isidro Leyva broke the Andalusian record as he claimed gold while long-distance runner Ouassim Oumaiz had to settle for silver

MARINA RIVAS

MALAGA. The Spanish Athletics Championships threw up two surprises for Nerja-based athletes Isidro Leyva and Ouassim Oumaiz.

In the case of the former, it was a nice surprise as the pole vaulter claimed gold for the first time at senior level. What's more, the 21-year-old beat his personal best by five centimetres and set a new Andalusian record with a leap of 5.46 metres. This score positions Leyva in eighth place overall in the European under-23s.

As for long-distance runner Oumaiz, who came into the tour-



Oumaiz came second. RFEA

namment on the back of setting the best time of any Spanish athlete so far this year in the 5,000 metres, a silver came as a slight disappointment, with a time of 13:48.08 (his personal best is 13:13.14) leaving him just behind Abdessamad Oukhelfen (13:47.26).

Further success came for Nerja with the Cueva de Nerja-UMA team claimed bronze in the relay.

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Malaga crash to defeat in their most unusual start to a new season

Only four familiar faces started Sunday's clash in Tenerife and it showed on the pitch as Pellicer's side lacked fluidity

DARYL FINCH



Malaga's most atypical start to the season had a certain familiarity about it as Sergio Pellicer's side fell to an unconvincing 2-0 defeat in Tenerife on Sunday night.

Fans didn't quite know what to expect when the teamsheets dropped barely ten minutes before kick-off. Only Tete Morente, Mohamed Benkhemassa and youth defenders Juande and Ismael Casas remained from last season and new signings Dani Barrio, Alberto Escassi, Iván Calero, Yanis Rahmani, Cristian Rodríguez and Caye Quintana were all given starts for the side's trip to the Canaries.

To say the players are still strangers to one another is no understatement and it looked the case on the field as the visitors struggled to find any fluency in attack with their deep-lying back



Debutant forward Caye Quintana falls to the ground in a congested penalty area. **AGENCIA LOF**

five seemingly kilometres away from their new-look front three.

Rahmani, who was unable to use his pace to much effect, had Malaga's best chance in the first half, swinging his leg at a cut back to the far post but unable

to adjust his body quick enough to wrap his foot around it.

Tenerife, by contrast, knew that they had to be patient to find openings in Malaga's deep block and one finally came just before half time when Javier Alonso's expert flick with his back to goal left Suso Santana, with Calero playing him onside, clean through and with the simple task of volleying past Dani Barrio.

Malaga could consider themselves hard done by in this in-

stance, but poor defending just ten minutes after the restart allowed the hosts to double their lead. A succession of errors eventually saw Jacobo González played through on the inside right, sneaking in behind the inexperienced Alejandro Benítez before finishing in the one-on-one.

This proved to be Benítez's last involvement. He was hooked in favour of another debutant, Orlando Sá, with the Blue and Whites, donning purple and green, going much more direct

2-0

TENERIFE-MALAGA

Tenerife: Ortolá; Moore, Bruno Wilson, Sipic, Álex Muñoz; Suso Santana (Jacobo, 50'), Aitor Sanz, Javi Alonso (Zarfino, 65'), Pomares (Alberto, 83'); Bermejo (Jorge, 83'), Manu Apeh (Joselu, 65'). Unused substitutes: Dani Hernández, Jaiteh, Borja, Ale Cruz, Shashoua, Elliot.

Malaga: Dani Barrio; Ismael, Escassi, Juande; Calero, Benkhemassa, Cristian (Larrubia, 84'), Benítez (Orlando Sá, 57'); Rahmani (Issa, 71'), Caye Quintana, Tete. Unused substitutes: González, Luis Hernández, Eu, Rolón, Quintana, Mini, Boulahroud, Ramón, Julio.

Goals: 1-0: Suso Santana (42'), 2-0 Jacobo (56').

Referee: Prieto Iglesias. Yellow cards for Tete, Escassi, Rahmani, Javi Alonso and Pomares.

Ground: Heliodoro Rodríguez López.

in a 4-4-2 in the search of a goal.

The best chance came from a Rahmani set piece but Juande was unable to hook his volley inside the near post.

Pellicer, visibly irritated in his post-match press conference, said that he was disappointed with his team's defensive lapses because "they came from scenarios that we spoke about".

"We want to compete in the best way possible," he told the press. "We're all trying very hard," he said, but admitted that with only 12 professionals available to him, it was always going to be difficult.

"We hope that by the time we play Castellón that this can be all sorted."

Malaga travel to Castalia to take on the newly promoted side on Saturday (kick off 6.15pm), instead of on Friday as was initially scheduled.

The last-minute change comes as result of in-fighting between La Liga and the Spanish Football Federation.

Ismael, Malaga's youngest ever captain

The full-back looks likely to keep a hold of the armband for at least the next few games despite not having turned 20 yet

P. L. A.

MALAGA. Perhaps the biggest surprise from Sergio Pellicer's line-up on Sunday was the emergence from the tunnel of full-back Ismael Casas with the captain's armband.

At just 19 years, six months and seven days, Ismael is Malaga's youngest ever captain. In fact, no one below 20 has ever



Ismael with the armband during preseason. **MALAGACF.COM**

worn the armband for the club in either Primera or Segunda.

The previous record holder was forward Juanmi who on 3 January 2015 was briefly handed the armband at 21 years, seven months and 14 days in the absence of Weligton, Ignacio Camacho (who incidentally announced his retirement because of injury this week at the age of 30), Duda and Roque Santa Cruz on the day.

With Malaga's most experienced players currently all on the exit ramp, it is likely that Ismael will retain the captaincy for at least another three games, pending new arrivals.

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Jozabed has signed on a season-long loan from Celta Vigo. MALAGACF.COM

Jozabed and Matos join as Tete Morente and Cifu make Primera move

Malaga have moved to strengthen two problem positions in the same week that Elche completed moves for two first-team regulars

P. L. A.

MALAGA. Tete Morente, the final remaining regular first team player in the Malaga squad, has packed his bags and is heading to newly promoted Elche after the Primera side paid his modest 200,000-euro release clause on Wednesday.

The winger, who had signed from Lugo in January on the minimum wage for Segunda (40,000 euros for the remainder of the year), remained on that salary when he extended his contract in the summer for a further year. His discontent, however, at remaining on this salary despite being one of the side's top performers then led to him seeking a move elsewhere.

His spot in the squad was immediately filled with the arrival of Jozabed on loan from Celta Vigo. The attacking midfielder, with vast experience in Primera (113 matches) and Segunda (51), is by far Malaga's most high-profile arrival this summer.

The 29-year-old joins on a sea-

son-long loan after having extended his contract with Celta until 2022. Last season he played for Girona, also on a loan deal.

Earlier on the same day, Malaga confirmed what was, at that time, their eighth summer recruit: left-back José Matos who joins on loan from Cadiz.

Despite being just 25, Matos, who came through the Sevilla academy, has already played 85 games in Segunda, mainly for Sevilla's B team. He also featured once for the first team in Primera.

Last season he joined Dutch side Twente on loan from Cadiz, who he joined in 2018 on a free, but a serious knee injury ruled him out for the season after starting the first two games of the campaign.

Matos, as the only recognised left-back in the squad, could go straight into the team for the game against Castellón. Against Tenerife, youth players Alejandro Benítez and Ismael Casas both covered the position despite usually playing on the right.

The pair will now have more opportunities to play there as Cifu looks to be follow Tete out the door, also to Elche, pending confirmation. The long-serving wing-back was included in the club's ERE mass redundancy plan.



A LOOK AT LA LIGA
ROB PALMER
Commentator, Sky Sports

A sign of the times

This summer's talk has been mostly about who the big guns can offload rather than who they can bring in



Remember when transfer market headlines were all about who would sign the most desired player on the planet?

If this was a decade ago, we'd be discussing whether Kylian Mbappé would hit the ground running or if Neymar would fit in again at Barcelona.

Instead we have Spain's leading two clubs having a fire sale. Gareth Bale finally appears to have broken out from the escape room, Luis Suárez is filling in Italian passport forms and James Rodríguez is house hunting on Merseyside. The priority hasn't been recruitment, but getting rid.

It's been a recurring nightmare for Bale since he packed his suitcases for China a year ago, only to be told he wasn't going anywhere. Finally, seven years after leaving Tottenham for a world-record fee, he's heading back as an accomplished player with a sack full of medals, a bristling bank account, an improved golf handicap and hopefully a desire to get back to business.

Spurs chairman Daniel Levy is renowned for being an astute dealmaker and he seems to have pulled off quite a coup by getting Real Madrid to pay a fair percentage of the Welsh star's wages. Nobody loses out here. The English club will get a true talent in his peak years, without having to commit to going beyond that; the Spanish club rid themselves of a problem, although they have to take a financial hit.



José Mourinho could finally be getting his man. REUTERS

Bale gets a chance to show that he still has a desire for the profession, and it was indeed Zinedine Zidane's judgement that was wrong.

He's not alone in being a surplus superstar. In the summer of 2013 when the bank was broken for Bale, Luis Suárez was getting all sulky at Anfield. Liverpool appeased him, but a year later he was heading to Barcelona.

Now Suárez is resigned to applying for an Italian passport via his wife's qualification to entice Juventus to sign him. He'd only get the move to Italy if he was a non-EU player. It has been a cruel summer for the rich and famous.

James Rodríguez became the forgotten man at Real Madrid, yet he's been heralded as a messiah by the excitable Everton fans. They remember

the player who lit up the 2014 World Cup and justified the fourth most expensive fee in the world. He made a favourable first impression, although I fear he may go the way of Alexis Sánchez and Mesut Özil, who left the Spanish giants for the Premier League. Another two who fell from grace and are seeking new opportunities.

It's a sign of the times. Clubs are now concentrating their minds on who they can rid themselves of rather than who they can sign.

Real Madrid haven't made a signing. Barcelona must fill an enormous financial hole before they can even consider bringing in a new name to emblaze across the back of the newly designed shirts.

Long gone are the days of the Galácticos.

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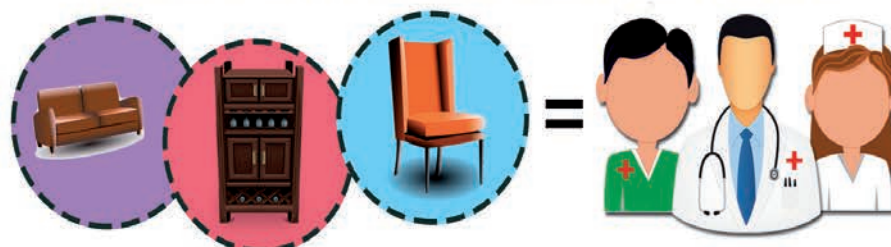
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Pisces
February 20th - March 20th
Investing in your health now can avoid future problems. Don't ignore those gut feelings. Happier times ahead rely on your acting now.



Aries
March 21st - April 20th
There is a lighter feel at the moment mainly due to some long-awaited news. Part of you wants to go rushing ahead but recent events have made hesitation a habit.



Taurus
April 21st - May 21st
Movements on the work front may change and become confusing. However, keep an eye open for a new and more interesting way forward.



Gemini
May 22nd - June 21st
Bringing people together at work shows the way to a new social activity. Try to keep one goal in mind rather than try to do everything at once.



Cancer
June 22nd - July 23rd
A better understanding of the needs of family and friends seems to iron out any recent ruffles of disagreement. Look again at developing the ability to really listen.



Leo
July 24th - August 23rd
Someone new in your life triggers a yearning to travel. Staying flexible and not taking on the worries of others frees your mind to see things clearly.



Virgo
August 24th - September 23rd
Being at the heart of something new workwise really taxes you physically and mentally. Instead of tedious challenges this can bring excitement and a sense of moving ahead.



Libra
September 24th - October 23rd
Although it has been necessary to keep a somewhat low profile of late, you seem now to be coming out of the shadows.



Scorpio
October 24th - November 22nd
Boredom makes any day longer and less productive. Jumping out of that rut may take a few leaps of faith, but what have you to lose? Inside you there is an energy waiting to be released.

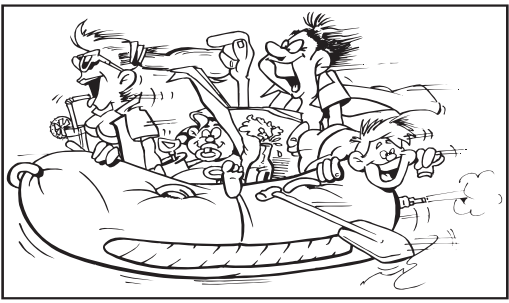
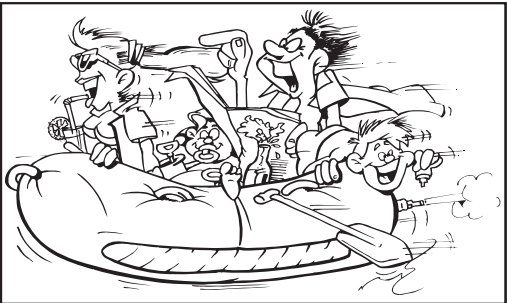


Sagittarius
November 23rd - December 21st
Be ready for the chance to make a change. Keeping your eyes and ears open puts you in the right place at the right time. Everyone is looking for an attitude of optimism and enthusiasm.

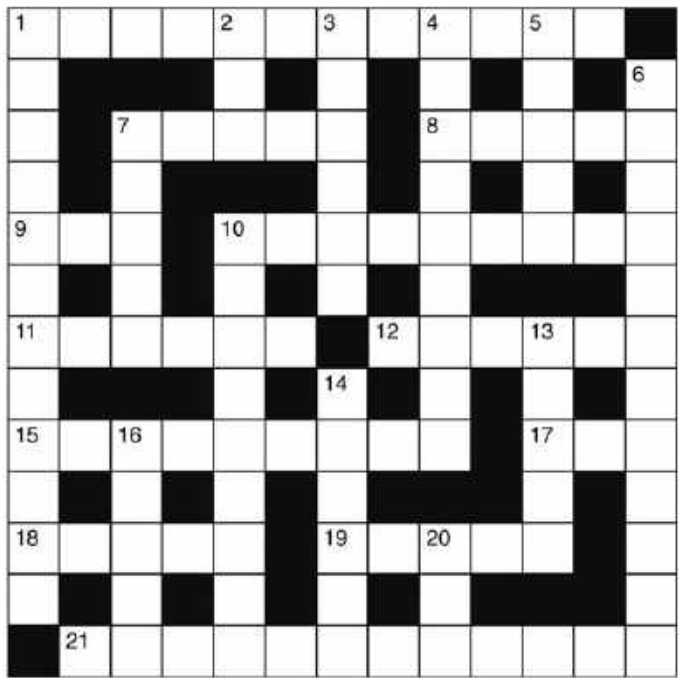


Capricorn
December 22nd - January 20th
Try new things and make some fresh social contacts, even if it is only online. The future needs planning for, or others may be one step ahead of you business-wise.

THE SEVEN DIFFERENCES



CRYPTIC CROSSWORD N° 11427



Across

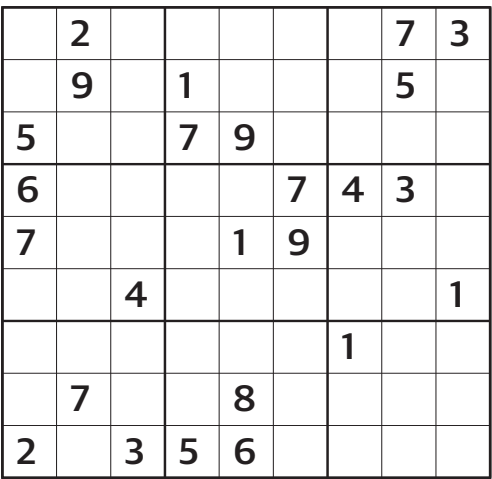
- 1 Not how secret drinkers show concern for fellow citizens? (6,6)
- 7 Clergyman is able to get no backing (5)
- 8 Drunkard makes use of finest energy centre (5)
- 9 Sporting equipment among mountaineer's kit (3)
- 10 Heathen US prepare to use the sword (9)
- 11 Who can produce the missing corpse? (6)
- 12 Leave on one leg? (3,3)
- 15 Rake draft out at dead of night (5,4)
- 17 River from which undergraduates may learn (3)
- 18 Closely follow graduate in doctrinal system (5)
- 19 Put off being freed unfortunately (5)
- 21 Craft makes a comeback in official business accounts (5,7)

Down

- 1 Reporters in hospital advance regardless? (5,7)
- 2 Scot produces one article (3)
- 3 The least crazy because returned to cosy home (6)
- 4 Location of ship being tried? (2,3,4)
- 5 Computer fodder as it were (5)
- 6 They make for successful gardening despite their inexperienced touch (5,7)
- 7 100 using leg or arm to go higher (5)
- 10 Crafty inferior workman (9)
- 13 Instruct to sort out the confusion (5)
- 14 Climbing-frame used by learner to reach snake (6)
- 16 Ruthless adversary of German leader in row (5)
- 20 Well adapted to mood (3)

SUDOKU BY HANZO

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



THE WORDPUZZLER

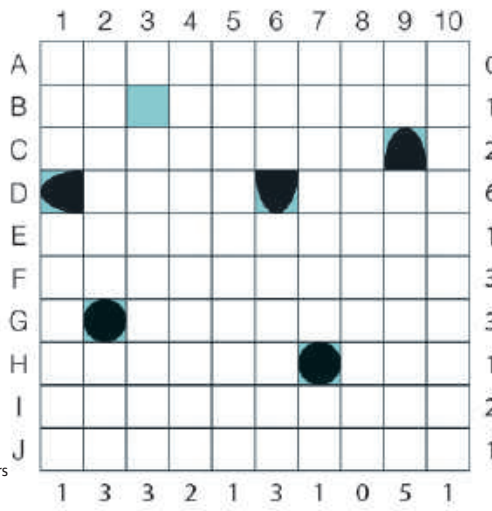
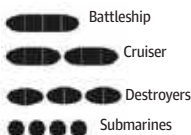


Can you identify the first names of the Carry On regulars listed below?

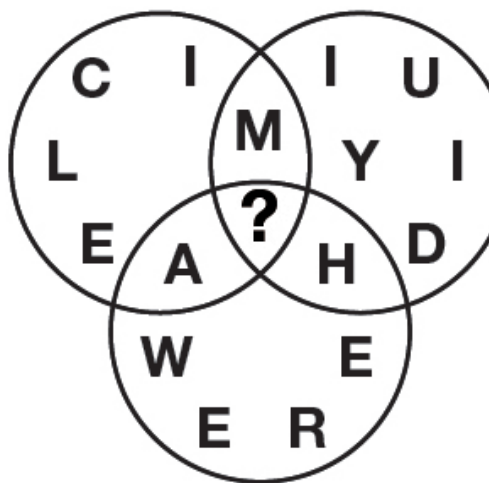
- 1. Hawtrey
- 2. Dale
- 3. Williams
- 4. Douglas
- 5. Jacques
- 6. Fraser
- 7. Butterworth
- 8. Windsor
- 9. Sims
- 10. James

BATTLESHIPS

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



CIRCLEGRAM



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

LANGUAGE CROSSWORD FILL IN THE SPANISH WORD

Across

1) Prosperity (11)

6) Commander (10)

11) She occupies (5)

12) Click (4)

13) Island (4)

14) Emperor (9)

16) Orphans (9)

18) Gum (5)

20) I believed (4)

21) Cardiologist (m) (10)

26) Philanthropic (m) (12)

27) Successor (7)

30) They record (6)

31) Broom (6)

33) I was going (3)

34) Dwarf (m) (5)

35) He sleeps (6)

37) Brooch (6)

39) To see (3)

40) Nighttime (8)

41) You (2)

42) I read (3)

43) Senator (7)

45) I'll close (7)

47) Ace (2)

48) Thirsty (f) (8)

49) Nor (2)

50) Birth (10)

51) Documented (m) (11)

Down

1) Political (m.pl) (9)

2) To hide (7)

3) I plug in (7)

4) Empire (7)

5) Dozen (6)

7) Eleven (4)

8) Ninth (f) (6)

9) Dawn (4)

10) Army (8)

15) Demolition (7)

17) I know (2)

19) Continents (11)

22) Feature film (12)

23) To win (5)

24) Welfare (9)

25) Construction (12)

28) They square (7)

29) Solitude (7)

32) Assassination (9)

33) Invasion (8)

36) Modern (m) (7)

38) Colony (7)

44) Here (4)

46) Something (4)

ANSWERS

Quiz answers
to the support that Ned gave to younger learners of the language. revival after his death, partly thanks to the support that Ned gave to Manx language has undergone a speaker of the Manx language. The death, was the last surviving native of Man who, at the time of his 1974) was a fisherman from the Isle Maddrell (1877/8 - 27 December
Of interest: Edward "Ned" Answer: Manx several languages. who has mastered and can speak 'polyglottos', meaning 'many-tongued', a polyglot is someone 'polyglottos' meaning 'many-tongued'. From the Greek word Answer: Polyglot

Language Crossword

ACROSS:

1. PROSPERIDAD 6.COMANDANTE 11.OCUPA 16.HEREDEROS 18.ENCIA 20.EL 21. CARDIOLOGO 26. FILANTRÓPICO 27. SUCESOR 30. GRABAN 31. ESCOBA 33. ISLA 34. ENFERMO 35. DUEÑOS 37. BROCHE 39. VER 40. CUBRIR 41. TUBO 42. LE 43. SENADOR 45. CERRAR 47. AS 48. ENTA 49. NI 50. ACUMENTO 51. OCUPADO

DOWN:

1. POLÍTICOS 2. OCULTAR 3. ENCHUFO 4. EMPERAR 5. DOZENA 7. ONCE 8. NOVENA 9. ALBA 10. HERCTO 15. DERIBO 17. SE 19. CONTINENTES 21. ARCONETRAJE 22. GANAR 23. BENESTAR 25. CONSTRUCCION 26. QUADRIAN 29. SOLEDA 32. ASINATO 33. AVAN 34. MODERNO 38. COLONIA 44. AGUI 46. ALGO

Cryptic Crossword

Solutions: Across: 1 Public spirit; 7 Canon; 8 Taper; 9 Skt; 10 Unheated; 11 Nobody; 12 Hop off; 13 After dark; 17 Don; 18 Dogma; 19 Defeat; 21 Trade returns. Down: 1 Press onwards; 2 Jan; 3 Sane; 4 In the dock; 5 Input; 6 Green fingers; 7 Climb; 10 Underhand; 13 Order; 14 Ladder; 16 Tiger; 20 Fit.

Wordpuzzler solution

1. Charles

2. Jim

3. Kenneth

4. Jack

5. Hattie

6. Liz

7. Peter

8. Barbara

9. Joan

10. Sid

Sudoku solution

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

Circlegram

The letter represented by the question mark is T. Climate, humidity, weather, all meteorological terms.

Battleships

WHERE IS THIS?

A mountain village

Last week: Montefrío

Most towns in Spain have a Plaza de España and Montefrío in Granada is no different. This a view from the plaza towards the castle perched on a rocky pinnacle overlooking the town.

CORONAVIRUS ADVICE

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

APP Salud Responde: take the Coronavirus symptoms test

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

Coronavirus information

955 545 060



Four-year-old Carlota, in a photo taken by her parents at the Hospital Materno Infantil and shared on social media. **SUR**

A lifeline for little Carlota, who is fighting to keep her hands and feet

The four-year-old has sepsis and is due to travel to Valencia to be operated on by prestigious doctor Pedro Cavadas after Vélez-Málaga town hall agreed to pay for her treatment

EUGENIO CABEZAS



VÉLEZ-MÁLAGA. Jairo García, 29, and Marina Lara, 23, are the parents of Carlota, a four-year-old girl from Vélez-Málaga who spent her birthday in August in Malaga's Hospital Materno after contract-

ing septicaemia from a streptococcus bacteria.

The nightmare started on 4 August when Carlota started to experience bad gastroenteritis and a high temperature. Her parents took her to their local doctor, who sent them to the Axarquía hospital in Torre del Mar. From there Carlota was sent to the Materno hospital in Malaga, after being diagnosed with a blood infection.

Jairo says that the care and attention the family is receiving from the Materno hospital is "fantastic". He adds that they haven't left Carlota's side in the hospital's intensive care unit in the 40 days she has been there and have "hardly slept".

Doctors at the children's hospital have said that she will have to have both feet and hands amputated because of the damage

caused by microthrombus.

Carlota's case is identical to that of Sarah Almagro, the teenager from Marbella who lost her hands and feet in 2018. However, despite the operation being pencilled in for 4 September, Carlota's parents decided to seek a second opinion for their daughter.

World-renowned doctor

Jairo and Marina contacted the renowned Dr Pedro Cavadas, who is based in Valencia. In a medical report he told the family that it would be possible for Carlota to keep her four limbs.

"Here they tell us that they need to amputate her right arm and left leg completely, the right foot up to the heel and the fingers of her left hand. Dr Cavadas has explained that she could keep more limbs," said Jairo, who has

a temporary contract at Vélez-Málaga town hall. "We know it's risky, but we want to try it."

However, having this operation carried out privately is costly: "We don't even know how much the operation in Valencia would cost, but just transporting her there would cost 6,000 euros. The stay in hospital would cost 200 euros per day while she is on the ward and in intensive care it would be 600 euros," he added.

Carlota's parents sent out an appeal earlier this week, creating a Facebook page (Ayuda para Carlota) to raise funds to help fund the operation that would avoid the total loss of her hands and feet.

"We are a humble family and the operation needs to take place in a private hospital with extremely high costs involved,

"This will be a very long process and will come at a cost that we cannot even imagine," the family wrote on the Facebook fundraising page

which, as much as we want to, makes it impossible for us to cover the costs."

Less than 24 hours after the family started the page they were inundated with support, not just from Malaga, but from across Spain and other countries. By the next day, the family had raised enough money to pay for Carlota to be transferred from Malaga's Materno Infantil hospital by ambulance to Valencia.

However, with any delay potentially life-threatening as the necrosis could advance towards her open wounds, which could become infected, Vélez-Málaga town hall stepped in on Wednesday and agreed to provide all necessary financial support.

All four political groups represented on the council gave a press conference to offer their "total solidarity and support for the child's family at this difficult time; showing consensus to put at their disposal whatever they might need from the town hall, material or financial resources".

PP spokesperson, Francisco Delgado Bonilla, said that in this type of case, "Citizens can't be insensitive or indifferent and we all need to help out. And when I say everybody, I mean everybody, from neighbours to the town hall, of course."

A long journey ahead

Carlota's family have taken to Facebook to thank everyone for the widespread support they have received so far.

Carlota is due to head to Valencia today but the family know that this is just the beginning: "The account we set up is still active. This will be a very long process and will come at a cost that we cannot even imagine."

DISCOVER

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