



Warning of days of 'ups and downs' in new Covid-19 cases as numbers in hospital peak

This week Malaga province saw the most people in intensive care with the virus since the start of the pandemic

Experts have been telling the Junta de Andalucía to expect more peaks and troughs in the daily numbers of new infections in the region with no sure sign yet that the third wave

has been beaten.

While the 14-day case rate per 100,000 has declined both in Malaga province and the whole region in the last few days, on

Thursday the number of new cases spiked up again.

Nationally, the number of officially recorded Covid-19 deaths passed 60,000 this week. **P2-3**



Suzette Moncrief during a performance in La Carihuela.
SALVADOR SALAS

Cancer and Covid: a lethal combination

A double pandemic. The health crisis is delaying diagnosis and treatment of other diseases, and some patients are scared to seek help **P27**

Cudeca's fundraiser succeeds in aim to provide a home care team for a year **P12**

Testing centre to open in at Malaga Airport for departing passengers **P11**

The street is the new stage for Suzette

The singer from New York, a regular for many years on the Costa del Sol music scene, is bringing her own brand of R'n'B and soul to the general public in Torremolinos, where she has received her street performer licence after her shows fell victim to the pandemic. **P2**

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Rollercoaster week for new Covid-19 infections in Andalucía as Junta continues to urge caution

Third-wave new coronavirus cases dropped off then rose again, and in Malaga province there were more in intensive care than at any time of the pandemic

SUR

MALAGA. Despite some reassuring signs earlier this week that the third wave of Covid-19 infections was peaking in Andalucía, on Thursday (4 February) the number of new cases reported in the previous 24 hours rose again, to the highest figure of the week: 6,733 positive test results, compared to 4,999 the previous day.

The Andalusian president said on social media that the region needed to be cautious. Juanma Moreno wrote, "The experts are telling us that we could go into a period of peaks and troughs with the case rate going up and down over the coming days... We have to be fully on our guard still. We will be over the top of the third wave when the contagions fall for a sustained period."

On Sunday, new daily Andalusian cases had reached 7,862

but then dropped back to 4,286 on Monday, 3,795 on Tuesday, before climbing again.

The contrasting ups and downs of different data related to Covid-19 in the region reinforced Moreno's view that the current position of the pandemic was still not clear.

On Thursday, as new cases rose again, the region recorded 70 deaths, lower than both Wednesday's 88 and Tuesday's 106 - the highest of the pandemic so far in Andalucía.

More curbs in Malaga

The city of Malaga saw non-essential business and bars and restaurants shut on Wednesday this week having gone over 1,000 cases per 100,000 in the last fortnight last Monday, the day of the last review.

Overall this key case-rate measure used by the authorities in Andalucía had dropped by Thursday however.

The region had a case rate of 882.9 per 100,000 over the previous 14 days, down from 924 per 100,000 on Tuesday.

In Malaga province specifically, including the Costa del Sol, the incidence rate on Thursday was 928.20 per 100,000 in the previous 14 days. This was down from a peak of 1,007 on

RESTRICTIONS IN ANDALUCÍA

Movement

Regions: Andalusian border closed.

Provinces: No movement between Andalusian provinces.

Municipal: Border closures in towns where the 14-day case rates is more than 500 per 100,000 inhabitants. This currently affects the vast majority of towns in Malaga province.

Non-essential business hours

Until 6pm: In areas with a 14-day rate of less than 1,000 per 100,000 inhabitants, bars, restaurants and non-essential shops must close at 6pm. This currently affects these larger Malaga province municipalities (among others); **Antequera,**



Archidona, Benalmádena, Campillos, Casares, Cártama, Fuengirola, Mijas, Rincón de la Victoria, Riogordo, Torremolinos, Torrox, Viñuela.

Closed: In areas with a rate of more than 1,000, bars, restaurants and non-essential services cannot open at all. This currently affects (among others); **Malaga city, Marbella, Alhaurín de la Torre, Alhaurín el Grande, Álora, Coín, Estepona, Manilva, Mollina, Ronda, Teba and Vélez-Málaga.**

Night curfew

10pm to 6am: Throughout Andalucía.



Socialising

Maximum of 4 people: Indoors and out.



In Malaga province, including the Costa, the incidence rate on Thursday was 928.20, down from 1,007 on Monday

In the Andalucía region's hospitals overall, there were 4,867 being treated for Covid-19 on Thursday

Monday 1 February but still almost double the rate from the start of this year.

Worst intensive care data yet

Data for Malaga province also seemed to show the tide was turning on the numbers of those being treated in hospital, with 964 people inside with Covid-19 on Thursday, down from 974 a day earlier.

The peak of the pandemic for hospitalisations had been reached on Tuesday in Malaga province, with 1,010 being treated in hospital.

However the number in intensive care in the province rose by eight on Thursday to 122, its highest level of all the pandemic so far.

Some 36 per cent of Malaga province hospital beds were occupied by Covid-19 patients, the statistics said.

In the Andalucía region's hospitals overall, there were 4,867 in hospital this Thursday.

Echoing the regional president's words, the vice president for Andalucía and also the regional minister for Tourism, Juan Marín, said that he "would love" the tourism sector to "take off" over Easter, by allowing movement between Spain's regions again, but warned that the

Minister confirms 6.8 million new doses to arrive by spring

The quantity of vaccines promised means 120,000 daily vaccinations, well short of the target rate to inoculate 70% people in Spain by September

M. SÁIZ-PARDO / Á. SOTO

MADRID. The new national Minister of Health, Carolina Darias, told regional health ministers on Wednesday that Spain already has a firm commitment from Pfizer, Moderna and AstraZeneca that 6,797,185 doses will arrive in the country by spring.

The announcement came amid the regions' concerns that their health services were receiving nowhere near enough vaccines to reach targets.

Darias said that Pfizer / BioNTech, after logistic problems in January, had committed to deliver almost 1.8m doses in February and then, in March, to increase the supply to 2.7m. Moderna, for

its part, plans to deliver 412,000 doses to Spain this month.

Meanwhile, AstraZeneca, after its quarrel with the EU over delivery deadlines, will finally provide Spain with at least just over 1.8m doses before spring.

With this supply, Spain will be able to guarantee a rate of just over 120,000 daily vaccinations for the next two months.

However this is still well short of the quarter of a million needed to achieve the September herd immunity target, with 70 per cent of the country's population (33 million people) immunised with the two doses.

The Ministry of Health had been expected to announce its likely decision not to vaccinate those over 65 years of age with the AstraZeneca formula, but it finally postponed this announcement for "technical reasons". However, Darias confirmed that those over 80 years will only receive the approved Pfizer and Moderna vaccines so far.

More than 220,000 100-euro face mask fines issued in Malaga province

The Junta de Andalucía admits that, at the moment, fewer than 40,000 have been processed since August

IVÁN GELIBTER

MALAGA. The province of Malaga

has recorded at least 220,000 police reports from June to December for people not wearing a face mask - or not wearing it properly - breaking the order of 14 July in which the use of masks was made mandatory with a penalty of 100 euros.

So far, however, barely 17 per cent of fines have been proc-

essed by the Junta de Andalucía and very few of those have actually been collected.

Although, at the moment, there is no central registry, SUR has obtained data from most of the municipalities with more than 20,000 inhabitants.

But, to the 220,000 figure, you need to add the fines imposed in medium and small towns and those issued by the National Police and the Guardia Civil, so the number could be much higher.

Of all the municipalities that have provided data, Malaga city is the one that has registered the most fines. The Local Police have confirmed that 205,353 fines were issued in the six-month period.

In other larger municipalities on the coast, Fuengirola issued about 5,000, Mijas only imposed 1,250 and Marbella 1,980.

Estepona issued 380 fines in just over six months while in Torremolinos the number was 2,600 and Benalmádena 4,800.

In Vélez-Málaga it was slightly below 1,400. Nerja and Antequera did not provide figures.



There is no central database on number of mask fines so far. **ÑITO SALAS**

Non-essential shops close in Malaga city as case rate briefly nudges over 1,000

priority was to be “prudent” about the evolution of the pandemic.

The national picture

Spain exceeded 60,000 official deaths from coronavirus this Wednesday (3 February) after registering 565 new fatalities.

Since the start of the pandemic, 60,370 people had died with Covid-19, according to data from the Ministry of Health, which only counts the number who have tested positive. According to other official organisations, the death toll is above 80,000.

The accumulated incidence rate in Spain had decreased again, the government said, and stood at 815 cases per 100,000 inhabitants in 14 days across the country, 31 points less than the previous day.

① Visit www.surinenglish.com for daily updates on Covid-19 figures and restrictions in force, including a handy interactive map.

SUR

MALAGA. “We feel really sorry for the bars, they are paying the price for everything,” said Gloria and Isabel, two friends out buying essentials in Malaga on Wednesday on the first day of the city’s stricter lockdown.

The some 570,000 people in the city of Malaga were forced to see bars, restaurants and non-essential shops close once again, joining many other places in the province, after the 14-day case rate per 100,000 exceeded 1,000 in the twice weekly review last Monday.

The city had escaped the extra measures last week, as its case rate had crept in just under 1,000 and, ironically, by the time the measures came into force on Wednesday, the rate was below 1,000 once again. But this wasn’t enough to convince the regional government to review restrictions before 17 February.

The mayor of Malaga, Francisco de la Torre, had asked the



A delivery person passes Café Central in Malaga’s Plaza de la Constitución on Wednesday. SALVADOR SALAS

region to lift the rules early if rates stayed for five or six days below 1,000, but the Junta said it was “sensible to wait 14 days”.

Some city bars placed a table

at their doorways to serve takeaway breakfasts and lunches.

Owner of the iconic Café Central in the Plaza de la Constitución, Rafael Prados, admitted

that he had no choice.

“The big difference to the previous closure is that business owners are at the limit and have to try out everything,” he said.

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About 98% of population growth in the province in the past ten years has been on the Costa del Sol

68 of the 103 municipalities in Malaga have lost population, and practically all of the new residents are in the 14 towns and villages along the coast

NURIA TRIGUERO



MALAGA. The province of Malaga has gained more than 76,000 inhabitants in the past decade and the National Institute of Statistics predicts that there will be another 128,000 in the next 15 years. The demographic vitality of Malaga is enviable, not only in comparison with regions in the north with evident population decline, but also with other provinces in Andalucía. However, this does not mean that Malaga doesn't have problems of its own to resolve. The imbalance between a coast which is becoming very populated and rural areas which are losing inhabitants is a very important challenge.

About 98 per cent of the 76,000 inhabitants gained by the province between 2010 and 2020 are in one of the 14 coastal municipalities. The strong population growth in the past ten years is almost exclusively concentrated there.

Those who have gained the most new residents are Marbella, Fuengirola, Malaga city, Mijas and Rincón de la Victoria, in that order, and the trend is accelerating: in the past year alone Marbella has gained over 4,200 inhabitants; Malaga city 3,800; Mijas over 2,600 and Fuengirola 2,500.

The main reason for this is the number of foreigners who have registered at their town halls. This is something that has intensified in the past two years due to Brexit, because thousands of British citizens with houses in Marbella, Mijas and Fuengirola decided to apply for official residency because they were concerned about how their situation would be affected when Britain left the EU.

Meanwhile, the picture in most rural towns and villages is very different. Of the 103 municipalities in Malaga province, 68 (two-thirds of the total) have lost in-

habitants in the past decade. Those which are most affected are Antequera (-3,916) and Ronda (-3,179), although it is important to note that some of their outlying areas have become municipalities in their own right: in the case of Antequera, Villanueva de la Concepción, which has a registered population of 3,288, and in the case of Ronda, Serrato and Montecorto, with 586 and 482 inhabitants respectively.

Archidona and Nerja are the next municipalities showing the greatest drop in population, and the latter is also the only town on the coast which has gained no population at all in the past decade. This may be because the property market in Nerja is smaller and more expensive than in nearby places such as Torrox.

Some inland municipalities have not been affected by population loss. For example, those in the Guadalhorce valley appear to be thriving, especially those in the area of influence of Malaga city, such as Cártama, Pizarra, Alhaurín de la Torre and Alhaurín el Grande.

At risk of depopulation

The municipalities which are losing the most population proportionally are small rural villages in La Axarquía and the Serranía de Ronda. Five in the province have lost more than 20 per cent of their population in ten years: Alfarnatejo (which has suffered the greatest loss and has nearly 33 per cent fewer residents than in 2010), Jubrique, Canillas de Aceituno, Benarrabá and Alfarnate.

There are now 28 municipalities in the province with fewer than 1,000 inhabitants, the barrier which experts say puts them at risk of irreversible depopulation. The risk has become extreme in the case of those with fewer than 500 inhabitants, and in the past decade their number has increased from nine to 15. Curiously, the smallest of all, Atajate, has managed to reverse its population loss by gaining 42 inhabitants. That may seem a small number, but it represents a growth of 33 per cent.

At present, 77 per cent of the population of Malaga province are in the 14 municipalities along the coast. The challenges posed by this hyper-population include a lack of water, waste management, saturation of transport, among others, and these need to be tackled now, not at some time in the future.

Meanwhile, just a few kilometres inland, the empty areas of Malaga are facing a much more worrying threat: that of disappearing altogether.

Population of the municipalities in Malaga province

Source: Continual population monitoring, INE

Municipality	2020	2019-2020		2010-2020	
		Variation	Var. %	Variation	Var. %
Malaga Prov.	1,685,920	24,135	1.45 %	76,363	4.74 %
Malaga	578,460	3,806	0.66 %	9,953	1.75 %
Marbella	147,633	4,247	2.96 %	11,311	8.30 %
Mijas	85,397	2,655	3.21 %	9,035	11.83 %
Fuengirola	82,837	2,528	3.15 %	11,054	15.40 %
Vélez-Málaga	82,365	722	0.88 %	6,742	8.92 %
Estepona	70,228	1,942	2.84 %	4,078	6.16 %
Torremolinos	69,166	505	0.74 %	2,209	3.30 %
Benalmádena	69,144	1,016	1.49 %	7,761	12.64 %
R. de la Victoria	48,768	1,589	3.37 %	8,846	22.16 %
Antequera	41,318	79	0.19 %	-3,916	-8.66 %
Al. de la Torre	41,170	825	2.04 %	5,338	14.90 %
Ronda	33,730	-147	-0.43 %	-3,179	-8.61 %
Cártama	26,738	479	1.82 %	4,565	20.59 %
Al. el Grande	25,358	653	2.64 %	1,683	7.11 %
Coín	22,673	526	2.38 %	643	2.92 %
Nerja	21,144	53	0.25 %	-813	-3.70 %
Torrox	17,943	709	4.11 %	640	3.70 %
Manilva	16,439	911	5.87 %	2,271	16.03 %
Álora	13,112	127	0.98 %	-362	-2.69 %
Pizarra	9,444	218	2.36 %	454	5.05 %
Campillos	8,387	-57	-0.68 %	-254	-2.94 %
Archidona	8,168	-70	-0.85 %	-669	-7.57 %
Benahavís	7,748	-337	-4.17 %	2,816	57.10 %
Casares	6,883	368	5.65 %	1,701	32.83 %
Algarrobo	6,556	112	1.74 %	206	3.24 %
Alameda	5,387	15	0.28 %	-99	-1.80 %
V. del Trabuco	5,308	9	0.17 %	-139	-2.55 %
Mollina	5,276	127	2.47 %	2	0.04 %
V. de Algaidas	4,148	-28	-0.67 %	-367	-8.13 %
Arriate	4,082	-20	-0.49 %	-55	-1.33 %
Cómpeta	3,967	45	1.15 %	105	2.72 %
Ojén	3,816	114	3.08 %	867	29.40 %
Almogía	3,792	77	2.07 %	-465	-10.92 %
Teba	3,744	-16	-0.43 %	-440	-10.52 %
Casabermeja	3,629	107	3.04 %	75	2.11 %
C. de San Marcos	3,601	-47	-1.29 %	-506	-12.32 %
Colmenar	3,409	33	0.98 %	-272	-7.39 %
V. del Rosario	3,362	6	0.18 %	-336	-9.09 %
SierradeYeguas	3,318	-28	-0.84 %	-227	-6.40 %
Humilladero	3,297	11	0.33 %	-27	-0.81 %
V. de la Concepción	3,288	-8	-0.24 %	N/D	N/D
Periana	3,089	41	1.35 %	-513	-14.24 %
C. de la Frontera	3,065	-36	-1.16 %	-577	-15.84 %
Frigiliana	3,062	53	1.76 %	-109	-3.44 %
Benamocarra	3,046	35	1.16 %	11	0.36 %
Yunquera	2,869	5	0.17 %	-336	-10.48 %
Riogordo	2,723	-1	-0.04 %	-336	-10.98 %
Monda	2,697	103	3.97 %	227	9.19 %
Fuente de Piedra	2,662	66	2.54 %	-133	-4.76 %
Casarabonela	2,514	12	0.48 %	-209	-7.68 %
Ardales	2,506	6	0.24 %	-154	-5.79 %
V. de Abdalajís	2,502	-40	-1.57 %	-300	-10.71 %
Guaro	2,280	20	0.88 %	-5	-0.22 %
Alcaucín	2,279	49	2.20 %	-389	-14.58 %
Tolox	2,136	29	1.38 %	-210	-8.95 %
Alozaina	2,061	10	0.49 %	-183	-8.16 %
Viñuela	2,055	21	1.03 %	62	3.11 %
Almargen	1,947	-7	-0.36 %	-190	-8.89 %
Almáchar	1,817	6	0.33 %	-82	-4.32 %
Burgo, El	1,792	-8	-0.44 %	-189	-9.54 %
C. de Aceituno	1,680	3	0.18 %	-605	-26.48 %
CañetelaReal	1,633	-32	-1.92 %	-357	-17.94 %
C. del Becerro	1,597	8	0.50 %	-174	-9.82 %
Gaucín	1,589	13	0.82 %	-256	-13.88 %
Sayalonga	1,568	-113	-6.72 %	13	0.84 %
Benamargosa	1,535	21	1.39 %	-75	-4.66 %
Istán	1,494	25	1.70 %	8	0.54 %
V. de Tapia	1,460	-16	-1.08 %	-215	-12.84 %
Benaolán	1,453	-23	-1.56 %	-149	-9.30 %
CuevasBajas	1,370	-25	-1.79 %	-89	-6.10 %
Comares	1,330	15	1.14 %	-285	-17.65 %
Moclinejo	1,251	-20	-1.57 %	-23	-1.81 %
Arenas	1,177	21	1.82 %	-234	-16.58 %
Alfarnate	1,065	-4	-0.37 %	-273	-20.40 %
Montequaque	949	-15	-1.56 %	-68	-6.69 %
Borge, El	922	-8	-0.86 %	-93	-9.16 %
Iznate	907	39	4.49 %	-16	-1.73 %
Algatocín	814	21	2.65 %	-123	-13.13 %
C. de Albaida	759	43	6.01 %	-165	-17.86 %
Igualeja	752	-11	-1.44 %	-156	-17.18 %
Carratraca	740	9	1.23 %	-146	-16.48 %
Totalán	737	-9	-1.21 %	0	0.00 %
Cútar	616	9	1.48 %	-55	-8.20 %
Montecorto	586	-7	-1.18 %	N/D	N/D
Sedella	576	-30	-4.95 %	-111	-16.16 %
Jubrique	523	-5	-0.95 %	-228	-30.36 %
Macharaviaya	513	33	6.88 %	-6	-1.16 %
Serrato	482	5	1.05 %	N/D	N/D
Benarrabá	446	-9	-1.98 %	-121	-21.34 %
Benalauría	438	0	0.00 %	-68	-13.44 %
Genalguacil	393	-17	-4.15 %	-98	-19.96 %
Árchez	385	0	0.00 %	-61	-13.68 %
JimeradeLíbar	379	7	1.88 %	-94	-19.87 %
Alfarnatejo	364	-13	-3.45 %	-179	-32.97 %
Pujerra	308	7	2.33 %	-39	-11.24 %
Alpandeire	263	3	1.15 %	-7	-2.59 %
Faraján	261	8	3.16 %	9	3.57 %
Cartajima	242	-11	-4.35 %	-24	-9.02 %
Parauta	239	-12	-4.78 %	-15	-5.91 %
Benadalid	233	18	8.37 %	-32	-12.08 %
Júzcar	214	-18	-7.76 %	-7	-3.17 %
Salares	173	4	2.37 %	-32	-15.61 %
Atajate	169	1	0.60 %	42	33.07 %

Mijas and Fuengirola sprint ahead on the population front

The demographic 'sprint' on the western Costa del Sol is changing the ranking of the biggest municipalities in the province.

For example Vélez-Málaga, which was the third biggest in 2018, now finds itself in fifth place because of the unstoppable advance of Mijas and Fuengirola, which overtook it in 2020 according to the figures showing the registered population which the National Institute of Statistics (NIE) pub-

lished earlier this month. Nor do the changes in the demographic ranking stop there. Estepona has also moved up several places now, pushing ahead of Torremolinos and Benalmádena in 2020 to become the sixth most populated municipality in the province.

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municipalities in Malaga have fewer than 500 inhabitants and are at extreme risk of depopulation. Ten years ago, only nine were in this situation



Wealth tax reductions in Andalucía

By Andrew Southgate, Partner, Blevins Franks

Residents of Andalucía are affected by two annual government budgets: the state budget and the regional one. The autonomous communities in Spain can adjust the local half of the income tax rates and adapt rates and allowances for wealth tax and succession tax.

The good news this year is that, although the state has increased the top rate for wealth tax, this does not affect us in Andalucía – in fact our rates have been reduced. The state has imposed new higher income tax rates, but this is only on a high level of income and not many people will be affected.

Andalucía wealth tax rates 2021

Although the state budget increased the top rate of wealth tax from 2.5% to 3.5%, this only applies where the local autonomous community does not apply its own rates – which Andalucía does. And the local government has reduced its top rate from 3.03% to 2.5% this year, so wealthy residents are actually better off.

Here are Andalucía's new wealth tax rates compared to last year's:

TAXABLE BASE €	TAX RATE 2020	TAX RATE 2021
0 – 167,129	0.24%	0.2%
167,129 – 334,252	0.36%	0.3%
334,252 – 668,499	0.61%	0.5%
668,499 – 1,336,999	1.09%	0.9%
1,336,999 – 2,673,999	1.57%	1.3%
2,673,999 – 5,347,998	2.06%	1.7%
5,347,998 – 10,695,996	2.54%	2.1%
10,695,996 Onwards	3.03%	2.5%

It's always worth reviewing how you hold your capital investments to establish if you can restructure your assets to reduce exposure to wealth tax.

Andalucía income taxes

A new higher income tax band for income over €300,000 has been introduced for income earned in 2021, applicable to all regions. Here in Andalucía the tax rate for this income increases from 46.8% to 48.2%. Some of the lower bands now have a slightly lower tax rate, thanks the progressive of reduction of personal income tax being applied in Andalucía from 2018 to 2022.

Here is a comparison of the total combined personal income tax rates (general income) for Andalucía taxpayers:

TAXABLE BASE GENERAL INCOME €	TOTAL TAX RATE 2020	TOTAL TAX RATE 2021
Up to 12,450	19%	19%
12,450 – 20,200	24%	24%
20,200 – 28,000	30%	30%
28,000 – 35,200	30.9%	30.6%
35,200 – 50,000	37.3%	37.2%
50,000 – 60,000	37.6%	37.4%
60,000 – 120,000	45.6%	45.4%
120,000 – 300,000	46.8%	46.2%
300,000 onwards	46.8%	48.2%

Savings income is taxed separately to general income and basically consists of interest income, dividend income, capital gains on the sale or transfer of assets, income derived from life assurance contracts and purchased annuity income.

A new income band has been introduced here too, this time at 26% rate for income over

€200,000. There is no variation at regional level and savings income earned in 2021 will be taxed as follows:

TAXABLE BASE €	TAX RATE
Up to 6,000	19%
6,000 – 50,000	21%
50,000 – 200,000	23%
Over 200,000	26%

26% is a still a relatively low rate – for example, the top UK rate is 45% for interest and 38.1% for dividends. However, if you expect to earn a high level of investment income, it is worth taking specialist, personalised advice to find out if you can use compliant arrangements to reduce your tax liability.

Inheritance tax

There are no changes to Spanish

succession and gift tax at either state or regional level. Again, it pays to review your assets and take specialist advice to see how you can reduce this liability for your heirs.

UK-residents earning income in Spain

There have not been any budget changes here, but UK residents should note that third-party nationals are taxed at a higher rate than EU/EEA nationals.

So following Brexit, UK residents earning rental income from a Spanish property will now pay Spanish income tax at 24% instead of 19%. Besides this, as a non-EU resident you can no longer offset the expenses involved in maintaining and renting out the property.

Reducing your tax liabilities

It is certainly worth asking a specialist, cross-border adviser to review your investment portfolio, pensions and other assets. They can evaluate your current tax liabilities, consider your personal situation and objectives, and look at what Spanish compliant arrangements would work for you and how much tax you could save.

The 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: an individual is advised to seek personalised advice.

Lower wealth tax rates for Andalucía

Although Spain's 2021 budget increases the top rate of wealth tax, this does not affect Andalucía taxpayers and our wealth tax rates are now lower than last year. Andalucía's personal income tax rates have decreased, but new higher state rates for savings and general income above €200,000 and €300,000 respectively does affect those with high income.

If you are affected by wealth tax or want to improve taxation on investment income, talk to your Blevins Franks advisers. The Spanish regime provides opportunities for tax-efficient investing and how you hold your assets can make a difference to your tax liabilities. We have 45 years' experience providing effective tax planning solutions to expatriates in Spain.

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New Estepona hospital pressed into service to admit Covid patients

ESTEPONA

The emergency use of the western Costa del Sol facility comes as the town is still waiting for a formal date for the opening of the building for day-to-day healthcare services

JOSÉ MARÍA MARTÍN

The recently completed Estepona hospital has opened its doors although, for now, it will only do so to receive patients referred from the Costa del Sol Hospital to ease the pressure from the pandemic on services there.

The first patients began to arrive at the local hospital on Tuesday morning by ambulance.

According to sources from the health authority, they were patients with Covid symptoms who were in a stable condition and who, therefore, did not need intensive or critical care.

Staff have also been trans-



One of the rooms being prepared for the arrival of patients. J.M. MARTÍN

ferred to the new hospital although it has not been revealed how many. On Tuesday they spent several hours preparing before the arrival of patients at the site.

The emergency commissioning of the facility does not mean the opening of the hospital to the public, for now.

Although the authorities have predicted repeatedly in recent

weeks that the opening was “imminent” it still does not have a specific opening date.

The much-needed new hospital in the westernmost part of the Costa has involved a significant investment by Estepona council which has spent a total of 16 million euros on its construction and preparation. However the regional health service has yet to kit it out fully.

New San Pedro health centre to be completed by summer

SAN PEDRO

J. DUEÑAS. After several delays, regional government spokesman Elías Bendodo confirmed on Tuesday that the long-awaited new health centre in San Pedro will be completed by the summer.

The works, which resumed in September after a 10-month stoppage due to a budget shortfall of 300,000 euros, are currently at 70 per cent completion, according to Bendodo.

The town’s mayor, Ángeles Muñoz, who accompanied Bendodo on a tour of the site, acknowledged that there had been a “long-standing call” for this new health centre, whose works were halted for several months “due

to the necessary modification of the initial project to incorporate important structural reforms to cover some needs that were not foreseen,” she explained. These additions raised the cost of the project to nearly five million euros.

Once these works have been completed, the building will be fitted out so that it can be put into operation as soon as possible, although no definitive date for its opening has been announced.

When it is eventually opened, the existing centre will remain open and, according to the mayor, “will be converted into an auxiliary area with different services such as emergencies, x-rays and other specialisations”.

Building permits granted for new Primark store in La Cañada shopping centre

MARBELLA

J. D. Marbella town council has this week given approval to the building permits needed for Primark to begin work on its new shop at La Cañada shopping centre.

Council spokesman Félix Romero explained that the permits correspond to “three premises with a total of 5,640 square metres of floor space and a budget of 6,563,925 euros”. The deadline for completion of the work is 120 working days, so if everything goes as expected, “it will be a reality before the end of the year”, he said.

The arrival of the store has had to overcome several obstacles. The first attempt was in 2014 when Primark asked for a 6,500-square-metre space inside the shopping centre. However, when this proved impossible, the construction of a mezzanine floor was suggested. This however was blocked under the terms of the town’s PGOU master plan. Now though, several years later, the PGOU has been modified to allow the construction of the mezzanine provided that the external structure of the building isn’t modified.



Silvia Vallejo and Ismael Almagro, Sarah’s parents. JOSELE

Amputees to get more personalised prostheses thanks to Almagro family campaign

MARBELLA

J. D. The campaign led by the family of Sarah Almagro, the Marbella teenager who lost her arms and legs to sepsis in 2018, is starting to bear fruit.

Ismael Almagro, Sarah’s father, has been informed this week by the Andalusian Health Service (SAS) that from the summer amputees will be entitled to greater, more personalised provisions.

After consulting with the regional government last year, the Almagro family have forced through a change to the 195/98, decree which regulates orthopaedic prosthesis provision. The

change will mean that each amputee patient will be able to return to “his or her normality”.

“Each case is different and personalised treatments must be put in place,” Almagro explained. “An elderly person with one amputated limb is not the same as a young, active person with four amputated limbs. The needs are different.”

The modification of the rule will also include the possibility of joint financing by the patient. “Suppose a person is entitled to a prosthesis and is not happy with it. With this change, he or she will be able to get a better one by paying the difference,” he said.



Diego López with representatives of Triple A. SUR

Triple A to benefit from installation of new drainage and water supply infrastructure

MARBELLA

J. M. MARTÍN. Marbella town hall, in collaboration with Hidralia, has confirmed it is undertaking work to provide sewage and drinking water supply infrastructure to the facilities of the Triple A shelter on the road to Ojén.

The councillor for Public

Works, Diego López, stressed that providing these services was “a priority”. He said that the works, which should be concluded by May, include the installation of 2.5 kilometres of pipes for the water supply from the Puerto Rico-La Montúa area, 300 metres of sewage pipes, a pumping station and a regulating tank. “This is a major intervention in an area where around 600 people work and where the animal protection organisation carries out very important work.”

“Until now tankers were required to supply the area and the works will be able to provide a significant saving for the public coffers”, López added.

CHRISTOPHER KAZIK HARASIMCZYK (Deceased)

Pursuant to the Trustee Act 1925 any persons having a claim against or an interest in the Estate of the above named, late of Calle El Corralon No. 16 Los Romanes Malaga Spain, who died on 13 June 2019, are required to send written particulars thereof to the undersigned on or before two months from the date of this publication, after which date the Estate will be distributed having regard only to the claims and interests of which they have had notice.

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112 REPORTS



One car loaded with hashish. SUR

ESTEPONA

Drug gang tries to avoid capture by driving wrong way down the A-7

Á. FRÍAS / J. CANO. Three alleged drug traffickers were arrested in Estepona on Saturday morning after a spectacular chase during which the criminals drove the wrong way on a main road to try and escape the police.

The authorities had detected that drugs were being landed in an area known as Guadalmansa in Estepona so when officers spotted two suspicious vehicles a chase began, during which one of them drove the in the wrong direction along the A-7.

Police said that the drug traffickers also tried to escape by ramming their vehicles before, finally, being arrested.

Two officers were injured in the chase, although their injuries are described as minor.

According to sources consulted, the Guardia Civil found 18 bales of hashish, weighing 540 kilogrammes.

VILLANUEVA DEL ROSARIO

Well-known Guardia Civil officer in his fifties dies with Covid-19

F. TORRES. Antonio Miguel Navarro, a Guardia Civil officer in his fifties stationed at Villanueva del Rosario (Malaga), died from Covid-19 on Wednesday.

The Guardia Civil has issued an official message offering a “painful goodbye” to the officer and the “deepest condolences to his family, friends and colleagues”.

Antonio had been based in the town for more than a decade and also served neighbouring Villanueva del Trabuco.

Mayor Juan González told SUR that for many years he lived there as “just another neighbour”. “He was well known here. He and his family lived in the barracks and we all knew them.”

It is believed Antonio - who was around 55 years old - contracted the disease “recently”.

Twenty-seven people investigated for animal cruelty in Malaga province

Seprona, the nature protection wing of the Guardia Civil, launched Operation Dedito to raise awareness about the care of domestic animals

FERNANDO TORRES

MALAGA. Police officers have made a total of 106 inspections where more than 454 offences were detected and 27 people have been investigated for domestic animal abuse. That is the balance sheet of interventions by Seprona, the nature protection branch of the Guardia Civil in Malaga province during 2020, in their so-called Operation Dedito.

It was part of the #yosipuedo-



One of the investigations. SUR

contarlo campaign, launched by Seprona against animal cruelty and neglect, with the aim of raising awareness among the public to promote “the protection and well-being of companion

animals”.

The aforementioned interventions related to the inspection of private kennels, livestock farms and zoological centres where officers detected offences related to animal welfare, including inadequate accommodation, the lack of food and water, hygiene, the lack of veterinary care or missing documents.

The Seprona report said that some of the behaviour resulted in deaths by keeping the animals in a “terrible, unhygienic and overcrowded conditions”.

They also found malnourished, dirty animals with parasites and other serious diseases that had not been treated by a veterinarian, and animals loose on public roads.

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Police heard the woman's cries for help. SUR

Woman rescued from the inside of an underground rubbish container in Marbella

ALVARO FRÍAS / JUAN CANO

MARBELLA. A woman in her 30s had to be rescued from an underground rubbish container in San

Pedro Alcántara, Marbella, last Sunday.

The incident happened at around 11.45pm when a Local Police patrol saw two young people

The victim, who has a mental disability, alleges she was tricked into getting into the container by some men

who were acting “suspiciously”.

As the officers approached them, one of the young men ran off, but they soon caught up with him.

When they were talking to the pair, they heard the woman's cries for help, coming from inside one of the underground containers.

The police called in the fire brigade, who finally rescued the woman with the help of waste disposal staff.

Once safely outside, the uninjured woman, who has a mental disability, explained to the officers that some men had tricked her into getting into the container, according to the Malaga Hoy newspaper.

FUENGIROLA

Police dismantle violent robbery gang after high-speed chase

J. CANO / Á. FRÍAS. Police have arrested four Chilean men after a high-speed chase, bringing down a gang which is alleged to have been behind violent robberies on four properties on the Costa del Sol.

The arrests took place on 11 January, when National Police detected the four suspects (all Chilean) in Fuengirola. When they were discovered, one of them fled on foot but was captured after a 200-metre chase. The rest fled in a vehicle and a high-speed pursuit followed when it is alleged they almost ran over some officers. Eventually they were stopped in Torremolinos, where a roadblock cut them off.

Sources say that the alleged leader of the gang has three arrest warrants against his name for crimes against property. SUR has also discovered that he has a record in Chile for murder, kidnapping and bank robberies, among others.

The four men now face charges of robbery with force, belonging to a criminal organisation, reckless driving and falsification of documents.

MARBELLA

Curfew-flouting Irish man held after setting 'dangerous dog' on police

J. C. / Á. F. An Irish man was arrested in the early hours of Saturday morning after what should have been a routine incident turned ugly. A plain-clothes unit found him out walking in the Lindavista development in San Pedro and, given the time and the curfew in force, stopped him to identify him.

The young man, who spoke only English, explained that he was not carrying identification so the Local Police officers allowed him to go home to get it. However, when he returned, the young man picked up a mobile phone and started recording them, before shouting insults, pushing them and running home. When police chased him and caught up with him just outside the front door, the individual allegedly turned and punched one officer on the cheekbone, while kicking his partner. At that moment, the man's mother appeared with a dog, of a breed considered “potentially dangerous” in Spain. On seeing the animal, the man allegedly ordered it to attack the policemen. The dog bit one of them on the left hand and the knee.

With the help of other colleagues who raced to the scene, they managed to arrest him.

Work starts on the new swimming pool in La Cala, which will cost 3.6 million euros

MIJAS

The pool is expected to take 17 months to complete, so it should be ready for use in the summer of 2022

IVÁN GELIBTER

The project for a new Olympic-sized swimming pool in La Cala de Mijas is a step nearer reality now, as the mayor of Mijas, Josele González, councillor for Infrastructure José Carlos Martín and Town Planning councillor Andrés Ruiz laid the first stone this week. It will be part of a new building which will be used for different purposes and is being built alongside the existing sports centre and football ground.

The 50-metre indoor pool will be heated to between 24 and 30 degrees Celsius and will have stands for up to 500 spectators, and the mayor says it will mark a before and after in the facilities available not only for local people but also professionals who will be able to use it for training.

He said that it has taken "huge effort and work" by different town hall departments to get to this point, and that "it has not



Martín, González and Ruiz, after laying the first stone. **SUR**

been easy".

The construction will be carried out by the ACP Infraestructuras company at a cost of 3.6 million euros and is expected to take 17 months to complete so, "pandemic permitting," as the mayor was keen to stress, the pool should be in use by the summer of 2020.

"This pool is going to be the most modern and important in Malaga province," said José Carlos Martín, in terms of technical features, space, energy efficiency and, above all, its quality, which means top level sporting events will be able to take

place there.

As well as the swimming pool, the project includes a three-storey building which will be used for different purposes such as pilates, self-defence and functional training, among others, and it will be accessible for people with mobility difficulties.

These new facilities will mean that people from La Cala will no longer have to go to Las Lagunas to practise water sports because everything they need will be right on their doorstep. "Quality facilities of this type are exactly what the people of La Cala deserve," said the mayor.

Mijas welcomed an extra 160 new companies in 2020 despite the effects of the pandemic

I. GELIBTER

MIJAS. A total of 160 new businesses opened their doors in Mijas in 2020 despite the pandemic, councillor for Industry Andrés Ruiz announced.

Ruiz insisted that the council was doing all it could to speed up all procedures in order to boost the economy and pointed to a number of new ventures as examples, including the opening of several new businesses on Avenida Mare Nostrum in La Cala and the arrival of the Florida Mijas Beach restaurant and venue.

The councillor also highlighted the work of the council in supporting the self-employed and SMEs through its 12-million-euro Plan Orea, which he says has reached a total of 6,050 workers.

HERE AND THERE

BENALMÁDENA

Fireworks limited to organised festivities

T. B. Benalmádena town hall has passed a motion banning the use of fireworks on the streets of the town outside of traditional festivities. The new law was unanimously accepted following requests from several local animal associations and the Benalmádena Association for Disability Care (ABAD). The new ruling will limit the use of fireworks to organised events like the feria, romería, San Juan and the Virgen del Carmen.

FUENGIROLA

Higueron sets up grant scheme for local children

I. G. Higueron Developments on Wednesday announced the launch of its scholarship scheme, in collaboration with the San Francisco de Asís school, to help children in Benalmádena, Fuenigrola and Mijas study the art branch of the bachillerato.

Various aspects will be taken into account in the selection process (whose first stage will be processed by the town halls): artistic ability, the family's income level and previous academic record.



Aida Blanes (c) at the launch of the new facial recognition app. **SUR**

TORREMOLINOS

New technology used in bid to become women-friendly destination

T. BRYANT. In its bid to become a women-friendly destination, Torremolinos town hall has launched a pioneering project to guarantee the safety of women who travel to the resort alone. The initiative will implement a biometric facial recognition app, a technology that is now beginning to be used by businesses in the hospitality industry to offer a more personalised service for guests.

Councillor for Tourism Aida Blanes pointed out that the project goes beyond a "simple marketing campaign", as the town hall is offering the free service to all associations linked to the tourism sector.

The biometric technique allows tourist security protocols to be activated so that women who travel alone can feel comfortable. Through the app women will have access to an alarm button in case they do not feel safe, or require medical assistance.

In addition, the app will have a directory of the town's hotels, restaurants and businesses that want to be certified as Women-Friendly.

"We want to be prepared to be on the starting line when the pandemic allows us to travel again and therefore, we work on ideas that guarantee the excellence of our destination," the Tourism councillor said.

TORREMOLINOS

Relocation of Foreign Residents office

T. B. The Foreign Residents Department of Torremolinos town hall has moved to new premises in La Carihuella. The new centre is located in the old Tourist Office on the seafront, next to Plaza del Remo. The office is open from Monday to Friday between 9am and 1.30pm, but due to the coronavirus pandemic, residents are advised to initiate assistance online or by telephone where possible. residente.extranjero@torremolinos.es or 951 954 395.



New office in La Carihuella. **SUR**

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Axarquía A&E and intensive care units are finalists in national competition

The Hospital Optimista foundation seeks to promote and develop the wellbeing of health care professionals and patients alike

EUGENIO CABEZAS

VÉLEZ-MÁLAGA. The accident and emergency and intensive care units at the Axarquía hospital in Vélez-Málaga have won third prize in a national competition run by the Fundación Hospital Optimista (optimistic hospital foundation).

The organisation seeks to promote and develop initiatives and practices that improve the experience of both patients and health professionals through a focus on the importance of the psychological impact of a positive environment within health centres.



Health professionals outside the Axarquía hospital's A&E unit. **SUR**

The hospital was awarded the prize at a virtual gala event last week, after an anonymous survey which was sent to health professionals gave the Axarquía's only public hospital a high score.

Coral Suero, director of the two units, said that the prize was "a great recognition of the effort to improve patient care". "The prize has motivated us to charge our batteries and keep going," she added.

HERE AND THERE



The path will connect La Caletilla and El Salón beaches. **E. CABEZAS**

NERJA

Path to connect Nerja beaches gets green light

E. C. Nerja town hall has approved a plan to build a coastal path connecting La Caletilla and El Salón beaches, which are near the town's Balcón de Europa.

The 162,938 euro budget for the work will come from Malaga's provincial authority, the Diputación, and it will form part of the province's coastal pathway programme.

In a statement, urban planning councillor Nieves Atencia said that the contract will go out to tender with a view to work starting at the end summer.

COMARES

PGOU signed off after eight years of indecision

E. C. During a visit to Comares on Monday, Patricia Navarro, the regional government's Malaga delegate, announced that the town's general urban plan (PGOU) would come into effect shortly, after eight years of talks. The plan includes 450 new homes and sets aside 7.5m euros for infrastructure improvements to roads and sewage treatment. The plan covers the main village and its hamlets.

TORRE DEL MAR

Torre del Mar gets stand-alone service

E. C. As of this week, council-related customer services for people living in Torre del Mar will be dealt with in the coastal town only. Torre residents will no longer be served in the main council building in inland Vélez-Málaga. The move has reopened the debate within the town hall over Torre del Mar's independent party's ambition for the two towns to become separate entities.

CHILCHES

Environmentalists denounce illegal well

E. C. Environmental group GENA Ecologistas en Acción have reported the construction of what they say is an illegal well to irrigate mangoes at a plantation in Chilches. The group have reported to the Andalusian government that the well has been built without the correct licences or geotechnical and environmental reports. A local has also reported to police "damage" to wildlife caused by the borehole.



The site of the well in Chilches. **SUR**

TORROX

FFP2 masks handed out to Torrox's over 65s

E. C. Torrox town hall, along with the town's civil protection officers, have distributed 20,000 FFP2 masks to people over the age of 65. 1,300 households have received packs containing five masks. "You deserve the best," said mayor Óscar Medina addressing Torrox's older population last Friday. This is the third time since the start of the pandemic that masks have been handed out to the town's over 65s.

NERJA

Town hall requests EU funding for railway

E. C. Nerja council approved unanimously last Friday a proposal to give to central government which asks to use European funding to extend Malaga's railway network along the province's east coast. Councillors in the Axarquía have long been arguing the case for a train service for the east of Malaga area and the promise of EU money to help the province out of the looming financial crisis has reactivated the idea.

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Malaga to have first permanent drive-in cinema in Andalucía

If it gets the go-ahead it will be the second largest in Europe and could open its doors this summer

JESÚS HINOJOSA

MALAGA. The first permanent drive-in movie theatre in Andalucía, and the second largest in Europe, could open its doors as early as this summer on a 16,000-square-metre plot located on Malaga's Guadalhorce industrial estate.

Tamara Istambul and Cristina Porta are the two businesswomen from Granada who are behind the ambitious project.

Two years ago they set their eyes

on Malaga to open a drive-in cinema similar to the one they have been successfully operating in Madrid since 2017.

The businesswomen have reached an agreement with the owner of the plot on a rental basis for 10 years.

"We already have a report from the city council that supports the development of the project on the land and all that we are missing is the municipal activity license, which we have already requested," explained Cristina Porta, who says that if there are no delays, the Malaga drive-in could open its doors this summer.

Porta says that during the pandemic the number of users of their Madrid drive-in has increased by



An artist's impression of the drive-in movie theatre. SUR

25 per cent and currently more than 120,000 people pass through its facilities each year.

"We believe that this type of place can also be successful here in Malaga and it will be a different, safe and cultural leisure al-

ternative."

The Malaga drive-in will have a capacity for 250 vehicles and also offer a seating area for 250 people located in front of the cars. "We have the licences to screen recently-released films although now

there are fewer premieres because of the pandemic so we will also be showing classics," explained Cristina Porta.

The drive-in will also have a restaurant and food truck area and will offer customers the possibility of ordering food and drink through a mobile application, so that they do not have to get out of the car to receive it.

"The squares are marked with a letter and a number, so they only have to indicate their location and our delivery people will take the food to the vehicle with all the appropriate security measures," said Porta, who assures that, since the pandemic began, they have not registered any contagion in their Madrid drive-in.

Movie goers will be able to hear the film soundtrack in their vehicle through a company-contracted FM radio frequency.

The businesswomen say that the drive-in could employ a hundred people and they hope to get the necessary permits from the authorities soon to make a reality in the coming months.

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Muelle Uno is free of boats and ready for work to begin. SALVADOR SALAS

Malaga set to receive first megayachts to revamped port area this June

MALAGA

I. LILLO. Malaga Port will be able to welcome multiple megayachts from this summer after the Coasts authority granted its permission for works to get under way to install 31 new berths for craft of between 30 and 100 metres in length

across docks one and two.

Work is due to begin on Muelle Uno (dock one) in the middle of next week, with the initial forecast that boats will be able to use the new facilities from June.

The first task will be to lay the piping and installations for electricity, drinking water and waste

water. Then two small breakwaters will be created - one close to the lighthouse and the other near to the Palmeral de las Sorpresas wave-like structure. Neither will affect the turning circle of the Melilla ferries (popularly known as El Melillero), which will continue to moor at the nearby dock three.

The scope of the 20-year concession has a water surface area of 41,484 square metres, with corresponding land area (4,830), and a quay length of 770 metres.

The project is a joint venture formed by Cabo Marina and Puerto Picasso Malaga or, in other words, the US multinational IGY Marinas, together with Ocean Capital Partners and the Malaga businessman Domingo de Torres.

The overall project also includes a maritime station in the southernmost part of the Paseo de la Farola, used for reception, registration, control and other complementary services, as well as a luxury restaurant in the former Casa de Botes boathouse. Permits for these two parts have not yet been granted but are expected to be "very soon" and won't hold back construction.

New Covid testing clinic for departing passengers to open at Malaga Airport

PILAR MARTÍNEZ

MALAGA. Malaga Airport will be one of a group of Spanish airports to have a coronavirus testing area established in its departure lounge.

The airports' operator, Aena, hopes that the initiative will benefit outgoing passengers who need proof of a negative test result before travelling or allow them to avoid quarantining after arrival.

A spokesperson for Aena said the plan, which affects all fifteen of the busiest airports in Spain, will "facilitate the return of tourists" to the places from which they came. Individuals will have to have their boarding passes with them to access the service.

That said, the plan will not be extended to those arriving into Malaga Airport. Indeed, anyone flying into the city will need to have completed the appropriate steps on tests before leaving their place of origin in order to gain entry into Spain.

In Malaga, the Recoletas-Arquimea-Lagben-GTT consortium has been awarded the contract to provide the service for six months (with the possibility of an extension until the end of 2021). The consortium has facilities to examine for active coronavirus infections (PDIA test) and carry out PCR tests and antibody tests.

Aena stresses that all tests will meet the standards set by the Ministry of Health and that they will be available at a reasonable price comparable to those carried out in other clinics.

The testing area will be complete with a waiting zone, and the process will be carried out with passenger privacy in mind. The relevant regional health authorities will be informed in the case of a positive test result.

Junta de Andalucía announces new health centres for Playamar and Los Pacos

The mayors of Torremolinos and Fuengirola reacted positively to the news during visits by the Junta's representative in Malaga

IVÁN GELIBTER

MALAGA. The Junta de Andalucía's regional health service has an-

nounced two new health centres for under-served neighbourhoods of the Costa del Sol.

After years of calls for better local healthcare provision, the first steps to planning the building of a medical centre in the Playamar area of Torremolinos should start in the middle of this year. The announcement was made on a visit to the town by the Junta's local representative in Malaga prov-

ince, Patricia Navarro, who said the centre was needed to meet existing and future demand.

"When we recover, Torremolinos will get its vibe back and it will be a place not just for tourism but also to live," she explained.

Local politicians have been calling for more primary healthcare in the resort as the facilities are the same as 1999 when Torremolinos had the much lower popu-

lation of 40,000.

Mayor of Torremolinos José Ortiz said, "Since I've been mayor, I've been asking the Junta de Andalucía for this. So if this possibility is on the table, we'll be the first ones to work together to turn it into reality."

A ten-year delay

Meanwhile, on a later visit to Fuengirola, Navarro also an-

nounced plans to put the contract out to tender this year for the new centre in the Los Pacos area.

The building will be on a 2,500-metre plot of land on Calle Alí-aria that was given to the regional government by the town hall in 2007.

The original project for a centre in Los Pacos was halted ten years ago and the new construction budget is expected to be seven million euros.

Mayor of Fuengirola Ana Mula said, "We can now say that this isn't a just a promise or an intention. There's a budget to start it, which is a clear commitment from the Junta that we will soon have the centre," explained the mayor.



The money raised can fund a full Cudeca home care team for an entire year. SUR

'Join the sunflower effect' campaign pays off for Cudeca

The foundation, which cares for cancer patients in Malaga province, has managed to raise slightly more than the money it needed to finance a home care team for another year

ANA PÉREZ-BRYAN

The pandemic has had a devastating effect on the finances and the services provided by many health care organisations and this has led to some, like the Cudeca Foundation, having to find other ways of raising money. In Cudeca's case, it needed funds to guarantee the care it provides for terminally ill patients in Malaga province.

With its charity shops closed or open much less often than usual, and practically no fundraising events able to take place, the foundation launched a virtual crowdfunding campaign in November so that it would be able to continue

to provide care for cancer patients in their own homes for a further year.

The Cudeca Foundation can now breathe a little more easily, because that 'Join the sunflower effect' campaign which closed on 31 January raised slightly more than the 185,000 euros needed to finance a full home assistance team of a doctor, a nurse, a psychologist and a social worker for a year.

This team, all of whom specialise in palliative care, will attend to an average of 250 patients a year in their homes, making an average of three to four visits a day, and will provide the medical care and psychological and social support needed by the patients and their families.

The total amount raised by this crowdfunding campaign was 186,647 euros, and it benefited from the assistance and generosity of several administrations and institutions, including Fundación La Caixa, which contributed 30,000 euros as soon as the campaign was

under way and became the principal collaborator.

Well-known names such as Pablo Alborán, Pablo López, Rozalén, Carlos Álvarez and actor Miguel Ángel Martín (of Tú no mandas fame) also played a part, setting to work on social media and posting messages urging their followers to contribute something to the cause, no matter how little it might be.

Someone else who joined the campaign was Rosa Martínez, whose son Pablo Ráez was assisted by Cudeca in the final stage of his fight against leukaemia. During the fundraising effort, Rosa left an inspiring, heartfelt message encouraging people to help the organisation continue its valuable work, describing the Cudeca staff as being "pure love and dedication".

With this first target met, the Cudeca Foundation has announced that it will continue to work on future campaigns to expand its services. "This year, despite the pandemic, we have managed to look after and accompany 1,600 people at the end of their life. We never want to go through again what we have gone through with this coronavirus crisis; many people have died alone and without palliative care. We all deserve to be cared for and accompanied until the end of our life". And for that, says Cudeca, everybody's collaboration is needed.

Outcry as Marbella old town's iconic 'Orange Square' is ripped up

The town's councillor for parks and gardens has defended the works insisting they were necessary and now is the best time to do them

JOAQUINA DUEÑAS

MARBELLA. A protest group is demanding an explanation from Marbella town hall about why works to remodel the town's emblematic Plaza de los Naranjos went ahead without prior consultation or explanation.

Petition organiser Maica Machuca said they have collected close to 500 supporters on the Change.es platform. "Now, with the coronavirus, it is very difficult to go out to demonstrate so I thought this was the best way to do it. If there was a need to do these works, they should have explained it beforehand and listened to what residents and environmental groups had to say," Maica says.

Opposition political parties have also demanded explanations. Socialist spokesman José Bernal described the work as an "atrocious". He accused the town hall of going ahead with the work without announcing it because "no one in this town was going

to allow the identity of the Plaza de los Naranjos to be changed".

Local spokesperson for Izquierda Unida, Victoria Morales, said that it was wrong to make changes in such an emblematic area "without public consultation".

But Diego López, the councillor responsible for parks and gardens, said that the works had been planned for some time but put off so as not to interfere with tourist and commercial activity. And that is why they are doing them now and taking advantage of the Covid closure measures.

He said, "We have been treating orange trees for fungi and soil compaction for two years, as well as trying to eradicate rats. In 2016, works were carried out, without consultation and the planters were raised between 30 and 40 centimetres. This has caused a lack of light and an accumulation of humidity that is the cause of fungi."

He promised that "the look of the square will be very similar to the one before" and that no healthy tree has been cut down or any ecosystem has been destroyed. He added that during the works, obsolete electrical equipment will be removed and an automatic irrigation system will also be installed.



Obsolete electrical installations are also being removed. JOSELE

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FROM THE FISH MARKET TO THE TABLES OF MÁLAGA

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The commitment to closely sourced fish is apparent in the products such as the purse-seine fish (sardines, anchovies, horse mackerel and mackerel) that come straight from the fishing boats to the centres' counters in little over an hour, resulting in unbeatable freshness.

Where varieties unavailable on our coasts are concerned, these centres are able, thanks to the Carrefour support platform, to purchase from fish markets all over Spain which offer the best quality at the best prices.

Aware of the needs of the new consumers, these Carrefour centres have the "Calidad y Origen" (Quality and Origin) range, which guarantees the excellence of salmon, sea bream and bass bred and fed under the best conditions and free of antibiotic treatments.

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different species and sizes; red tuna of the highest quality prepared at their facilities and cut to the tastes of each customer; and, of course, the best seafood from the Andalusian fish markets, including those of Huelva.

It's worth highlighting that, as with the tuna, all these products are prepared both for customers who place orders and for the free service area. A fresh tray service is available to those who do not wish to queue.

Moreover, as is the company's custom, much attention is paid to presentation and to keeping the product fresh.

To check the offers and daily discounts with which to enjoy the best products at the best price, clients just need to look at the centres' promotional leaflets.

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The ITV testing station at El Viso in Malaga city. MIGUE FERNÁNDEZ

ITV centres urge owners of vehicles that have missed tests to get an appointment

SPAIN

SUR. At the moment, 45 per cent of vehicles on the roads don't have their ITV inspection up to date. This compares to 20 per cent before the pandemic.

The findings come from the AECA-ITV, the national association of test centre operating companies. It is urging motorists to set up their appointments as the extension period for delayed tests from the first lockdown last year

expires on 2 March.

The group says its members have gone to great lengths to increase capacity at testing centres by between 30 to 65 per cent.

"The ITV saves lives," said the head of AECA-ITV, Guillermo Magaz.

According to analysis by Madrid's Carlos III University, ITV tests avoid 540 deaths from accidents or pollution a year, and if every vehicle was up to date 80 more lives could be saved.

Concern of shortage of staff at polling stations for upcoming Catalan election

BARCELONA

CRISTIAN REINO. Regional elections will take place in Catalonia on 14 February but the authorities are so far having trouble signing up enough staff to supervise the polling stations.

Electorate law means people are summoned at random to staff the operation on voting day. However a combination of separatist groups telling people not to take part and object on the grounds of a fear of catching coronavirus are putting the smooth running of some polling stations in doubt.

Around 20,000 people in the region could eventually object, 20 to 25 per cent of those needed. Organisers have admitted to "looking at alternative solutions", as the rules say if there is nobody invigilating, the first person to turn up to vote on the day in a polling station has to stay on and supervise.

IN BRIEF



Luis Bárcenas. J. GARCÍA

MADRID

Former PP treasurer implicates ex-PM Rajoy

R. GORRIARÁN. The former treasurer of the Partido Popular (PP) party has accused former PM Mariano Rajoy of knowing about the illegal funding of the party, which he says operated from 1982. "Rajoy personally destroyed the [duplicate accounts] but didn't know I kept a copy," Luis Bárcenas has now told investigators, a few days before the trial starts over the case. The PP has said Bárcenas still needs to prove the accusation.

MADRID

King Felipe freezes his family's annual salary

SUR. King Felipe's salary for carrying out public duties will be frozen at 253,000 euros in 2021. Queen Letizia will get 140,000 euros and the Queen Mother, Queen Sofía, 114,000 euros, also both frozen. There is no amount this year for the King emeritus, Juan Carlos, amid ongoing financial scandals. Total Royal household expenses will stay at 7.8m euros in 2021, with more spend on new technology.

ALICANTE

'Franco's child' con artist held over 4m

SUR. A woman who is notorious for claiming she is the illegitimate daughter of General Franco or King Juan Carlos to win round victims has been detained in Alicante province over multimillion-euro fraud. Police say she is a "historic fraudster", conning people over 20 years. This time she has been held with five others in an organised gang allegedly taking four million euros from victims in pyramid schemes.

THE EURO ZONE MARK NAYLER

A costly divorce



Campaigning for the 14 February Catalan elections began on a predictable note last week, with secessionists reaffirming their intention to split from the rest of Spain. Laura Borràs, the candidate for the pro-independence party Junts per Catalunya (Together for Catalonia), even promised to renew the unilateral declaration of independence made in late 2017 by the region's then-president, Carles

Puigdemont.

As always, the details of how exactly this historic split is to be achieved aren't part of the message. Yet you can't help wondering what costs - both literal and figurative - Catalonia would have to bear in order to divorce the motherland.

A brand new report tries to answer precisely this question, without bias in either direction. Released this week by Epicentre, a conglomeration of think

tanks from nine EU countries, it makes several conclusions about the cost to Catalonia - both economically and institutionally - of jettisoning the rest of Spain. Among these are the predictions that a Catalan Republic would start life with a public debt of up to 126% of GDP, that its government would incur "set-up" costs of between €37.9 and €39.8 billion, and that substantial decreases in tourism, exports and investment would result from overall instability.

It's striking how little attention such issues receive from the politicians actually involved in the Catalan issue, especially those in the pro-independence camp. Perhaps their apparent lack of interest shows that the conflict is not really about eco-

nomics, or at least not primarily. There is, after all, something rather hackneyed and half-hearted about Barcelona's repeated complaint that it pays more to Madrid in tax than it receives back in public expenditure: that, one senses, is not the driving force behind Catalonia's independence movement. Questions of cultural, linguistic and historical identity seem more potent for separatists, as does the desire to reject a power viewed as inimical to the prosperity of an aspiring sovereignty (in this sense, Madrid is to secessionists what Brussels is to Brexiteers).

But for an independent Catalonia to be anything more than a fantasy, the realities of survival outside of Spain, and potentially also the EU, can't be ig-

nored. A Catalan Republic - as its would-be architects often fail to point out - would automatically be expelled from the EU and the eurozone; and re-entry, as the report's author states, "will not be up to the Catalans, but rather up to the unanimous acceptance of all EU countries, something that may take many years, or never be achieved".

Borràs can urge secessionists to renew their 2017 declaration of independence all she wants, but it's hard to see what, if anything, this would mean in practical terms. If Catalan secessionists want to present a serious, viable case for prospering as a Republic, they might need to look harder at the realities of cutting ties with Madrid and Brussels.

Flights from Southampton and Birmingham to Gibraltar to begin in May

The announcement by Eastern Airways has been welcomed in Gibraltar and the UK, and the government is working on adding further routes and carriers in due course

DEBBIE BARTLETT

GIBRALTAR. There was an enthusiastic reaction from sources in Gibraltar and the UK at yesterday's announcement that Eastern Airways is to begin operating flights to Gibraltar from Southampton and Birmingham in May.

The UK-based airline will begin its flights from Southampton on 24 May, and from Birmingham on 28th. They will both run twice a week initially, on Mondays and Fridays.

This will be the first ever scheduled passenger service to Gibraltar from Southampton, and a resumption of the Midlands route which ceased to exist four years ago with the de-

mise of the Monarch airline.

The services between Birmingham, Southampton and Gibraltar will be operated by Eastern Airways' Embraer 190 e-Jet fleet, which includes the type being based at Southampton for the first time.

Gibraltar's Minister for Business, Tourism, Transport and the Port, Vijay Daryanani, told SUR in English during an interview shortly before Christmas that he was in contact with several airlines and airports in the UK with a view to expanding links with Gibraltar.

More to come

Daryanani said the government is keen to ensure that the tourism sector recovers and flourishes after the pandemic so this work is continuing, and he is committed to adding further routes and more carriers in due course.

Tickets for the Southampton and Birmingham flights are already on sale, starting from £74.99 one-way, including taxes and a hold-bag as standard.



What should this Bronze Age man be called? GIBRALTAR NATIONAL MUSEUM

A unique chance to name a Bronze Age man in Gibraltar

HISTORY

D. BARTLETT. It isn't an opportunity that comes up very often, but the Gibraltar National Museum is asking members of the public to help give a name to its latest human reconstruction, a Bronze Age man from Bray's Cave in Gibraltar.

Local people have sent in numerous suggestions, and the museum staff were delighted to have had so many to choose from. Now, they have drawn up a shortlist of five names, each with a particular meaning, and

have put a poll on the Museum's Twitter account to decide the winner.

The choices are: Brayman, meaning the man from Bray's Cave, where he was buried; Gib-ray, combining the names Gibraltar and Bray's Cave; Gib-Son, or son of Gibraltar; Lithos, the Greek word for stone or rock; and Yantar, meaning amber in Russian (because he was from the Russian steppe and was buried with an amber bead).

The poll closes at midday on Monday, 8 February.

IN BRIEF

CRIME

Police seize fuel containers

D. B. Following an appeal for information last week, police in Gibraltar have seized over 30 plastic jerry cans, many of which were full of marine fuel. In the past, similar containers have been taken out to sea on small RHIBs (rigid inflatable boats) operating from Gibraltar's beaches for the purpose of refuelling larger RHIBs used by drug traffickers. These cans were found in a pre-war bunker off Europa Advance Road.

COVID-19

Vaccine campaign continues

D. B. Gibraltar's number of active cases of coronavirus is starting to fall and the vaccination campaign is in full swing. On Thursday there were 204 active cases of Covid-19. All four of the most vulnerable groups of the population have now received their first vaccination and are starting to receive the second. In all, 16,177 doses have been given, and none wasted.

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Diputación encourages foreign residents to get on the 'padrón'

The provincial authority has launched its Level Up campaign to target the around 64,000 people who are not yet "enjoying Malaga 100%"

A. M. ROMERO

MALAGA. The Malaga provincial government (Diputación) is encouraging foreign residents to register on the 'padrón' in the municipalities where they live or spend a large part of the year as part of

its 'Level Up. Register and enjoy Malaga 100%' campaign.

The campaign highlights some of the benefits of being registered on the municipal census: ease in processing municipal payments or permits; discounts on public services; access to educational and

health services; the possibility of voting in local and European elections; as well the fact that having a greater number of registered residents also has an impact on the income of the local councils (and therefore the services it can offer).

According to the latest data available (from 1 January 2020), the foreign population in Malaga was 333,045. Of these, 63,253 were not on the 'padrón'. It is these people that are being targeted by this multi-phase campaign.

Diputación chief Francisco

Salado stressed it was "very important" to get on the padrón because it helps those who do so and their municipalities of residence to "go up a level". "If we don't know the real population of the province it's difficult for each public administration to plan and carry out the necessary public services effectively," he added.

In the first weeks since the launch, some 4,300 people have gone to the website www.levelup-malaga.es to consult first-hand the advantages of being registered.

Brexit is now a reality. Since the start of 2021, the British have definitively lost their status as EU citizens and are considered as third-country nationals. This means that the general immigration regime regulations will apply to them, without prejudice to the possibility that at some point a special mobility regime may be agreed for them, which remains to be seen.

The only exception to this general rule is British nationals who were resident in Spain before the end of the transition period on 31 December 2020. In this sense, British citizens who possessed a green card or EU citizen's certificate before 31 December will be able to "exchange" it for a foreigner's identity card (TIE), which is the new document that certifies resident status as a third-country national. Thus, holders of a temporary EU residence permit will receive a temporary TIE which is valid for five years. And those who hold a permanent EU residence permit will obtain a permanent TIE which is valid for ten years. TIE applications must be submitted at the police station corresponding to the applicant's place of residence.

On the other hand, those arriving in Spain from now on will initially be subject to the general immigration regime as third-country nationals. Consequently, and unless there is a last-minute bilateral or multilateral agreement, British nationals wishing to settle in Spain must apply for a non-lucrative residence visa at

The British in Spain after Brexit

More complex paperwork will now apply to Britons wanting to live in this country

ANALYSIS

RICARDO BOCANEGRA

Lawyer

the Spanish Consulate corresponding to their geographical location in the UK and provide proof of financial stability, accommodation in Spain, absence of a criminal record, health insurance and no illnesses that could have serious repercussions on public health, like any other third-country national.

Once they have received their residence visa, they may travel to Spain and must apply for a Foreigner's Identity Card (TIE) at the police station corresponding to their place of residence, where they must present their residence visa.

Those wishing to set up a business in Spain or work as self-employed must also apply for a residence and self-employment visa at the Spanish Consulate in the UK. For this purpose, they must have facilities in Spain to carry out their activity (eg. premises, office, warehouse, etc.) and prove sufficient financial

means to do so.

Furthermore, they must submit an establishment project stating the activity they intend to carry out in Spain, the planned investment, the expected profitability and the creation of employment.

Once they have obtained the self-employment visa, they must travel to Spain, register with the Social Security Self-Employed Workers' Scheme (Régimen de Trabajadores Autónomos de la Seguridad Social) and apply for the Foreigner's Identity Card (TIE) at the police station corresponding to their place of residence.

Another option for the British from now on is the Golden Visa, which is the investor's residence permit granted to those who buy property in Spain for a price of more than 500,000 euros. It will also be available to British nationals who deposit one million euros in a Spanish bank and

those who buy shares in a Spanish company for a sum of over one million euros, among other cases. Likewise, those who justify a business project to be developed in Spain and which is considered and accredited as being of general interest may also obtain the Golden Visa.

The Golden Visa has a number of advantages; among them, it allows you to work in Spain without having to apply for an additional permit, you do not have to live in Spain for a minimum annual period, you can travel to any Schengen country, you can obtain it very quickly, and the first residence card is valid for two years and subsequent cards for five years. The holder has just three obligations: to maintain at all times the investment that granted them the right to obtain it, to maintain valid healthcare insurance for the entire duration of the residence permit, and to be up to date with their tax obligations in Spain.

Finally, those British nationals wishing to work as salaried employees will be the worst off. If, as seems likely, the general immigration regime is applied to them as third-country nationals, it will be very difficult for British nationals to obtain a job in Spain, except in very exceptional cases that fall within those occupations that are difficult to fill as published by the Spanish national employment service, or in some very restricted cases where there is no job seeker registered with the Spanish Employment Institute for the position applied for. It should be

noted that national employment status is the determining factor in whether an immigrant can work in Spain, and British nationals will now be subject to this factor, with some exceptions such as children and spouses of residents, positions of trust, highly qualified personnel, and a few other cases.

Therefore, to be realistic, in the future, British nationals who want to work will be able to do so by means of the "arraigo" system by proving that they have lived in Spain for the last three years with short trips that do not exceed a maximum of 120 days in total over the last three years. This is the formula followed by immigrant workers from non-EU countries and this is the formula that, unless there is a bilateral or multilateral agreement, the British will most likely have to follow, and I would advise them to register with their local council 'padrón' as soon as possible in order to gain time.

As far as non-resident British homeowners in Spain and those who want to visit as tourists are concerned, they will not be able to stay in Spain for more than ninety days within a period of six months and will need a passport to enter, although I do not think an entry visa will be required.

In any case, I am sure that the most important principle that will henceforth govern the relations of British citizens with all EU states will be the principle of reciprocity. However the British authorities treat EU citizens, that is how EU countries will treat British citizens.

BREXIT

British Residents we can advise and help you:

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LETTERS
TO THE EDITOR

Help for the cats

The volunteers of AGYA (the Estepona-based cat association Asociación Gatos y Amigos) and their President, Mr Eugene Blanco, would like to thank all the people who have given food and money to us last year. Many thanks also for the support of Carrefour and Mercadona, for their kindness and help.

The aim of AGYA is to reduce the number of cats. They play an important part in the ecological system, so love them or hate them, their numbers need to be controlled. We also take care of any cats which are sick and also feed many cats. Since the start of our charity, we have neutered over 6,000 cats. However, at this terrible time we, like most charities, are struggling financially. Funds are needed for veterinary fees and to feed the many colonies we are looking after.

We have joined the Teaming Scheme. We are asking for people to donate one euro a month. The philosophy is based on the idea that with one euro if we are alone we can't do much, but if we are

together, we can make worthwhile projects possible. Please find us on www.teaming.net.amigo-sygatos.estepona, or on Facebook.

SHEILA WILKINS

Tooth stories

Hello Mr Edgerton, I have never replied or given a comment on any article I read. This evening my husband and I are sorting out the post/papers to put in the bin.

He suddenly said, "I don't think you would like to read this." What is it about, I asked him. "The tooth hurts." (SUR in English, January 22nd.)

He expected me to say "No thank you," as he knows that next Wednesday I need to have three (!) taken out. Instead I asked him to pass the article to me.

I just want you to know how MUCH I enjoyed reading this! To my husband's surprise I kept laughing and grinning!

No, I am not looking forward to Wednesday but your article was very humorous and I enjoyed it very much.

JOEY BARLOW

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THE MUSIC MAKER
PETER EDGERTON
www.e-peter.com

Organised chaos

A certain degree of chaos undoubtedly makes life a bit more interesting and, if you're really lucky, may even inspire little bouts of creativity from time to time.

The trick is, of course, to get the balance right. Just as you don't want to be one of those obsessively orderly people who insist on having everything in their cutlery drawer in alphabetical order, nor do you want to hurtle through your days like a bull in a china shop, lurching from one disaster to another.

Currently, since we've been obliged to close the pub once again and, in attempt to look for the positive in the situation, I've decided to bring a little order to my life. No, no, nothing as radical as cleaning the house, obviously, rather a concerted effort to organise all the weird and occasionally won-

derful projects I've been involved in over the last twenty-five years or so.

Until now, I've muddled along quite contentedly, safe in the knowledge that that old demo I'll almost certainly never need ever again is at the back of a wardrobe with some old wellies and a 1978 Kevin Keegan football annual. The hundreds of pub quizzes I've prepared over the years? Oh, they're on various computers and tablets and in some emails I sent to myself. Just lots and lots of stuff then scattered to the four winds.

How best to bring some order to all of this? My first thought was to invest in a series of humungous cardboard boxes but soon realised they'd take up far too much space and, in any case, wouldn't really help the situation much, just relocate the

chaos to a more specific area. No, something more modern and imaginative would need to be employed - something like a web page, for example.

So that's it, I'm currently building a website, spending my days hunting down long lost songs, quizzes, poems, articles scribbles and things, wherever they may lie and then painstakingly making them more presentable before transferring them to the site.

It's laborious but strangely gratifying work, like piecing snapshots of your life together.

At the rate I'm going, I should have it all done by Christmas... 2043. Only kidding, a few months at a steady rhythm and Bob will very much be your uncle.

Nothing will be in alphabetical order though, you can rest assured of that.

PACHI



SUR in English

Published by: PRENSA MALAGUEÑA S. A.
Director General: ANTONIO GONZÁLEZEditor-in-Chief
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This year's victims

A few weeks ago I commented on this page that 2021 had not really started well, given that it was billed as the year when everything would turn out all right again. By then the Covid-19 figures were taking off into uncharted territory on the graphs, thanks to the new 'British' strain of the virus, and snow had brought practically the entire country to a standstill.

Then though, I made the point quite frivolously, as if they were just a couple of hiccup at the start at what could still get back

on track to being the year we all wished for.

Now though, at the end of January, we are at the height (hopefully) of the third wave of the pandemic, and no one dares suggest that this will be the last. The long-awaited vaccine is here, but no one outside a hospital or a care home has seen it yet (apart from a few queue-jumping officials) and to add another natural phenomenon to the list, Granada, just down the road, has been shaken by literally dozens of small earthquakes.

It's almost like a wake-up call to reality

- 2021 is going to be far from plain sailing.

In fact now it almost seems that we are really seeing the pandemic for what it is. A year ago we were caught up in the novelty of it all. We were living through something that only happens once in a hundred years, something children today would tell their grandchildren about in the future. We were in a lockdown, stuck at home, but no one really knew how long it would last for; and I bet few would have suggested more than a year.

Businesses were suffering but things would soon get back to normal we said; we just had to stick it out a bit. Now though, companies are finding it harder and harder to keep hold of that weakening T for temporary in the ERTE schemes, and many are in danger of turning into EREs.

Families too are coming to the end of the financial cushion that they thought would

get them through a few months of pandemic on reduced or no income.

And, as we have seen more than ever in recent weeks, charities and organisations are sending out cries for urgent help. They too managed to scrape through the unusual circumstances last year along with the rest of us, but 2021 has brought a real need.

Now the victims of the crisis are more than just distant figures. They are the neighbours we recognise in the growing queues for food hand-outs; the local businesses whose shutters have gone down for good; organisations such as Cudeca whose recent emergency campaign has been enough to keep their home visits going; and places such as Malaga's English Cemetery, which can no longer afford to open every day.

Last year's Covid victims were numbers of hospital patients; this year's victims are all around us.

HOSPITAL

CARDIAC ARRHYTHMIAS: AN EPIDEMIC THAT IS CURABLE AT HELICÓPTEROS SANITARIOS

MÁLAGA

SUR. We talk to Professors Pedro Brugada and Juan Sieira about cardiac arrhythmias. Professor Brugada is Head of the Arrhythmia Unit at the Helicópteros Sanitarios Hospital in Puerto Banús. **How important is heart disease today?**

Heart disease remains the number one cause of death in the western world. One in three people die from heart failure. Heart failure can occur in any of the three components of the heart: the mechanical part, the circulatory and the electrical.

What can alter the electrical function of the heart?

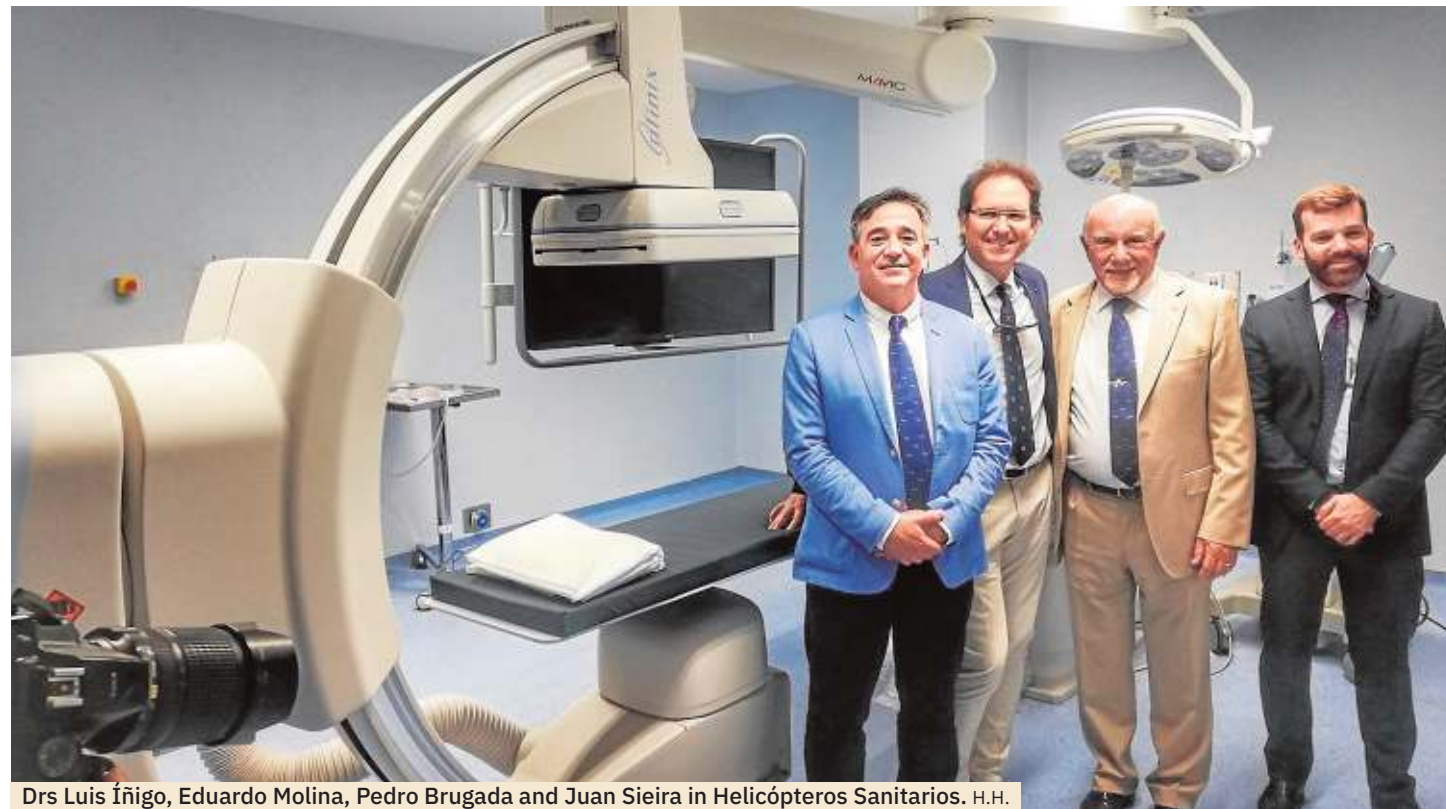
Heart failure, angina pectoris and myocardial infarction can all alter the electrical function of the heart. Changes in the supply of oxygen and other nutrients to the heart cells alter the electrical function of these cells, causing tachycardias or bradycardias. The consequences are highly variable, ranging from being unknown to the patient, to causing palpitations, loss of consciousness (syncope) and even sudden, unexpected death.

Is sudden death due to arrhythmias common?

Approximately 30,000 people die every year in Spain from sudden, unexpected deaths caused by cardiac arrhythmias. These sudden deaths, however, are not always unexpected and are not necessarily fatal. The key to their prevention and effective treatment is a high degree of suspicion on the part of the physician. These potentially fatal arrhythmias occur both in people with structural heart problems and in people with a completely normal heart structure who suffer from an isolated problem of the heart's electricity.

How can arrhythmias be treated in people with structural heart disease?

When arrhythmias are the consequence of structural heart disease, their correction is the most important base for preventing sudden death. To do this, we must identify those at risk. Starting with an interview with the patient where we obtain clinical information that we will complete with explorations such as heart imaging through ultrasound, radiology (CT) and magnetic resonance imaging



Drs Luis Íñigo, Eduardo Molina, Pedro Brugada and Juan Sieira in Helicópteros Sanitarios. H.H.

«When arrhythmias are the consequence of structural heart disease, their correction is the most important base for preventing sudden death. To do this, we must identify those at risk»

(MRI) that have revolutionised cardiology. The genetic-familial factor must also be taken into account and all relatives of a patient with cardiac problems must be investigated. With early diagnosis, there are many possible treatments and they are very effective. **So, can a structurally normal heart suffer arrhythmias?**

Yes, in these cases the problem lies in the formation and conduction of the heart's electrical impulse. There are potentially fatal arrhythmias that produce slow heart rhythms and even electrical cardiac arrest, bradycardias;



Hemodynamics and Arrhythmias Unit. H.H.

and rapid arrhythmias, tachycardias. When they occur in the ventricles, we speak of ventricular tachycardias, which can be fatal even in a normal heart.

What is the cause of tachycardias that can be severe in a structurally normal heart?

These tachycardias are caused by generally inherited diseases with very specific patterns. These include right ventricular dysplasia, which results in degeneration of the right heart muscle and causes rapid ventricular arrhythmias leading to sudden death, usually at a very young age. Another purely

electrical disease of the heart, also hereditary, is the well-known Brugada syndrome caused by alterations of the sodium channel of the heart, which is of crucial importance for the formation of the electrical impulse. Another entity is catecholaminergic tachycardia which affects the ventricles as a whole and typically produces arrhythmias and sudden death during exercise, because the heart cells suffer from a genetic defect that makes them very sensitive to adrenaline.

And which arrhythmias are the most frequent?

The heart can suffer arrhythmias as a result of increased abnormal electrical activity in the atria, atrial tachycardia and atrial flutter; and from abnormal impulses in some areas such as the pulmonary veins, atrial fibrillation, a very frequent and important arrhythmia.

The classic treatment is by means of antiarrhythmic drugs, although these need to be taken daily and do not cure the arrhythmia, but only prevent it or improve the symptoms, apart from the side effects they have. For this reason, ablation techniques are now preferred, which can cure almost all cases of flutter and atrial tachycardia and a very high percentage of cases of atrial fibrillation. A catheter is used to record local activity within the heart: the site of origin of the tachycardia is sought and this area is destroyed by heat or cold.

Other more common arrhythmias in young people are Wolff-Parkinson-White syndrome or WPW and intranodal tachycardia, the latter very common in young women.

Without further ado, we bid farewell to Professors Pedro Brugada and Juan Sieira, knowing that it is a peace of mind to have them to hand at Helicópteros Sanitarios for any consultation.



Carrie Frai, editor and co-author of #LivingTheDream: Expat Life Stripped Bare. SUR

Stripping the veneer off 'expat' life

Books. Carrie Frai, along with nine other women, share the trials and tribulations of life abroad, especially at a time of Brexit uncertainty and a global health pandemic

JENNIE RHODES



▲ The book has been co-written by 10 women who have left their native countries to start new lives abroad.

A new book, which its editor and co-author Carrie Frai hopes will expose the reality behind the dream of life as an 'expat', tells the true stories of 10 women who have, for all sorts of reasons, left their own country in search of life in another.

The co-authors of #LivingtheDream: Expat life stripped bare are people Carrie has met through her website MumAbroad, friends who have made the move and people she has met since she co-founded Bremain in Spain, the

post-Brexit campaign group which Carrie, along with her friend Deborah Gray, who is one of the authors of the book, set up after the result of the 2016 EU referendum was known.

In one of the chapters, Sue Wilson, Chair of Bremain in Spain, tells her story of transformation from looking forward to retirement in Spain and "without a political bone in her body" to becoming a political activist and voice to thousands of Brits in Spain affected by Brexit.

While some of the women are Brits who have emigrated to Spain, other stories come from Australia, New Zealand, an American in Italy and the French Alps. They are by and large women in their 40s and 50s.

Carrie is keen to point out through the book that regardless of where you live, experiences are often very similar. "It doesn't matter where you live, that feeling of struggling to integrate, language, and dealing with the bureaucracy

is the same wherever you are."

She also wanted to dispel the myth that, particularly in Spain, all Brits who have chosen to live here are retirees looking to spend their golden years in the sun. We agree that it's impossible to break that unrelenting media image. "Brexit coverage has been nothing but the typical stereotype retiree," Carrie laments, adding, "We need to smash the stereotypes."

What to call ourselves

The final point we touch on in terms of the book's messages is that sticky issue of the term 'expat'. As Carrie says in the introduction to her book: "I dislike the word 'expat' but, for simplicity, the term has been used in this introduction and in some of our stories. It would be better to describe me and my fellow writers as 'immigrants temporarily or permanently residing in a country other than the one in which they were raised'. Unfortunately, that's a bit of a mouthful."

She goes on to say, "The word 'expat' has probably now run its course, as it retains connotations of privileged, financially mobile western white men and women working abroad, or retirees relaxing on sun-soaked beaches. Nowadays, people are choosing to emigrate for a myriad of different reasons and some of us feel that being labelled an expat can set us apart from our adopted cultures when, in fact, we are trying to do exactly the opposite."

She admits there's an "ironic element" to the title of the book, which aims to "go behind the Face-

"It doesn't matter where you live, that feeling of struggling to integrate and dealing with the bureaucracy is the same"

book veneer of cocktails and toenails in the sand." But at the same time the book's aim isn't to get a "knee-jerk reaction from people who don't understand and think your life is a permanent holiday".

We talk about the wide-ranging reasons why people move abroad in the first place and then end up staying. Take for example Deborah, who came to Spain for a year, aged 29 and is now 50 and still living here.

Carrie, 50, has lived near Barcelona with her British husband since 2006. Their two children were born in Barcelona.

As well as founder of Bremain in Spain and MumAbroad, Carrie runs Fig Communication; a marketing and communications company for Spanish companies wanting an international profile. She also hosts a weekly Desert Island Discs-style show for a Barcelona based radio station.

"I'm not great at not being busy, I like being busy," the multifaceted mother-of-two admits.

Finding herself with time on her hands during the first lockdown in spring last year, Carrie came up with the idea of putting together the book. She had also recently lost both of her parents and describes not only the pain and grief of loss, but as an 'expat' she said she also started to feel "rootless and with a lack of sense of belonging".

Carrie knew of others who had faced similar as well as quite different experiences. "There are themes around loneliness and major personal challenges," she highlights.

Inevitably Covid-19 and Brexit feature in the women's accounts. "They have come at the same time and really laid bare people's struggles," says Carrie. We discuss feelings of guilt and questioning decisions to move abroad in the first place, especially in light of current travel restrictions.

We agree that there is plenty of scope for sequels. Carrie is already exploring ideas around exposing a different image of retirees, a men's perspective on emigrating and looking at motherhood abroad. "People will always have stories to tell. The book is giving people a platform," Carrie concludes.

Further information: The book is available on Amazon.es/co.uk and other countries in paperback and Kindle. There are plans for an audiobook version.



WHAT HAPPENED TODAY?

5 FEBRUARY 1985

The Gibraltar - Spain border fully reopens

The Rock had been effectively isolated by General Franco when he erected the 'Verja de Gibraltar' in retaliation for the Gibraltar Constitution Order of 1969

In 1713 the territory of Gibraltar was ceded to Great Britain in perpetuity under the Treaty of Utrecht. However, the first form of a physical border between Gibraltar and Spain was not established until 1730. The line of defence containing a fort, known as the Lines of Contravalation of Gibraltar (Línea de Contravalación de Gibraltar), was built by Spain at the north end of the isthmus in order to keep the British from attacking or encroaching on the land. Ironically, in 1810, the British and the Spanish became allies against Napoleon's troops. According to a bilateral agree-

ment between Spain and the UK, the Gibraltar Commanding Royal Engineer Sir Charles Holloway blew up 'the Lines' to prevent the fortifications from falling under French control. At the start of the 20th century, the issue of tobacco smuggling prompted both sides to erect a fence, giving birth to the de facto border. In 1909, Britain decided to build a 2.1 metre high fence. Initially citizens could cross the border unhindered to visit family members on either side of the divide. In 1954, Spain began to impose various additional restrictions in response to news that Queen Elizabeth II would visit the Rock. Gibraltar was effectively isolated by Francisco Franco when he erected the 'The Fence of Gibraltar' called the 'La verja de Gibraltar' in Spanish. The border was in retaliation to the Gibraltar Constitution Order of 1969. The fence ran east-west for a total of 1.2 kilometres and



Police opening the gate into Gibraltar on 5 February 1985 . SUR

remained closed for 13 years and a half years. The partial reopening of the border occurred on 15 December 1982. It was the result of years of negotiations between Spain's newly elected Socialist party and Margaret Thatcher's conservative government. Relinquishing the blockade still left tight restrictions and only allowed access to pedestrians - both Spanish citizens and inhabitants of Gibraltar. British and foreign tourists

as well as cars and commercial vehicles were banned from crossing the border. When in 1986 Spain wanted to join the European Community, Margaret Thatcher stated that Spain could not enter the Community "until the restrictions on the border between Spain and Gibraltar are lifted". Finally, free movement between Spain and Gibraltar started on 5 February 1985. On 5 February 1986, the Gi-

LANGUAGE FOOTNOTE	
Verja	Fence
Cruzar	To cross
Transfronterizo	Cross-border
Territorio	Territory
Defence	Defensa
Abrir	To open
Reapertura	Reopen
Peatones	Pedestrians
Habitantes	Inhabitants
Etapas	Stage
Cumplimiento	Compliance
Obedecer	To obey
Liberar	To free
Frontera	Frontier
Vehículos	Vehicles
Represalia	Retaliation
Cerrar	To close
Conservador	Conservative

braltar-Spain border happily became the focus of attention once again. To celebrate the first anniversary of the full reopening of the border, the first stage of the Andalusian road bicycle race, the Vuelta a Andalucía, ended in Gibraltar after the cyclists crossed 'The Fence.'

Bilingual crossword inside back page

Pushing boundaries in aid of local charity

Ed Franklin, 61, began his walking challenge to raise funds for Age Concern in January and has so far clocked up over 200 miles

TONY BRYANT

BENALMÁDENA. A Benalmádena-based British resident has launched a challenging task to raise funds for Age Concern Fuengirola/ Mijas/ Benalmádena

by endeavouring to walk 2021 miles over the course of this year. Ed Franklin, 61, began his challenge in January and has so far clocked up over 200 miles. Because of boundary closures, the energetic expat is currently walking along the promenade in Benalmádena Costa, where he has lived since retiring in 2017. Ed, who became involved with Age Concern in 2019 when he helped set up the Benalmádena



Ed, walking for Age Concern. SUR.

drop-in centre, hopes to raise 2021 euros for the charity by attempting to walk an average of 500,000 steps per month. Long road ahead However the fundraiser, who admits that he is "not what you would call athletic", is taking care not to push himself too much, as there is still a long road ahead. "I'm off to a decent start, but I need to maintain that for another 11 months. I sometimes get shin splints if I don't stretch my calves properly before starting out. It often starts after a mile or so and can last for up to an hour, but eventually wears off," Ed told SUR in English. Ed has set up a GoFundMe page for people to support the cause with donations, and is also

publishing a daily report on his Facebook page (www.facebook.com/w2021in2021) to keep supporters up to date with his progress. "I have never attempted anything of this scale before. I tried to make an effort to walk regularly last year, but I found it difficult to keep motivated as I have arthritis of the hip. "The difference this time is that I am determined to succeed and raise some funds for a charity close to my heart," he explained. Age Concern secretary Steve Marshall said, "With the never-ending coronavirus situation we are having to look outside the box for ways to raise money, so we are delighted with Ed's attempt to complete this challenging campaign."

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DENISE BUSH



GARDENING

Enkianthus campanulatus

The red vein enkianthus, *Enkianthus campanulatus*, is native to Asia, from the Himalayas to Indochina and Japan.

It is an upright, bushy shrub with stunning leaf colour in the autumn and pretty bunches of creamy, bell-like flowers from spring and through the summer.

The genus *Enkianthus* includes some shrubs and small

trees in the Ericaceae family (heather). Like most members of this family (such as *Pieris* which has very similar flowers but is a distant relative), *Enkianthus* prefers a rich, acidic soil. It needs plenty of sunlight but as summers are so hot in the south of Spain,

some afternoon shade

is recommended.

Enkianthus campanulatus is one of the hardiest species in the genus. It is not drought tolerant but will withstand some frost. In ideal conditions it can reach up to five metres tall but 2.5 to three metres and a spread of 1.8 metres is more usual.

It can be grown in a large container as a specimen plant or in a mixed border. The elliptical blue-green leaves have finely serrated edges and turn shades of orange, red and purple in the autumn although this varies from plant to plant so it is best to buy a plant when it is showing autumn colours. It is deciduous and will drop all of its leaves in winter. In early spring new foliage will start to appear with leaves crowded towards the tips of the branches. The dangling bunches of flowers develop in late spring. Each bell-shaped bloom is creamy-white, flushed with pink at the tips of the petals and with pink veins.

As the flowers form on the previous year's growth, pruning, if necessary, should be carried out straight after flowering has finished.

Enkianthus can be propagated from semi-hardwood cuttings taken in the summer.

The genus name comes from the Greek word *enkios*, meaning pregnant and *anthos* meaning flower, and probably refers to the swelling at the base of each flower of some of the species. The specific epithet *campanulatus* comes from the Latin word meaning bell-shaped.



Autumn colour of *E. campanulatus* and blooms (inset). WIKIMEDIA

READERS' PHOTOS

Fragrant mimosa

SUR in English reader Caroline Sellers took this photo during a walk along the river to San Pedro. She says, "A wonderful sight to see these bright yellow flowers full of scent and bees! I think one of the prettiest trees around." Australian native *Mimosa* or *Acacia dealbata* (also commonly called silver wattle) has been widely introduced across the Mediterranean region.



CAROLINE SELLERS



ANN PENNINGTON

Pink chandeliers

This photo of *Kalanchoe delagoensis* or chandelier plant was sent in by Ann Pennington who has several of these elegant plants in flower in her patio at the moment.

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](https://www.facebook.com/surenenglish)) or Twitter (@SUR_English).

Covid restrictions... Bad weather... Self-isolation...

You know you can rely on SUR in English to be out on the streets every Friday without fail - but if for any reason you can't pick up your copy as usual, don't forget to download the pdf version of the print edition at

<http://print-edition.surinenglish.com>



Chain reactions

An injection of creative energy

REVIEW
GEORGINA OLIVER



Pedro Cabrita Reis, in CAC Málaga. F. S.

From the start, the pandemic - and the restrictions that went with it - were unexplored territory: something we hadn't been through before; democratic governments entered uncharted waters, implementing measures conceivable only under a state of emergency; frontiers (between towns, provinces and countries...) were closed; and boundaries (between home and work, virtual and real...) became blurry. Last spring's lockdown sparked a chain reaction of constraints (ranging from face masks to social distancing and capacity limitations). What next? Will the events I'm about to highlight be open to the public, when this review appears, and, if so... at what times?

Just the thing

How do artists do it? They always seem to zero in on what's bugging us, and to jazz it up, turning it into a point of reflection, relevant to the present.

Whether cogitating in their studios - or even more obviously so... - when setting up installations in situ, or if into street art, they mark their territory, defining their own codes, within self-imposed limits; their 'work conditions' are a metaphor for what we miss most now: the illusion of doing

what we want, when we want, on our own ground.

Scheduled at the Centro de Arte Contemporáneo (CAC Málaga) till mid-March, Portuguese artist Pedro "Cabrita" Reis's curiosity cabinet-like display is a celebration of inspirational serendipity, a jazz funeral for "The Way We Were" and "Where We Once Belonged". In the coronavirus-free world, our senses were exposed to a constant stream of stimuli, at all hours... Spoilt for choice, so to speak.

Little Goat - Cabinet d'Amateur is CAC's current show-within-a-show, nestled within a major exhibition spotlighting Sevilla-born mainstreamer, Miki Leal. My tip? See Cabrita's potpourri first. This happy-go-lucky tutti-frutti of paintings, drawings and sculpture - incorporating recycled objects and materials (discarded lids of industrial paint, salvaged window frames...) - is just the thing for art-starved museumgoers in need of a receptivity-booster.

City as Labyrinth

Throughout January, a string of toned-down (no hugs, no drinks) openings attended by a handful of masked party faithfuls had (to a degree) lifted the spirits of Málaga's gallery circuit... - desperate to get back into the swing of things.

The invitation to the relatively well-frequented private view of Rafael Alvarado's La Ciudad Laberinto show - at the Ateneo (on Calle Compañía, just off the Plaza de la Constitución), until 26 February - evoked a hip Covid-era 'vanitas'; featuring self-balancing scooter riders circling past a human skull, it achieved maximum impact in a few pencil strokes.

Alvarado belongs to a current of thought that has gained momentum amongst the arty glitterati. His Ciudad Laberinto concept revolves around the idea that massive tourism - surfing on 'brand Picasso' - is ruining the 'flâneurial' atmosphere of the town, and that it's time to react.

Given the circumstances, this politico-artistic topic could have been a total turn-off. Who wants to "re-think the urban and cultural model" of their city, in the midst of a sanitary crisis? The hordes of sightseers and airline passengers Rafael Alvarado depicts are nowhere to be seen. The historic centre is eerily empty, even before the evening curfew starts; forced closures have brought the tourist sector to a standstill...

Fortunately, Alvarado has a lot going for him; a powerful draughtsman, he injects his highly contemporary expres-

sionistic paintings - which also allude to more universal issues, such as the plight of migrant workers - with 'uncommon force'. Well worth the detour.

When in Rome

My most recent crowd-less thrills...? Two diametrically distinct offerings, each emblematic of the "Málaga Ciudad Genial" ethos, although at opposite extremes of the visual arts market. Miquel ("Best Artist Alive") Barceló is easy to find; his mega "Metamorphosis" is the Museo Picasso's star attraction - as ever, an injection of unbridled, organic... multi-pronged energy, à la Pablo.

Galicia-raised, Málaga-based Maria Maquieira, on the other hand, proffers an unabashedly intimate, small-scale vision of something we can all identify with at the moment: a place we miss. Rome, in her case. Presented 24/24 in the shop window of the Casa Amarilla art space (Calle Santos, 7), her freehand sketches and self-portraits executed on various personal mementoes of the capital she lived in for six years were a chance discovery, landed upon during an afternoon walk.

It is my view that a top-ranking international artist like Barceló and an emerging talent like María are equally essential.

Netflix hit Toy Boy returns to Costa del Sol to film season two

FRANCISCO GRIÑÁN

MALAGA. Atresmedia TV has announced that the filming of the second season of Spanish series Toy Boy will begin "soon" on the Costa del Sol. The night life, the strip bars and the confrontation between the Rojas and Medina families will feature again but with the addition of a touch of the Italian mafia.

The original premiere of Toy Boy was on Spain's Antena 3, where it had a very limited audience and numerous critics at the end of 2019. But everything changed when it reached the Netflix platform, where it became one of the most popular series in many countries.

This sequel, which will be shot again in its entirety on the Costa del Sol, includes the main cast of Jesús Mosquera, Cristina Castaño and María Pedraza, from Málaga, joined by two international signings, the Italians Michele Morrone and Federica Sabatini.

Nominees won't be attending Goya awards ceremony

F. GRIÑÁN

MALAGA. The Spanish film industry's Goya awards will take place on 6 March in Málaga without even the nominees present. Due to the uncertainty over the pandemic it was decided this week that only the presenters, performers and the honorary award winner would be in the Soho Caixabank theatre.

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The street is the new stage for popular singer

Music. Suzette Moncrief, for years the voice of the Free Soul Band and the Lito Blues Band, has obtained a street artist licence in Torremolinos

REGINA SOTORRÍO



It's Monday, 10.30am. Suzette Moncrief does her vocal exercises. She's about to set off for work. Today it is the promenade at Carihuela.

Like every Monday and Friday, she will take out her speaker, set up her microphone and start to sing.

The Malaga-based New Yorker, who for years has been the voice of the Free Soul Band and the Lito Blues Band, has found salvation in the street from the standstill in the entertainment sector caused by coronavirus.

Since November, Suzette Moncrief has been a licensed street artist in Torremolinos. And the experience is very rewarding. "I don't plan to stop playing the streets," she says.

Since the beginning of the pandemic, with the exception of the summer months, her work and income have been reduced to zero. She is one of the best-known singers on the Malaga scene with around 250 concerts on her schedule in a normal year - performances on the main stages of Malaga, as well as small venues and beach clubs.

There is no soul, rhythm and blues, funk and rock lover in the province who is not familiar with

her powerful voice and contagious energy on the stage. After many years being the voice of well-known bands, the time had come to create her own: Suzette & More.

Pandemic

But coronavirus stopped everything in its tracks. She began to ask colleagues, to find out about the street performance procedures, create a repertoire and look for equipment... and, with the permission of Torremolinos town hall, she took to the streets to do what she does best.

"For me it has been pure therapy. After not being able to sing, being in lockdown, not having contact with people... seeing that I can sing every day is vital," she acknowledges. Now she even has a group of loyal fans who follow her street route on social media to hear her sing live.

She takes her street performances with the same seriousness as any 'gig' hired by a venue.

"I put on makeup, I choose the clothes I am going to wear. I have prepared a repertoire especially for the street performances and I take a speaker with a lithium battery."

Her daughter - "my saviour" - bought her one of the best on the



Suzette Moncrief performs on the Carihuela promenade. SALVADOR SALAS

market so the sound would be perfect. Although this will never replace a band.

"I miss them, I need them and I value them even more," she says.

She admits she was never shy about singing in the street but she was a bit scared at first.

"Being a single woman, with expensive equipment and with the money that people give you..." But in the next breath she adds that she is used to difficult situations: "I am from New York, I was born in 1968, a black woman, the daughter of a public schoolteacher."

Tears

The street has given her some lessons that she will not forget. Like when a homeless person gave her fifteen cents with a "Thank you for bringing me the music, you have made my day".

"It is the most generous of all the contributions I have received. It made me cry and that is why I will always pay tribute to the street," says the singer, who appreciates each smile that she senses behind the face masks.

She says the street allows her to make a "decent" living. That's why she is deeply grateful to Torremolinos and its people.

"It is the people who are helping me to move forward. A kiss, my respect and my admiration goes out always to the people," she says, and insists: "It is very important to put this in the article."

In Torremolinos you can listen to Suzette five or six days a week. On Mondays and Fridays, from 12noon to 2pm, opposite San Miguel ice cream shop. Tuesdays and Saturdays, from 1pm to 3pm, outside Rincón del

"For me it has been pure therapy. After being in lockdown with no contact with people, seeing that I can sing every day is vital"

Sol Snack Bar. And on the rest of the days, you will find her at one of the 17 points throughout the town where street music is allowed.

Her aim now is to get a licence to perform in other municipalities in the province and Malaga city to widen the radius of her "street art".

Suzette Moncrief is certain that she has come to the streets to stay. "I'll carry on with my life doing what I can, but I'm not going to stop working the streets."



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EXHIBITIONS

Fran Doblas

TORREMOLINOS. Until 14 February. Casa de la Navajas.

'Escarpar Hacia Dentro' is a project started during quarantine last March and records, via photos and collages compiled by the artist, how individuals managed the confinement.



Fran Doblas, Torremolinos

Torremolinos Street Art

TORREMOLINOS. Caseta Municipal de Asociaciones.

The initiative includes workshops and activities for persons between 14 and 35 as well as a tour of the town's murals on 30 January which will include exhibitions of hip hop and break dance. On 13 February and 13 March there will be workshops on creating graffiti, urban dance and

Fundraising Texas scramble to support amateur theatre

TONY BRYANT

MIJAS. A fundraising golf tournament has been organised to raise money for the struggling Salón Varietés Theatre, which is experiencing severe financial complications caused by the coronavirus pandemic. The fun tournament is open to all and will take place on the 18-hole Campo America at the La Cala Golf and Spa Resort in Mijas Costa on Saturday 13 March. The tournament will kick off with a shotgun start at 10am.

The contest will be a Texas Scramble, a style of team competition popular in charity golf tournaments.

The competition will be limited to 72 players (teams of four people) and prizes will be offered for a hole in one, longest drive and nearest pin, as well as a trophy



Charity golf tournament. SUR.

to the winning team. Registration costs 72 euros per person and includes green fees and buggy, drinks and tapas and live entertainment. To register a team, contact fundraising@salon-varietes.com, or phone 627595059.

customising tee-shirts. To register email: juventud@torremolinos.es or call: 659 870 542.

3D tour of museum

COÍN. Online.

The Centro Antonio Reyna Manescau, dedicated to the 19th-century Coín-born painter, has opened its doors to the whole world by creating a virtual tour of its exhibition rooms. Find the link halfway down the page on <http://turismocoin.com/>

Alfonso J. Marín

MIJAS. Until 15 February. Casa Museo de Mijas.

Local artist Alfonso J Marín will be displaying some of his sculptures.

Malaga Picasso Museum

MALAGA. Museo Picasso Málaga, Calle San Agustín.

Although currently closed due to the pandemic, it is possible to see works from the Meret Oppenheim exhibition in the museum on the website www.museopicassomalaga.org under 'exposiciones digitales'.

Collection. Dialogues with Picasso. Collection 2020-2023 is formed of 120 works by the artist.

James Turrell. Until June. The exhibition entitled Cherry, is an experiment with light, space and time.

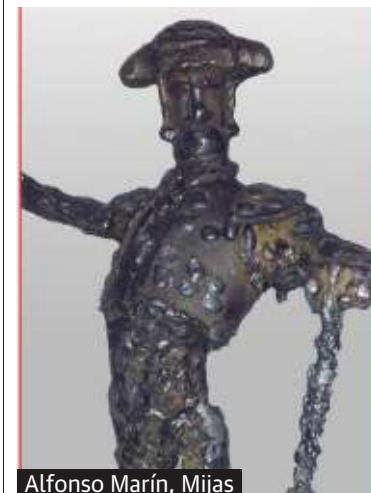
Hilando Diseño. An enormous tapestry mural of colourful squares created by over 500 students in primary and secondary schools, art and college students as well as vulnerable adults in care homes in Malaga.

Metamorfosis. Until September. An exhibition of around one hundred paintings, ceramics, drawings and bronzes by artist Miquel Barceló will be on display.

Centre Pompidou

MALAGA. Muelle Uno.

Although currently closed due to the pandemic, it is possible to see some of the exhibitions on the website <https://centrepompidou-malaga.eu/>



Alfonso Marín, Mijas

Museum Jorge Rando

MALAGA. C/ Cruz del Molinillo.

www.museojorgerando.org
Expressionist museum of work by painter and sculptor Jorge Rando. Although currently closed due to the pandemic, it is possible to see some of the exhibitions on the website www.jorgerando.org

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The exhibition is influenced by the artist's family. **SUR**

Portrait and still life exhibition

T. BRYANT

FUENGIROLA. An exhibition of drawings and paintings by Argentine artist Luz Ortiz de Rosa is currently on show at the Casa de Cultura in Fuengirola. *Cuerdas de Viento con Máscaras* is inspired by the artist's family, especially her five children, who are the main protagonists of the collection. The 55-year-old artist also paints rural, marine and urban landscapes, and her distinctive styles are executed in charcoal and vibrant acrylics.

Born into a family of artists in Buenos Aires in 1966, the artist was encouraged by her mother from an early age and she went on to study at the School of Fine Arts in Santa Ana.

Luz, who currently lives in Bella Vista, took time out during the 1990s to raise her family, but in 2001, she resumed painting and drawing, specialising in portraits and still life.

The exhibition, which is free, can be viewed until 26 February between 10am and 3pm from Monday to Friday.



Part of the virtual tour of the *Masks, Metamorphosis of the Modern Identity* exhibition at the Carmen Thyssen. **SUR**

EXHIBITIONS

Carmen Thyssen Museum

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

Collection. A journey through mainly Spanish art from the Old Masters through to Romantic Landscape and Costumbrismo, Précieux Style and Naturalist Painting. Although temporarily closed due to the pandemic, current and past collections of the Thyssen museum can be viewed via virtual tours at www.carmenthyssenmalaga.org

Museo Revello de Toro

MALAGA. C/Afligidos.

Félix Revello de Toro is a distinguished Malaga artist. Around 117 of his works are on display in the museum. Although currently closed due to the pandemic, it is possible to see some of his works on display in the museum on the website www.museorevellodetoro.net

Galería Benedito

MALAGA. Calle Niño de Guevara.

The current exhibition of works by Juan Tenorio consists of a series of landscapes of New York and London full of colour and movement. This exhibition, as well as other art works, can be viewed on the gallery web site: galeriabeneditoshop.com

Creadores 2020

MALAGA. Until 28 February. La Térmica. Free.

Although currently closed due to the pandemic, it is possible to see some of the exhibitions on the website www.latermicamalaga.com Six young artists, Abel Jaramillo, Virginia López-Anido, Delia Boyano, Antonio Ruiz Montesinos, Jorge Isla and García & Fernández are exhibiting works which include installations, photographs, posters, collages etc.

CONCERTS AND MUSIC

For live events, consult the Covid-19 restrictions for the venue closer to the date.

Malaga Philharmonic Orchestra

MALAGA. Teatro Cervantes.

4, 5 March, 4pm. Date subject to change.) The orchestra plays pieces by Schubert and Mendelssohn with conductor Anna Rakitina and soloist

violin Leticia Moreno. Check www.teatrocervantes.com to confirm dates and times.

The Sound Experience

MALAGA. 6 February, 7pm. Via Zoom. 10€

Música con Encanto presents music therapy with The Sound Experience. The experience will help people to become conscious of how sounds around us affect our wellbeing. Register: reservas@musicaconencanto.org

Fran Perea

MIJAS. 20 February, 8pm doors open from 7pm. Teatro Las Lagunas. 15€.

Canciones Para Salvarme is the title of this concert by Malaga musician and actor Fran Perea. More information: <https://lacocheraentra-das.com/> Check restrictions.

Josu de Solaun

GIBRALTAR. 8 February, 9.30pm. Televised on GBC.

A piano recital by Josu de Solaun will be shown on Gibraltar Broadcasting Corporation TV channel (GBC). He will be playing pieces by Schumann, Brahms, Manuel de Falla, Granados and Debussy. More information: tgpsociety@gmail.com

TALKS / LECTURES

Art history in focus

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Fran Perea, Teatro Las Lagunas.

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The Arts Society Costa del Sol

FUENGIROLA. Lectures online.

The Arts Society Costa del Sol streams lectures to its members via Zoom. You can also register for a single lecture 10€. To join email: costadelsol@theartsociety.org **8 February, 4.30pm.** 40 Years of Great Finds- a Behind the Scenes Look at the BBC's Antiques Roadshow. Lecturer Marc Allum.

The Arts Society Nerja

NERJA. Lectures online.

The Arts Society Nerja season of lectures free online via Zoom for members and 10€ for supporters. www.theartsocietynerja.com **9 February, 6pm.** 40 Years of Great Finds- a Behind the Scenes Look at the BBC's Antiques Roadshow. Lecturer Marc Allum.

23 February. Oscar Wilde - Up close by Giles Ramsay. "I put all my genius into my life; I put only my talent into my works." I examine the public and private life of one of the world's most original and controversial artists. Born into a moderately respectable Dublin family Oscar Wilde recreated himself as an international celebrity and wrote a series of short stories and plays that charmed the world. In 1890 he also published the last of the great myths - The Picture of Dorian Gray. Ten years later Wilde, devoured by his fame, his demons and his decadence, would be dead.

Visitors can register for 10€ at gracievilla@gmail.com

MORE IDEAS

Film workshops

MIJAS. Casa Museo de Mijas. Free. Register by email: cultura@mijas.es or call: 952590380. Free but each participant should donate 3kg of non-perishable foodstuffs to the food bank at the start of the course. **Introduction to making a video using a chroma key.** 6 February 9am-2pm.



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Covid-19
Regular Updates

Cancer patients are suffering a double pandemic: their illness and Covid-19

The arrival of the virus has caused delays in the diagnosis of patients who have cancer and this is affecting many of them psychologically

ÁNGEL ESCALERA

MALAGA. The Covid-19 pandemic has changed everything. The arrival of the coronavirus has had an enormous impact on health and has affected not only people with the virus but also those with other illnesses, including cancer patients. They could be said to be facing a double pandemic, that of the coronavirus and that of their tumour process, and that is something that has a major psychological effect.

Yesterday, 4 February, was World Cancer Day and different associations spoke out, demanding on one hand that despite the pandemic, there should be no delays in carrying out diagnostic tests, and also calling for more money to be invested in cancer research in Spain.

One of these groups, the Spanish Association against Cancer (AECC) is calling for there to be a major national agreement to tackle the illness. "Cancer is the same for everybody, but not everybody is equal when it comes to cancer. Work needs to be done to eliminate the inequality and that can only be done if there is an agreement on how to tackle cancer," says the AECC.

They are unmoved by statements that the delays in diagnosis are being caused by the Covid pandemic, saying that "nobody should remain undiagnosed as a result of any type of crisis".

Meanwhile, the Andalusian Society of Medical Oncology (SAOM) said this week that the incidence of new cases of cancer is continuing to grow throughout the region. It points out that in 2020 the pandemic caused delays in diagnosis in between five and seven per cent more cases, compared with 2019. In fact, during the first wave of the virus, up until May last year, there was a 20 per cent increase in delayed diagnosis of new cancer cases in Spain, and this meant that more cases went undetected and by the time people began treatment their illness was at a more advanced stage than it would otherwise have been, said the president of SAOM, Antonio Rueda.

"We are worried by this situation, because these delays in diagnosis can have a major impact on the results and possibilities of treatment, and therefore the survival of the patients," he warned.

"I was very scared when they postponed my operation twice because of coronavirus"

The first operation for an ovarian tumour was delayed because the operating theatres were closed and the second because they suspected she had the virus

Á. ESCALERA

MALAGA. Life for 48-year-old Carlota Alexandre changed in March last year when she was diagnosed with ovarian cancer. She was due to have surgery at the peak of the first wave of the pandemic, but the operation at the Vithas Xanit hospital in Benalmádena was

postponed on two occasions. This caused Carlota extra anguish on top of the fear that she was already suffering. "I was really scared that they couldn't do the operation in time. The first time it was put off because the operating theatres were closed as a result of the pandemic. When they opened again and my surgery was scheduled, they cancelled it again because the results of one of the blood tests they did made them think I might have the coronavirus. Luckily, the test wasn't positive so I finally had the operation two weeks later, on 20 April," says Carlota, who was born in Portugal but has lived in Fuengirola for many years.

She has a message of support



Carlota Alexandre lives in Fuengirola. NITO SALAS

for others with cancer. "I have a very strong faith and I have patience. You have to remember that Spain has very good oncologists. I have been in the hands of a fantastic team," she says.

Carlota now faces an additional problem: a lack of money. She

was laid off because of the pandemic and although she has applied for financial assistance she has been turned down twice. "I'm hoping the Asociación Española contra el Cáncer (AECC) will be able to help me get some sort of help," she says.

"I decided not to go for my treatment because I didn't want to die alone with Covid"

A psychologist from the AECC helped her to overcome her panic and to continue the immunotherapy she was having for lung cancer

Á. E.

MALAGA. Ana González, 66, knows from experience what battling lung cancer is like. She knew all about the fear it causes, but when the coronavirus arrived it sent her into such a panic that she was at the point of giving up the immunotherapy she needs and receives at the Civil Hospital in Malaga.

"I said to myself: with my lung problem I am more at risk if I catch Covid, and as the situation is so bad I'm not going for my treatment. I'd prefer to die of cancer than Covid, because with the virus I would die alone," she says.

She was born in Venezuela because her parents had emigrated there to find work, "but all my family is from Granada. I came here with my children, and now my sister is here as

well," she says.

After deciding to abandon her immunotherapy, Ana rang the Fuengirola branch of the Asociación contra el Cáncer and told Paloma Gómez that she wasn't going to go to the hospital. She was referred to one of their psychologists and her panic and anxiety gradually disappeared. Volunteers from the association also drove her for her immunotherapy sessions each day.

"If it hadn't been for that psychological help, and because they took me to the hospital and brought me back, I wouldn't have gone. In the end, I only missed one session. After that, I started going every 21 days for an injection, and that's something I'll have to do for the rest of my life," she says.

Years ago, Ana was diagnosed with a grade 4 carcinoma in both lungs. She had chemotherapy to shrink the tumour, then surgery on one lung and, some time later, on the other.

After the operations she was cancer-free for five years, but then it came back and that is why, three years ago, she began to have immunotherapy.



Ana González is having immunotherapy treatment in Malaga. SUR

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Comfort food

ANDREW J. LINN



The expression ‘comfort food’ means different things to different people. In communities where it is commonly heard, the emphasis is on the fact that it can be anything that lifts up the spirits, often because it has nostalgic or sentimental associations with other people or situations. The phrase can be typi-

fied by dishes with high levels of carbohydrates and/or calories, variously described as addiction without the risks, to-hell-with-the-diet, and food as a harmless drug. Lockdown has understandably increased our desire for comfort food, as what we eat and drink in the privacy of our own home can substantially influence our

state of mind. It is what makes us feel happier, more stress-free, and invariably satisfied at all levels, frequently a sensation produced by consciously doing something that we know we should not be doing. Examples are chocolate, bacon sandwiches, fish and chips, ice cream, a fry-up, a curry, or whatever we could eat more of even though we are not hungry.

Lockdown has understandably increased our desire to eat comfort food

Comfort food means nothing in Spain, and if you try to explain what it means, the reaction will be that all Spanish food is comfort food. Arguably, in a gastronomically materialistic society, a plate of ‘5 bellotas’ (five acorns - top category) cured ham or a matured manchego cheese may qualify. However, what are known as ‘platos de cuchara’ (spoon dishes - because that is how they are eaten) are probably the best examples. These are what children are brought up on. They create blissful reminiscences of mother serving from a big dish for everyone to share. Happy memories of comfort food.

WINE OF THE WEEK

AN/2 2018 (Anima Negra)

It has taken wines from Balears and from the Canaries for that matter, decades to become accepted outside their regions, since both use grapes with which most consumers are unfamiliar. Additionally, prices have tended to be slightly loaded because of transport costs. This Mallorcan classic costs around €17 and is well worth trying.



Potato crisps with the flavour of Malaga

In Malaga city and in many towns in the province there are businesses that manufacture this popular product

JAVIER ALMELLONES

MALAGA. Crunchy, tasty and without additives describes many of the potato crisps that are currently produced in the province of Malaga. Both in the city of Malaga and in several inland towns, such as Ardales, Campillos or Sierra de Yeguas, you can find up to half a dozen companies that today have crisps among their star products. In most cases, they are handmade and are free of lactose and gluten.

Nearly all are made with sunflower oil although there are a few that are made with a healthier option, extra virgin olive oil. In addition to salted crisps, many of these companies offer more varieties for

their customers, with chive, ham, garlic and herb flavours as well as unsalted. Below are some of the companies that distribute potato crisps in Malaga:

Paco José, Malaga

Crisps are the star product of this business that has been operating in Malaga for over forty years and is regarded as the oldest of its kind in the city. It has several shops in the centre but the most famous is the one located just a few metres from the Atarazanas market on Calle Moreno Carbonero. Paco José crisps are fried in sunflower oil and sometimes in olive oil. They

The Paco José company has been making potato crisps for over forty years and is regarded as the oldest of its kind in Malaga



Cooked in sunflower or olive oil and salted or flavoured, crisps are a popular snack. **SUR**

are also available at the head office, located on the La Estrella industrial park (Calle Parauta), and in other central shops, such as those in Calle Calderería and Armengual de la Mota. In addition to crisps, they also offer a wide variety of dried fruit and nuts, among other products.

El Tío de las Papas, Sierra de Yeguas

This company’s headquarters are in Sierra de Yeguas, to the north of the province. They fry their crisps in sunflower oil and offer other options such as slow cooked crisps and unsalted, garlic and ham flavours. Their motto is ‘simplemente

papas fritas’ (simply fried potatoes) as they avoid using any preservatives or flavour enhancers.

Patatas de Ardales Millán, Campillos

Although this company has its origins in the town of Ardales, for some years it has been operating out of Campillos. Its famous crisps are packaged in bags ranging from 30 grammes to one kilo. Founded by Juan Ramón Millán, the secret of these crisps, which are fried in sunflower and olive oil, lies in the high quality of the potatoes from Andalucía. They also have other flavours and make other

brands, Virgen de la Victoria and El Cautivo. They are commonly found on the shelves of large supermarkets.

D. Sancho Melero, Antequera

This brand belongs to the Antequera business group Unión Mels, founded in 1948 by Diego Sancho Melero, Rosario Paradas and their children. They started in 1985 and are one of the oldest crisp making firms in the province. Their crisps which are fried in sunflower oil are found in both small and large supermarkets such as Carrefour, El Corte Inglés, Maskom, Covirán and Alcampo, among others.



Last-gasp Pablo Chavarría goal brings Malaga's long winless run to an end

The Blue and Whites saw off Alcorcón away from home on Saturday night to record their first win since 1 December

DARYL FINCH



Malaga recorded a win for the first time since 1 December as a late goal from Pablo Chavarría secured all three points away to Alcorcón on Saturday night.

In what was a match which had 'bore draw' written all over it, neither team took the game by the scruff of the neck through an apparent fear of losing.

Alcorcón, whose home form is only marginally worse than Malaga's, (fourth worst in the division), were happy to cede possession and look to strike on the counter-attack. Malaga coach Sergio Pellicer, however, was aware of that and opted to field three centre-backs (Ismael Casas in addi-



Chavarría gives Malaga the lead deep into stoppage time against Alcorcón. **AGENCIA LOF**

tion to Juande and David Lombán) to combat that threat.

The tactic seemed to work, albeit with the effect that both sides showed very little in attack. Marc Gual came closest for the hosts in the first half, getting in behind a snoozing Ramón, but couldn't get his volleyed effort on target.

The introduction of Yanis Rahmani in the second half gave Malaga more impetus and allowed wing-backs Cristo and Alexander

to get into the game more and feed the ball to Chavarría who had a few efforts from outside the box.

Extraordinarily it wasn't until into stoppage time that the first chance on target came. In a rare counter-attack, Chavarría burst forward down the left before cutting in on his right foot to fire beneath Dani Jiménez to secure the long-awaited win for the Blue and Whites.

"It was a very difficult game,"

said coach Pellicer following the game. "Having control of the ball is very difficult on a field like this one. They were the better team in the first half but I thought in the second half that we improved and were able to play in the opponents' half more and keep them under pressure. But it was a long game..."

When questioned about his team's style of play, a prickly Pellicer retorted: "We know that we have to improve but we also have

0-1

ALCORCÓN-MALAGA

Alcorcón: Dani Jiménez; Víctor García, David Fernández, José León, José Carlos; Aguilera; Hugo Fraile (Samu Sosa, 55'), Boateng, Juanma Bravo (Escardó, 80'), Ojeda (Óscar Arribas, 70'), Marc Gual (Barbero, 69'). Unused substitutes: Samu Casado, Jesús, Castro, Álvaro Juan, Guito, Ernesto.

Malaga: Soriano; Ismael, Lombán, Juande; Alexander, Ramón, Escassi, Cristo; Caye Quintana (Joaquín, 80'), Chavarría, Jairo (Rahmani, 60'). Unused substitutes: Dani Barrio, Benítez, Mejías, Matos, Quintana, Jozabed, Haitam, Cristian, Larrubia. Loren.

Goal: 0-1 Chavarría (90+2').

Referee: Ais Reig. Yellow cards for Ramón, Escassi (who will miss the Zaragoza game), Víctor García and José Carlos.

Venue: Estadio Santo Domingo.

to look at who we were playing. It's not like they deserve to be bottom of the table. We also have to look at the situation we're in, coming off the back of a bad run of results."

The games don't get any easier for Malaga. Next up is the visit of Real Zaragoza on Sunday (kick-off 4pm) where the next objective will be to address the side's poor home record.

Malaga haven't won at La Rosaleda since 22 October (1-0 against Sporting Gijón) and have only claimed a total of 11 points at home so far this season, compared to 20 on the road.

Contract extensions for Pellicer and Gaspar the next priority

With just one player coming in in January, securing the coach and sporting director is the next move for the administrator at Malaga

ANTONIO GÓNGORA

MALAGA. With the January transfer window now closed and no changes to the squad, the focus now for Malaga's judicial administrator, José María Muñoz, is to secure the futures of head coach Sergio Pellicer and sporting director Manolo Gaspar beyond the end of the season.

Having signed full-back Alexander González early on in the window to replace the injured Iván Calero, the remainder of the window saw no further activity with the club hampered by financial restraints.

Both Pellicer and Gaspar's contracts are due to expire in the summer and Muñoz is keen to reward the pair for their work in stabilising the club on the field, as-



Manolo Gaspar, left, and Sergio Pellicer, right, in conversation. **MALAGACF**

sembling a competitive squad with limited resources.

The stay of Muñoz is also set to be renewed, with the judge who installed him prepared to extend his placement for another six months while legal proceedings against majority owner Sheikh Abdullah Al-Thani continue.

Muñoz's work continues to be focused on reducing costs and

getting the club's balance sheet in order.

One source of revenue being pursued is that of sponsorship money Muñoz says is due from hotel group BlueBay, who had their name on the back of Malaga's shirts during the 2013-14 season. The administrator claims the debt is around 2.65 million euros but is yet to receive any formal response on the matter.

Disastrous defending condemns Marbella to yet another home defeat

The Costa side's defence was at fault for all three goals conceded on Sunday

MARBELLA TAMARACEITE

13

JULIO RODRÍGUEZ

MARBELLA. A series of defensive errors cost Marbella on Sunday afternoon as they were defeated 3-1 at home by Tamaraceite.

Marbella seemed in control until the 27th minute, when the side from Las Palmas won a penalty after Ezequiel Busquets gave away a cheap foul in the area. Up stepped Toni Robaina, who converted to give the visitors the lead.

The goal provoked a reaction from Marbella, but things got worse ten minutes later. Busquets, clearly still affected by his earlier error, played a slack back-pass to his goalkeeper on which Ismael Fajir gratefully capitalised.

He slotted the ball past Herrero for a debut goal and to double his team's advantage.

Just four minutes later, Marbella's defensive nightmare continued as fellow debutant Eliseo's error was seized upon by Fajir, who secured his second of the day. Trailing by three goals at the interval, Marbella had only themselves to blame.

Ahead of the second half, Busquets' misery was completed as he was replaced by Nacho. Marbella began brightly following the restart and, in the 52nd minute, good link-up work between Planas and Callejón played in Rafa Tresaco, who scored to give the hosts a glimmer of hope.

However, Tamaraceite managed to run down the clock and extinguish any chance of a Marbella revival. Indeed, the only other opportunity of note came with a quarter of an hour to go, when Chumbi had his effort saved by Nauzet.

Defeat sees Marbella stranded in seventh and surely dashes any lingering hopes of a playoff spot.



A LOOK AT LA LIGA
ROB PALMER
Commentator, Sky Sports

A staggering sum of money

After the terms of his contract were revealed in the national press, it would appear that Lionel Messi is going to have to take a massive pay cut and sell an awful lot of dog accessories to cut a deal with any club



It's a moral dilemma, we don't want to delve into the pay packet of Lionel Messi, but it is human instinct to have a little peek.

The newspaper El Mundo led with a headline that just looked like a random set of nine numbers this week – 555,237,619. The significance is that is the figure in the contract signed by the Barcelona superstar back in 2017 and I also think it is significant that it is a newspaper and not a sports paper that splashed on the story.

Normally we get our Spanish football news from the likes of Marca or AS but this is a publication where sports is generally a footnote compared to the politics of the country.

Is it right to make public the fact that a footballer has signed a contract worth half a billion euros? Clearly his employers don't think so and we should point out their statement for balance: "FC Barcelona categorically denies any responsibility for the publication of this document and will take appropriate legal action against the

newspaper El Mundo for any damage that may be caused as a result of this publication."

Yes, it is an invasion of privacy but I'm not quite sure what damage has been done to the football club?

In the long term it will explain why they can't offer him a similar deal when this one expires in June. An institution that is one billion euros in debt can't offer another arrangement which promises 138 million per season with a fee of 115 million for just signing the contract. And this is if he doesn't get a pay rise!

The fans obviously want him to stay, the coach is desperate to keep him, and the marketing department are praying he sees out his days in Catalonia. And the publication of his financial arrangement will be a reality check to the bean counters at Paris Saint Germain and Manchester City.

Messi would improve any team in the world and he earns far more than anyone else because he is far better than everyone else. He gets paid for



Messi is also a massive source of revenue for FC Barcelona. AFP

more than his football talents though. In normal times 10,000 punters pass through the doors of the Camp Nou Museum. The tour ends in the club shop where you feel obliged to take home a gift.

My parents and the Real Madrid star Isco have one thing in common – a dog called Messi and I'm sure he's also bought a

dog coat with the footballer's name. There is a whole industry in accessories given extra value if they are marked Messi.

Losing Messi means losing the most dominant footballer in La Liga but also means missing millions of euros, pounds, dollars and every other global currency in lost revenue - it would trigger a fire sale in dog coats.

The incoming Barcelona president, whoever he may be, needs to crunch numbers and come up with a magical figure that appeals to Messi and his financial advisors. It could be argued that he's still the footballer he's always been, in fact he's more important to the team than ever before as Barcelona lean so heavily on him.

The club don't have another 'Galáctico' in their ranks and he is a crowd puller. When fans are allowed back in, they will need to increase the revenue streams. It's only once per season that they are guaranteed to fill the 98,000 stadium and every empty seat equates to lost euros. Image rights are a vital source of income for clubs and a major bargaining tool for the player. Click on any of the Barcelona websites and an image of Messi will jump back at you. The club needs him on and off the pitch.

I'm sure deep down that the Argentinian won't want to uproot his family from their Barcelona base but at least any suitors in Manchester, Miami, Paris or even in China now have a nine-figure number as a starting point.

He hasn't earned all the bonuses, but the ballpark figure is around 511 million euros.

I don't think anyone really understands the rules of Financial Fair Play but justifying 100 million per season when income is limited in these trying times will be impossible. Lionel is going to have to take a pay cut and sell an awful lot of dog accessories to cut a deal with any club.

New Swedish investors arrive with the aim of reviving Vélez and turning it into a professional outfit

Jesper Norberg and Magnus Perhsson hope to completely revamp the Axarquía team which competes in the fourth tier of Spanish football

JUAN RAMÓN PADILLA

VÉLEZ-MÁLAGA. Vélez Club de Fútbol, who compete in the fourth tier of Spanish football, is undergoing a thorough transformation both on and off the field. One of the peculiarities of the past year has been the arrival of Swedish capital in the form of Jesper Norberg and Magnus Perhsson. Both arrived in the summer with no knowledge of the local game, but both are former players and coaches and have strong links to professional teams in Europe.

Perhsson began his professional



Norberg (l) and Perhsson (r) at the presentation of Joselinho. J. R. PADILLA

career at Djurgårdens in the mid-1990s, where he won the Swedish league and cup. Like so many Swedish players, he ended up in the English Premiership with Bradford City, returning to his homeland to play for FK Göteborg. He retired in 2003 at the age of 27 because of injuries and this led him to start his coaching career at a young age with various clubs such as IK Sirius and Göteborg AIS. He has also coached Danish side Aalborg, as well as the Estonian national team.

His compatriot Jesper Norberg, who has become the Vélez club president, developed his sporting career in the dugout. He was sporting director of Kalmar and former coach of Syrianska, among other teams, as well as an analyst for the Estonian national team.

These two Swedes live in Nerja and Fuengirola, respectively, and

have fallen in love with the Malaga coast - so much so that they decided to back a club that will celebrate its centenary in two years.

"We will improve Vélez from an amateur club to a sustainable professional club, one step at a time," Perhsson explained.

Vélez-Málaga has a great footballing tradition and the club has produced players such as Fernando Hierro, his brothers, Manolo and Antonio, as well as others such as Esteban Vigo, Carlos Tello and Javi Guerra.

The arrival of foreign investors has divided the fanbase, many of whom are disappointed that the completely revamped squad features only two players from the Axarquía. Others, however, are excited at the prospect of the minnows having a chance to climb the divisions.

IN BRIEF

POLE VAULT

Local athlete Isidro Leyva continues to set new records

M. RIVAS. Local pole vaulter Isidro Leyva has continued his excellent run of form and has set a new record.

The 21-year-old, who represents Trops Cueva de Nerja, set a new Andalusian record at the Mondeville Meeting (France) on Sunday.

There he impressed by increasing his personal best by a centimetre to 5.52 metres.

His previous best, and also an Andalusian record at the time, was set at the last Spanish under-23 outdoor championships, where he won the title.

Leyva had already started 2021 as the leader of the Spanish senior pole vault ranking, with a 5.35m, achieved just a week ago at the Valencia Grand Prix.

Now, he has reaffirmed his place at the top of the ranking and, in addition, has the fifth-best distance among the Spanish under-23s of all time (as well as the ninth at senior level) under his belt.



Leyva in Mondeville. IZAN GALIAN

BASKETBALL

Spain's Olympic Games opponents now known

COLPISA. Argentina, Japan and the winner of the Kaunas pre-Olympics will be Spain's opponents at the Olympic Games in Tokyo.

Sergio Scariolo's team's opponents for the Games, due to take place from 23 July to 8 August this year, were drawn on Tuesday in Mies (Switzerland).

Argentina will pose the toughest test, having been Spain's opposition in the 2019 World Championship final, while Japan and the winner in Kaunas (between Lithuania, Korea, Venezuela, Poland, Slovenia, Angola and Venezuela) should pose fewer difficulties.

RUGBY

Malaga the clear winners in local derby

SUR. CR Málaga were the clear winners in Sunday's derby against Marbella RC (33-3), despite the match being played in Marbella because Malaga's usual venue has not been approved by the Spanish Rugby Federation.

The outcome of the 10th matchday clash in Group C of the División de Honor B (the national second tier) was never really in doubt. CR Málaga scored five tries in the match, two of them by Óscar del Bosque.

With this result, CR Málaga are joint third on 31 points, while Marbella are sixth on 17 points.



Spain's players and technical staff celebrated their bronze medal in Egypt. MOHAMED ABD EL GHANY / REUTERS

A bronze medal which tastes of glory for Spain's handballers

Los Hispanos picked themselves up after their semi-final defeat to eventual champions Denmark to comfortably see off France

SPAIN
FRANCE

35
29

V. BORDA

Despite the disappointment of missing out on a place in the final, Spain's men's team return from the Handball World Championships in Egypt with deserved bronze medals round their necks having seen off France in the third-place playoff on Sunday.

They played an almost perfect match in which defence, goal-keeping and attack all clicked. The team coached by Jordi Ribera was far superior to the French who were seemingly taken by surprise by their style of play.

It was the culmination of a good World Cup in which Spain started slowly but picked up speed as the days went by. In the semi-final against eventual winners Denmark, they came up short in defence and in terms of luck. Against France, a team of enormous quality, they would have to be on the top of their game.

Los Hispanos got off to the perfect start. Within five minutes, Spain were 4-0 up. Led by a masterful Álex Dujshebaev, Spain overcame a France that came out strong. Jordi Ribera's team wanted to run and the 5:1 was working. Keeper Rodrigo Corrales lent a hand with some great saves (17 in total). In fact, it took Acqueville almost six minutes to open the French account.

Spain enjoyed a lead of up to five goals (11-6) but with a change to a 6:0, France began to feel more comfortable and they started to close the gap.

That said, the Spanish defence held their own with Corrales, who

stopped ten shots in the first half. They went into the break ahead (16-13), having been far superior to the French team.

At the start of the second half, France got within one goal. But Spain reacted well and regained their four-goal advantage thanks to their defence and speed. The Dujshebaev brothers continued to give a masterclass in attacking play, which Adrià Figueras also took advantage of from six metres out.

Les Experts tried their best, but could only find a way through from Spanish turnovers. Even so, France still made a final push to pull within four goals. Minutes earlier, Spain had had a seven-goal cushion (32-25, 52nd minute), but fatigue was beginning to show.

But the national team had no major problems staying ahead and the game eventually finished 35-29.

It was an ideal end to a championship in which Spain had gone from strength to strength.

Tough start to year for Davidovich continues with ankle injury

The local tennis star was forced to pull out of the ATP Challenger tournament in Quimper where he was top seed

PEDRO LUIS ALONSO

MALAGA. Malaga tennis star Alejandro Davidovich's difficult start to 2021 continued after he was forced to pull out of an ATP Challenger event in France on Wednesday following an ankle injury suffered during his match against Thomas Fabbiano. This is a further blow for Davidovich after a positive coronavirus test prevented him from taking part in the Australian Open.

World number 54 Davidovich was well on his way to victory in his debut this season against the Italian Fabbiano, leading 6-3 1-1 in their round of 32 clash in Quimper. However, he rolled his right ankle while trying to

turn his body to make a seemingly innocuous shot. His distress was audible and it was quickly evident he would not be able to continue.

Davidovich had come into the tournament as top seed, hoping to put the disappointment of missing the Australian Open behind him. A positive coronavirus test on 7 January meant he was not able to travel to take part.

He is expected to determine soon whether he will have recovered in time to take part in the Biella Challenger event in Italy in two weeks' time. However, the injury means that Davidovich could be out of action until the ATP Tour 250 event in Montpellier from 22 to 28 February.

Davidovich has responded to this latest setback in good humour, posting a video of him going down injured on Instagram complete with the caption: "Bad day at the office".



Davidovich on the ground in some discomfort on Wednesday. SUR

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PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

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OFFICIAL translations. all languages. 952 789 204. Mobile 654 613 094. Sanpedrotranslations@gmail.com

Mortgages

MISLAID your payslips/P60 or other paperwork? Recovery document service available, fast confidential, reliable. 617910147 alan1l@yahoo.co.uk

Loans

LOAN from 5,000 only 5% interest without income verification. 911230817. sendcreditinfo@consultant.com

Others

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www.moveit-storeit.com Phone David 696810618

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ZOOM Removals. Full house moves to single item collections. 25€ hour +fuel. Whatsapp 635187200

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FURNITURE wanted same day collection. Cash waiting. 697511071

WANTED all furniture and household items. Best prices. 697511071

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WANTED household/ garden furniture. 20 years on the Coast. 660366033

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MOTORS

Buy / Sell Cars

WANTED all cars, any registration, runners or non runners. Embargos & Finance problems. Call now. Cash waiting. 687049592/622229673

WANTED wanted, wanted!! All cars, all years, all models...from exotic to classic. Spanish, English, Dutch plated. Call 951977329/606647597

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BEST PRICES PAID
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952 838 842 / 608 950 221

WANTED: Best prices paid for proper cars, same day collection. 678808837

CARS & Vans any registration, instant cash. Finance/embargos UK or Spanish...685524921

ALL CARS Commercial wanted any age, any condition. CASH. Buyer collects. Transfer included. 605109796

PHONE me first or last!! I pay more!! Cars, caravans or commercial. 660366033

NISSAN Pathfinder T-Spec 2.5tdi, 7 seats, leather, in built Sat Nav, reverse camera, towbar. Ideal to take back to UK or put on Spanish plates. 6 months MOT. 3,995€. 687049592

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WE ARE a Real Estate agency based in the port of Estepona, selling properties from Benalmadena to Sotogrande with International clients. We are looking for Sales Agents for our English clients. You should speak perfect English other languages are a plus. Driving license and a car is essential. Please send your CV to: info@properties-spain-marbella.com

DRIVER needed immediately. Calahonda. 952 932 600

WE URGENTLY require a registered nurse for a company in Marbella. Must have 10 years plus experience. Trained in the UK or with international experience. English must be near native level, with Spanish. Permanent Contract. Email: recruitment@immucura.com

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MATURE Indian lady looking for position as Live-In Carer/Companion with light house keeping duties. Worked for same UK couple for 20 years on CDS. Fully legal and refs given. Contact jayne.whitehall@hotmail.com or telephone 647583473



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PERSONAL

Meeting Point

FOR POST Covid, older submissive gentleman would like to establish contact with a contemporary of 50-70 who is assertively active and lives within 100 kms of Fuengirola for leisurely un-inhibited company in nice peaceful surroundings for mutually activities with no boundaries except CP.
outrefun1@yahoo.co.uk

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MASSAGE specialist Benalmádena. Full package ensures absolute satisfaction. Reduced rates: over 65. Please wear your mask. 621395221

THAI body massages. Private apartment. Benalmádena. Torrequebrada. Visits. Whatsapp. 612210289

JAPANESE mature masseuse: Groin shaving & massage. Back in Fuengirola. 610396186

BENALMADENA: Opposite Palma Park: Stressed, tension, nerves, muscles?? American lady offers a good body massage for Pensioners 50% discount in heated room on a professional massage table. 691533101. From 6pm onwards

FUENGIROLA: Balines, antistress, soothing full body massage by silk hands!! 600231544

PROFESSIONAL masseur with experience offers to perform slimming massages at home contact whatsapp 602857645

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USEFUL PHONE NUMBERS

EMERGENCIES		FUENGIROLA			
Emergency operator	112	Bus Station	952475066	Taxi Service	952520537
National Police	091	Taxi Service	952471000	Tourist Information	952521531
Local (municipal) Police	092	Tourist Office	952467625	Town Hall	952548400
Medical	061	Town Hall	952589300	Foreign Resident Dept.	952548401
Fire	080	Foreign Residents Dept.	952589440	TORREMOLINOS	
Guardia Civil	062	MALAGA		Bus Station	902143144
Sea Rescue	900202202	Bus Station	952350061	Taxi Service	952380600
Crime report	902102112	Railway Station	902240202	Tourist Office	952371909
ENGLISH-SPEAKING HELP		Taxi Service	952345693	Town Hall	952379400
Samaritans in Spain	900525100	Tourist Office	951926020	Foreign Residents Dept.	952374231
Alcoholics Anonymous	600379110	MARBELLA		BENALMÁDENA	
Age Care	952933409	Bus Station	955038665	Bus Station	902450550
Age Concern (Estepona)	608458555	Taxi Service	952774488	Taxi Service	952441545
ANDALUSIAN HEALTH SERVICE		Tourist Office	952768760	Tourist Office	952442494
Salud Responde	955545060	Town Hall	952761100	Town Hall	952374231
(Doctors' appointments and advice)		Foreign Residents Dept.	952768760	Foreign Residents Dept.	952442494
ESTEPONA		MIJAS		VÉLEZ-MÁLAGA	
Bus Station	955038665	Town Hall	952485900	Bus Station	952503162
Taxi Service	952802900	Town Hall Las Lagunas	952473125	Taxi	952540016
Tourist Office	952802002	Taxi	952478288	Town Hall	952559100
Town Hall	952801100	Tourism Office	952589034	Tourist Office	952541104
Foreign Residents Dept.	952809031	Foreign Resident Dept.	952589010	GIBRALTAR	
		NERJA		General emergency	199/112(mobiles)
		Bus Station	902422242	Fire/ambulance (emergency)	190
				Tourist Office	(00350) 20074950
				Taxi	(00350) 20070027

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

There is also a numero to notify symptoms, but to avoid jamming the line **try the APP first**

900 400 061

Coronavirus information

955 545 060

Other emergencies


061 / 112

For general health emergencies. **Avoid using this if not urgent**


CONSULATES

Great Britain	C/. Mauricio Moro Pareto 2- 2. Málaga	952352300	France	Calle Salvago, 2, Malaga	954293200
USA	Av. Juan Gómez 8. Ed. Lucía 1-C. Fuengirola	952474891	Italy	Alameda Principal, 35, Malaga	902502512
Belgium	Avda Ricardo Soriano 20-3C, Marbella	951516019	Austria	Alameda de Colón 26, Malaga	646060972
Denmark	Calle Córdoba 6 40A, Malaga	952211797	Finland	Calle Córdoba, 6, Malaga	952212435
Norway	Avda Los Boliches, 60, Edf Rosenkranz, Fuengirola	952667955	Saudi Arabia	Mauricio M. Pareto 2 bloque Sur 2º, Malaga	952310358
Canada	C/Cervantes, Edif. Horizonte, Malaga	952223346	Greece	Dr Manuel Perez Bryan, Malaga	95225689
Germany	Mauricio Moro Pareto 2, Malaga	952363591	Iceland	Calle Marín García, Malaga	952661200
Sweden	Calle Córdoba 6, 5th floor, Malaga	952604383	Philippines	C/Marqués de Larios 4, 2º, Malaga	952771850
Ireland	Avda. Los Boliches, Fuengirola	952475108	Hungary	Av. de Velásquez, (Crce aeropuerto) Malaga	952236966


THE STARS




Aquarius
January 21st - February 19th
You are firing on all cylinders, and even though you may be experiencing one or two setbacks, it could be because something needs reorganising.




Pisces
February 20th - March 20th
The Mars-Neptune tie hints at a deep connection between you and another. Whether friendly or romantic, it shows real promise.




Aries
March 21st - April 20th
Things may have a way of repeating themselves, and you could notice more coincidences that connect you to the past or reinvigorate memories.




Taurus
April 21st - May 21st
This isn't the time to quibble if someone makes you an offer that is almost what you want but not quite. Opportunities to negotiate will come, but for now seize the chance.




Gemini
May 22nd - June 21st
As Mercury retro aligns with other planets there may be delays to your plans. You might spend more time thinking though, and this can result in ideas and opportunities.




Cancer
June 22nd - July 23rd
Before you can move forward with ideas that show a great deal of promise you may need to take a few steps backwards. Things might have changed.




Leo
July 24th - August 23rd
While you may have received a lot of support from others, this week suggests mixed messages can foil plans. This could be frustrating, but it may also work out to your advantage.




Virgo
August 24th - September 23rd
Any projects you have carefully planned might unravel this week. Don't get anxious though, as it may be that aspects of your plan were flawed and now is the time to take a closer look.




Libra
September 24th - October 23rd
Although this week could have its ups and downs, it also has the potential for positive developments. People from the past might show up when you least expect it.



Scorpio
October 24th - November 22nd
Someone's resistance to a plan of yours may be ebbing, so don't worry if they seem edgy, as this can shift to a mood of compromise. An opportunity that is too good to pass by may show up.

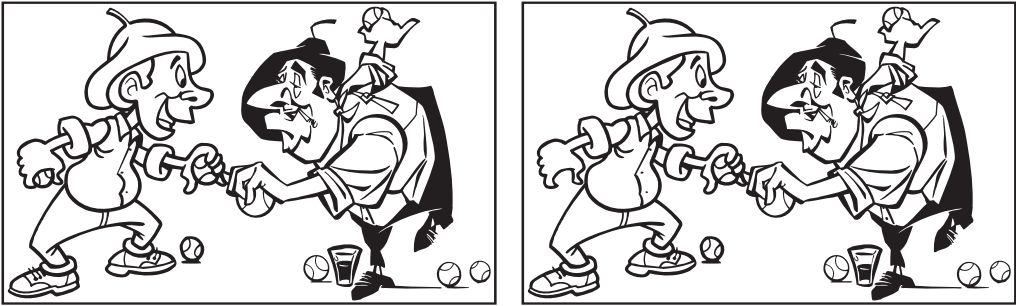


Sagittarius
November 23rd - December 21st
As Mercury continues to regress, memories may become vivid, encouraging you to connect with old friends or revisit a place.

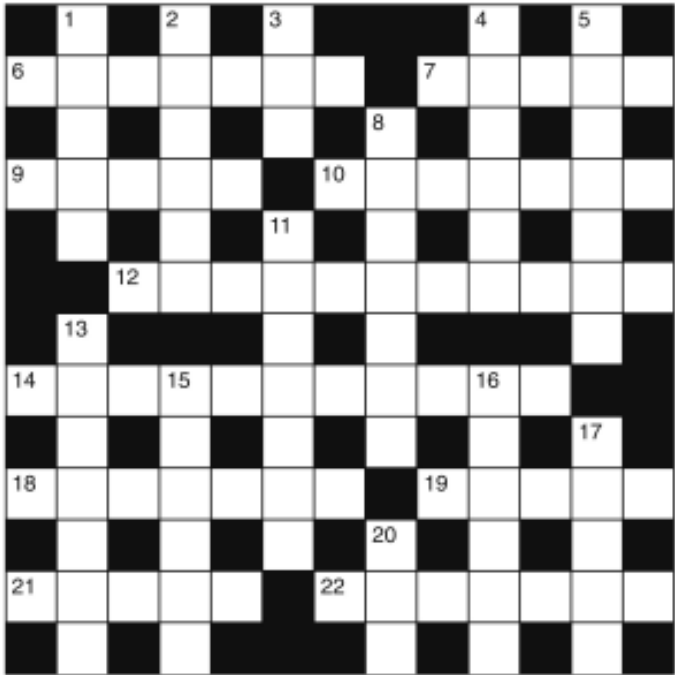


Capricorn
December 22nd - January 20th
With Mercury continuing in reverse, this is the ideal time to pare back spending, create a budget and start to save. There is also the opportunity of a small windfall.

THE SEVEN DIFFERENCES



CRYPTIC CROSSWORD N° 11447



Across

- 6 Resting place of 22 (7)
- 7 He gives parts of keyboard on organ (5)
- 9 Hold about 50 to cut to 25? (5)
- 10 Show Diana's dramatic work (7)
- 12 Urge attention to newspaper announcement (5,6)
- 14 Overlooking swindle with gift (11)
- 18 Met Gran out wearing it, perhaps (7)
- 19 Recreational activities in Southern harbour town (5)
- 21 Learner stands for 17's right to reach maturity (5)
- 22 Ennui lands Communist in sudden development (7)

Down

- 1 Write to a learner about punishment (5)
- 2 Club responsible for car? (6)
- 3 Small drink given to friend in 13 (3)
- 4 Dear little girl shows ill humour after 1000 get work (6)
- 5 There's no return in a month for this ruler (7)
- 8 Tidying high office (7)
- 11 Stupid, like 19 (7)
- 13 To agree completely (7)
- 15 Mother and child collected fruit (6)
- 16 Outsize quarry for seabird (6)
- 17 Editor gets brush-off in 6? (5)
- 20 There's no alternative to 7 becoming a teacher (3)

SUDOKU BY HANZO

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

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





THE WORDPUZZLER

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

- Can you identify the first names of the people who appeared in the 1992 New Year's Honours List?
1. McCarthy
2. Waite
3. Mann
4. Woosnam
5. Cowdrey
6. Lineker
7. Carling
8. McColgan
9. Cole
10. Rix

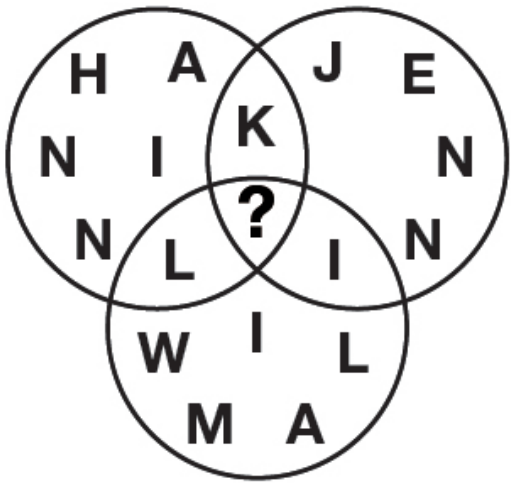
BATTLESHIPS

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.

-  Battleship
-  Cruiser
-  Destroyers
-  Submarines

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

CIRCLEGRAM



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

LANGUAGE CROSSWORD FILL IN THE SPANISH WORD

- Across
- Down
- 1) Communications (14)

6) Defence (7)

11) Memory (7)

12) Axis (3)

13) Inhabitants (10)

15) Even (3)

16) Retaliation (10)

18) Fence (5)

19) Ha! (2)

20) Stage (5)

22) To appear (8)

24) Mouth (adj) (5)

27) That one (m) (3)

28) Cross-border (m) (15)

30) It is (2)

31) I throw (4)

32) To cross (6)

34) Territory (10)

36) Of an island (f) (6)

37) Celery (4)

40) Maroon (7)

42) Compliance (12)

43) Ready (f) (5)

44) To free (7)

46) To the (2)

47) Separation (10)

48) Conservative (11)
- 1) Lories (8)

2) Screen (7)

3) Orange (7)

4) It falls (3)

5) He obeys (7)

7) This (m) (4)

8) Nature (10)

9) Isolation (11)

10) To open (5)

14) Reopening (10)

17) Cheerful (6)

18) Empty (m.pl) (6)

21) Pedestrians (8)

23) They make profitable (12)

25) She associates (6)

26) Sulphur (6)

29) Vehicles (9)

30) To be (5)

33) Frontier (8)

35) Ill (m) (7)

38) To close (6)

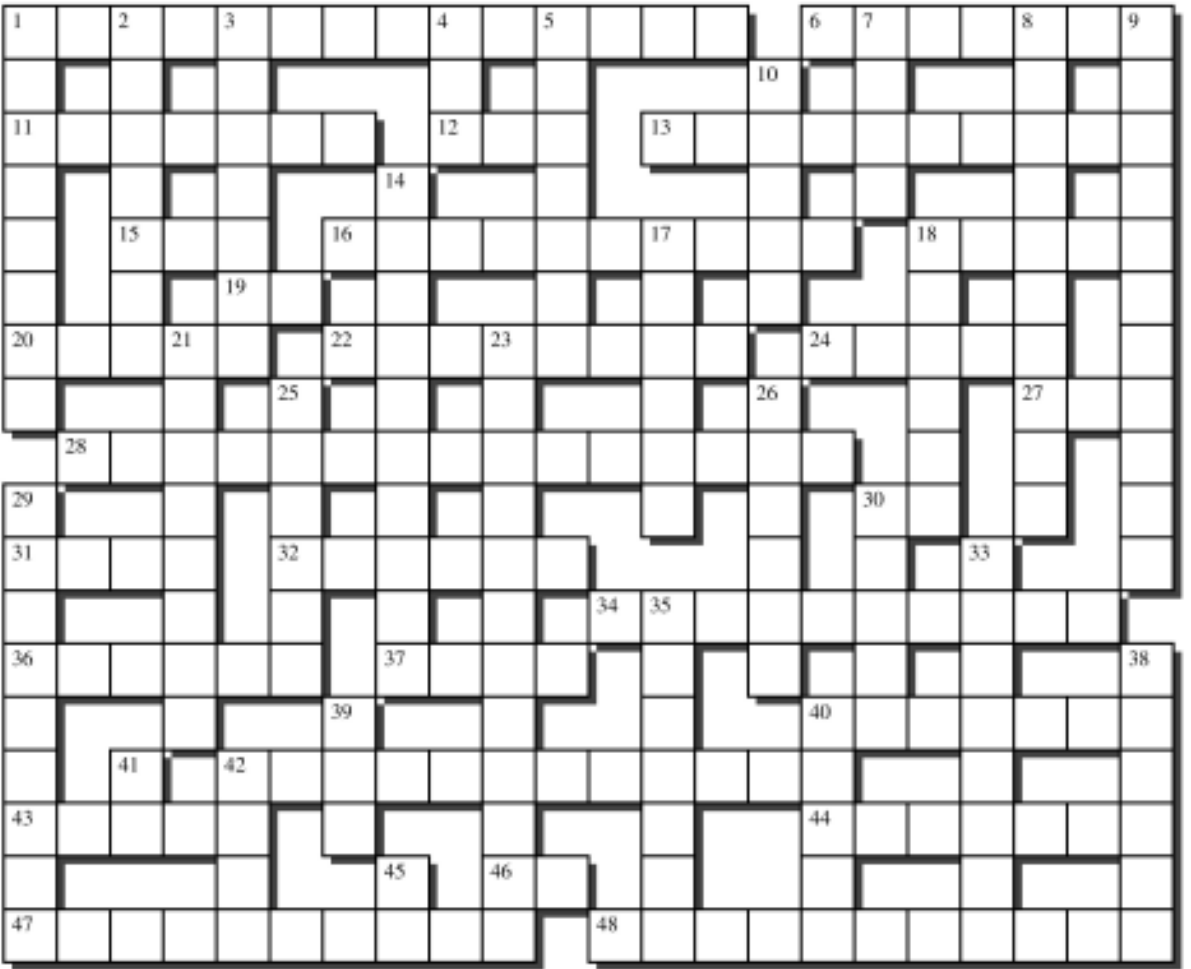
39) He loves (3)

40) Blow (5)

41) You (pl) (2)

42) To fall (4)

45) My (2)



ANSWERS

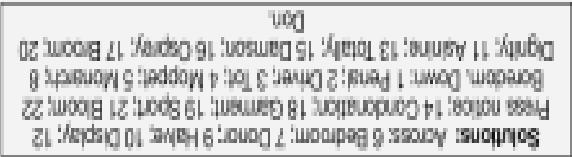
Quiz answers

city.
depicted along with the name of the
official Stuttgart coat of arms is
the golden plate, the horse of the
importer in 1952. At the centre of
between Ferry Porsche and a US
was first suggested at a meeting
Of interest: The distinctive crest
Answer: Horse
from 1998 to 2015.
eBay where he served as chairman
philanthropist. He is the founder of
software engineer and
American billionaire entrepreneur,
Omidyar, Pierre is a French-
Of interest: Born Parviz Morad
Answer: Pierre Omidyar.

Language Crossword



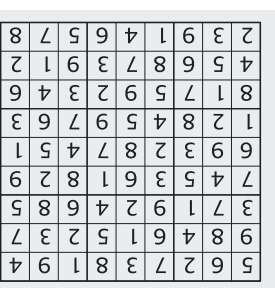
Cryptic Crossword



Wordpuzzler solution



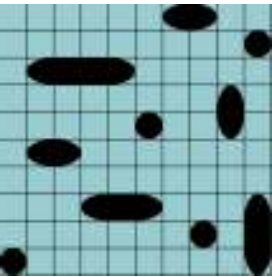
Sudoku solution



Circlegram

Welsh rugby union players.
Jenkins, Williams, all former
question mark is S. Shanklin,
The letter represented by the

Battleships



WHERE IS THIS?



A bridge with a view

Last week:
Benalmádena

The marina at Benalmádena is the location of last week's photo. This Mudejar-style tower is near the Plaza de la Goleta.



THE SUR IN ENGLISH CORNER

Optimism for spring

With just 43 days left until spring is officially here we might all be forgiven for wishing the time would go a little faster. Spring heralds new beginnings, re-awakenings and change, hopefully for the better. In just a short time we at SUR in English hope to be bringing you uplifting news of a receding pandemic, easing of restrictions and the revival of tourism and culture in the province. As Chilean poet Pablo Neruda said, “You

can cut all the flowers but you cannot keep spring from coming,” a great metaphor for the way many of us are feeling. In the meantime we are proud to publish a wide variety of Spanish news of interest to our readers as well as the local news from our team of reporters and from you the reader! So if you have some interesting news contact us at surinenglish.su@diariosur.es, Twitter @SUR_English or find us on Facebook.



Its terraces, botanical nooks and crannies and funerary monuments reflect the past two centuries of the history of Malaga, through the people who gave life to the city and found eternal rest there. From its first 'resident', liberal soldier Robert Boyd, who joined Torrijos in the cause against the absolutism of Fernando VII, to British doctor and parliamentarian José Guillermo Noble - who set up the nearby Hospital Noble - and the German crew of the frigate Gneisenau, which sank off the coast of Malaga in December 1900; to Jorge Guillén, Gerald Brennan, Gamel Woolsey and, more recently, playwright Miguel Romero Esteo, the history of the English Cemetery has, in recent years, mirrored the difficult balance involved in maintaining an active programme of events and keeping memory alive. Until now.

That's because what the historical difficulties of finance and conservation, despite being classified as a Site of Cultural Interest (BIC) in 2012, failed to do, coronavirus has succeeded in doing.

From 1 February, the crisis caused by the pandemic has forced the cemetery to close its doors from Mondays to Fridays due to a lack of funds. The situation has become unsustainable and not even the willingness of volunteers and managers has been able to prevent the first Anglican cemetery to exist in mainland Spain (it dates back to 1831) closing five days a week.

"The situation is desperate," says the vice-president of the Foundation of the English Cemetery of Malaga, Jaime Aguilera. The accounts don't add up so a decision had to be taken, although they hope it will only be temporary. "Despite everything, we really want to be



The English cemetery was the first Protestant cemetery in mainland Spain, opening in 1831. F. SILVA

A cemetery suffering from Covid

Malaga's English Cemetery.
The foundation that manages the historic cemetery has announced that it is closed from Mondays to Fridays because of a lack of funds.
"The situation is desperate," they say

ANA PÉREZ-BRYAN



optimistic and see an opportunity in this crisis, but the pandemic has affected us greatly," adds Aguilera.

The reasons the cemetery is now closed on weekdays are varied. Essentially, its funds came from regular visits from schools and groups of foreign visitors and Spanish tourists. "With the restrictions, all those have disappeared and we have had to cut down on costs as much as possible," he explains.

The cemetery needs about 2,500 euros a month to cover basic maintenance and a few staff, but the foundation has not been able to stretch the budget any further because of the drop in income from these visits: "A short while ago we cancelled the contract for the gardener, and we have had to replace the person who normally guided the tours at weekends with volunteers," says Aguilera, regretfully.

The foundation's resources mainly come from private donations which total about 30,000 euros a year. "We don't receive any financial assistance from public

institutions. Sometimes, when there have been extraordinary expenses because of work that has to be carried out, Malaga council has given us a grant to cover some of the cost, but we receive no funding as such," he explains. The last time they received a grant from city hall was to repair the terraces in one part of the cemetery and habilitate the vertical garden, where the niches containing people's ashes are located.

In these difficult circumstances, the gates of this cemetery in Avenida de Priés, which is one of the four historical cemeteries in the province together with San Miguel (in Malaga), Casabermeja and Sayalonga, will only be open on Saturdays and Sundays from 10.30am to 3pm.

To try to ensure that this reduction in activity is as short as possible, members of the foundation have asked for meetings with political parties and applied for help from public and private institutions in Malaga city. Meanwhile, they hope people will sign the petition on their website (cementerioinglesmalaga.org) and sign up as volunteers, friends of the foundation (there is a minimum fee of 20 euros a year) or make a donation.

Jaime Aguilera also points out that as well as its history, the English Cemetery maintains the essence for which it was created and they hope this will provide a more fluid form of income: people may deposit the ashes of their loved ones in its niches after cremation, "at economic prices". Although burials have not been permitted at the cemetery for many years, this is another option to share eternal rest with the protagonists of history. And that is something that you don't come across every day.

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