

# SUR

## in English

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February 26th to March 4th 2021  
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**IN THE SPOTLIGHT.**  
**BENALMÁDENA,**  
**SOMETHING**  
**FOR EVERYONE**

Don't miss this week's  
special supplement that  
showcases this diverse  
town we all love **INSIDE**



## Brigitte Bardot treasure sees the light

A local film fan stumbled across unseen photographs of the actress in a French auction; they were taken while filming on the Costa del Sol in the 1950s and are now on display in Malaga **P20**

The exhibition of photographs is being shown at La Térmica cultural centre in Malaga until 6 June. **ÑITO SALAS**

# Costa tourism industry shows cautious optimism as UK announces travel roadmap

**Reservations.** Airlines saw an immediate spike in bookings after 17 May was suggested as the start of foreign travel from the UK

**Government aid.** After Spain's prime minister announced an 11bn-euro plan, tourism professionals call for direct aid, not loans

Hotels on the Costa del Sol reported their first bookings from British tourists this week after the UK government said it could allow foreign travel from 17 May as part of its lockdown exit plan. Airlines also noted a spike in enquiries after the announcement from London on

Monday. Further cautious optimism was felt on Wednesday after PM Pedro Sánchez said the government would spend 11 billion euros on helping businesses in tourism, hospitality and commerce. He didn't say what form the aid would take, however. **P14 & 26-27**

**Municipal borders open in Marbella, Estepona and Ronda as Covid rates fall across the region** **P3**

**Meet Ribero, the dog that walked 50 kilometres to Guaro to look for his late owner** **P6**

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# Improvements to Costa homes surge during pandemic but big-build projects stall

Town halls in Malaga province are optimistic about demand for their building licences in 2021 but want to simplify red tape for home owners

IVÁN GELIBTER

MALAGA. With less than a month to go before the first anniversary of the state of alarm coming into force in Spain, the picture of what has happened in Malaga province, in terms of construction, seems clear.

Although the sector has not plummeted there has been a slowing down of major projects, although this has been compensated by an increase in smaller ones. Modernisations and improvement works have saved many small building firms, because as soon as the lockdown was lifted they received numerous requests for quotes from private home owners.

By area, Malaga city and the Costa del Sol have seen the highest amount of investment for development projects, although not as many as before the pandemic or on a smaller scale. One of the most notable cases is Mijas, which since 2019 has topped the list of works licences granted in the province. These are worth 787 million euros, practically double those of Malaga city.

## Mijas and Marbella

Andrés Ruiz, the Town Planning councillor for Mijas, says the 2019 figures were as high as they were because several large developments were being built at the same time, mostly in the area of La Cala and La Cala Golf. This is why the figure was so much higher than in 2018, which had been a year in which investments in the municipality only totalled around 400 million euros.

In 2020, after a difficult year because of the pandemic and especially the lockdown, Mijas council granted works licences with a value of 143 million euros.

"This year we will be back to around 200 million again," he says.

The most positive case was Marbella, where between 2019 and 2020 there was a considerable increase in the value of works licences. For Kika Caracuel, the Town Planning councillor, Marbella has "withstood" the very harsh economic crisis brought by the pandemic.

"These figures are also supported by the latest employment data. There has been an increase in unemployment in all sectors, just like the rest of the provinces

## Building works in the province

Investment figures in millions of euros.

Municipality	Licences 2019	Licences 2020	Investment 2019	Investment 2020
<b>Malaga</b>	n/a	n/a	395	365
Mijas	1380	663	787	143
Marbella	2184	2096	158.5	196
Fuengirola	2585	1759	84	92
Torremolinos*	n/a	-21%	n/a	n/a
Benalmádena	2887	1592	n/a	n/a
Estepona	1145	780	n/a	n/a
Vélez-Málaga	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Rincón de la Victoria	1010	840	29.5	23.8
Nerja	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Torrox	361	222	17.6	8.7
Alhaurín de la Torre	803	660	n/a	n/a
Al. el Grande	479	420	n/a	n/a
Cártama	367	309	1.7	1.3
Antequera	1387	1220	n/a	n/a
Ronda	1097	947	12	12.5

\* Figure in %

Source: Town halls

and the whole of Spain, apart from construction, where employment has increased. In other words, at the moment this sector is maintaining economic activity in Marbella," says Caracuel. "Marbella is doing well and continues to be seen as an attractive place to live, to buy a property." She also says the municipality is continuing to receive applications for large-scale projects.

## Fuengirola increase

Elsewhere on the Costa del Sol, construction has slowed down with the exception of Fuengirola, where the value of building projects has risen from 84 to 92 million euros. Estepona, Torremolinos and Benalmádena have not provided any specific figures about overall investment in their areas, although the mayor of Benalmádena, Víctor Navas, said a few days ago that in 2019 the town hall had processed 2,887 applications, while in 2020 there had been a decrease of 55 per cent and a reduction in income

of one million euros.

On the eastern coast the situation is very similar. The mayor of Torrox, Óscar Medina, said that although investment in building projects fell in 2020, he is very optimistic that this year and the next few years will be better, as there are some major projects pending such as the Calaceite marina, with a golf course and more than 3,000 homes, and in other areas such as El Morche and El Peñoncillo.

"We have major possibilities in terms of urban growth and I hope that when all this is over the sector will quickly reactivate," he says.

Vélez-Málaga and Nerja did not provide any information about the construction sector in their municipalities, but Rincón de la Victoria's Town Planning councillor, Miguel Ángel Jiménez, confirmed that licences for minor building works fell between March and June last year because of the lockdown.

"From July onwards we granted a similar number of licences to

## Marbella and Torremolinos, dependent on new Urban Plans

Apart from coronavirus, both of these towns have been subject to court decisions which affect building projects

JOAQUINA DUEÑAS / IVÁN GELIBTER

MARBELLA. In 2015 the Supreme Court annulled the 2010 Urban Plan (PGOU) for Marbella and this was a huge setback for the town when it was just starting to recover from the judicial uncertainty left by the GIL councils. Since then the municipality has had to comply with the plan which came into force back in 1986. The most obvious consequence of this was that many developers decided to build elsewhere in the area, forming the so-called Golden Triangle between Benahavís, Estepona and Marbella. Estate agencies warn that this has had a negative effect. "There have been many new developments in the nearby areas in recent years, especially Estepona and Benahavís. In Marbella itself, it is more difficult to find them," says Smadar Kahana, managing director of Engel & Völkers on

the Golden Mile.

Nevertheless, Marbella's councillor for Town Planning, Kika Caracuel, says the council has worked very hard to guarantee legal security in the municipality.

"Since 2017 we have been working frenetically on this. We have approved the modified text of the Urban Plan, approved the adaptation of the 1986 version to meet LOUA land regulation laws and modified and approved local town planning regulations," she says, and the town has continued to receive applications for major projects as a result. Easing the application process has also helped. The council hopes the new PGOU will receive initial approval this year and come into force in 2023.

Meanwhile, development can now proceed in Torremolinos again as the suspension of most of its 2020 Urban Plan has now been lifted, although the site of the future Intu leisure park is still subject to the 1996 plan.

Deputy mayor and town planning councillor Maribel Tocón said this week that the council is very pleased that a court has ruled in its favour.



One of the projects in Malaga that resumed after the pandemic. S. SALAS

usual. This was also thanks to the fact that we facilitated the process, and people were able to go ahead with projects which had been impossible during the lockdown," he explains.

He continued, "Although comparing the effects of the pandemic on investment in general in the private construction sector, you can clearly see a drop of nearly six million euros, mainly due to the lack of large projects. In 2019 there were more applications for apartment complexes than there were in 2020."

### Improvement works

Inland, there were also fewer applications for major projects and more for small ones last year. Sources in Alhaurín de la Torre say the number of licences granted to build residential property has increased overall since 2015, after an enormous drop during the financial crisis. However, 228 licences were issued for this purpose in 2019, while last year the number fell to 77. There was very little change in the number of applications for improvement works.

In Cártama the mayor, Jorge Gallardo, said the number of licences for minor works had risen considerably in comparison with those for major projects. In his opinion, though, and Town Planning councillors such as Andrés Ruiz in Mijas agree, this is because many councils have introduced a system where people can just sign a declaration of responsibility for small projects, instead of having to wait for applications to be granted.

In Malaga city, where the reduction in investment has fallen around 30m euros to 395m there was a notable increase in small



Marbella still has to use the 1986 Plan. JOSELE

**365**  
million euros were invested in building projects in Malaga city in 2020, around 30 million euros less than in 2019.

**38**  
million was the increase in Marbella last year.

**In Mijas the figure fell from 787 million euros to 139, although the council believes it will rise to 200 million this year**

**The pandemic has not stopped Marbella council working on its new Urban Plan, which it hopes will come into force in 2023**

building projects.

Activity here fell by 35 per cent in March last year and 75 per cent in April, but only ten per cent in May, and in June there was a reactivation in the sector and an eight per cent increase in business compared with the same month in 2019. These figures are from Andimac, the National Association of Distributors of Ceramic and Construction Materials. In a study this association showed that the cost of a complete reform of a property is around 5,700 to 5,400 euros, and this can be nearly 49 per cent of the total cost, without taking IVA into account.

Most of the projects Andimac studied had been able to proceed on the basis of a declaration of responsibility, a tool which the association considers vital for the sector in a particularly difficult year.

**Contributors to this report:** Eugenio Cabezas, Antonio J. Guerrero, Andrea Jiménez, José María Martín, Joaquina Dueñas, Vanessa Melgar and Susana Zamora.

# Almost all Malaga province can reopen borders between towns

The regional authority has said that the main restrictions will remain in place across Andalucía until 4 March

### SUR

MALAGA. With the reduction in coronavirus cases in Malaga province continuing, more towns and villages are able to open up their borders to their neighbours this weekend.

As well as the 25 local municipalities that opened up last Friday, this week rates fell enough in Marbella, Estepona, Manilva, Ojén, Ronda, Algatocín, Cortes de la Frontera, Gaucín and Villanueva del Trabuco to allow borders to open by Saturday morning at the latest, pending the official Junta announcement.

On Thursday this week (25 February), the rolling Covid-19 case rate per 100,000 people in the last 14 days was 227.7 for Malaga province, down from 395 a week earlier and changing the area map from red, for extreme risk, to orange for high risk. The average for Andalucía was 215. Numbers in hospital are also now falling sharply across the region.

From this weekend, only three Malaga villages; Árchez, Benaoján and Montejaque have their borders closed as their case rates are still over 500.

Despite the good news, the regional government was keen to stress that the risk level re-



Checks will be relaxed. N. SALAS

mains high and has ruled out reviewing the base-level restrictions until 4 March, a couple of days after the long-holiday weekend for Andalucía Day. Its committee of experts will meet next Wednesday, 3 March, to study latest health data.

The rules, such as non-essential shops shutting at 6pm, a curfew from 10pm and restrictions on groups meeting continue in place even for towns with the lowest case rates.

Travel between the eight provinces of the region is still banned except for essential reasons, as is travel outside Andalucía to elsewhere in Spain.

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# Vaccine reduces infection in care homes but lack of supplies delays over-80s jabs

The Junta de Andalucía has announced plans to have half the region's population inoculated against Covid-19 by July

## SUR

MALAGA. The positive effects of the Covid-19 vaccination roll out inside care homes in the region is already showing, with contagions falling "to a minimum" in the last few weeks.

All seniors' residences in Malaga province have given out the two doses to both residents and staff who have given their consent.

Andalusian health service sources have confirmed that after the first dose was administered, the effects were already starting to be seen, and officials are now looking to see the results of the roll out to the over-80s not in care homes, which started last week.

Although no firm data has been

published yet on the vaccine effectiveness, the evidence is of a drop-off of new cases in care homes. However part of the fall in the care-home rate is also being attributed to the decline in case rates overall in the last few weeks and the fact that so many homes were hit in the earlier waves.

Reinfections after the two Pfizer doses have not been noticed either. In the Malaga city and Guadalhorce health district, for example, only "four or five" cases among vaccinated residence workers have been reported. "They tested positive after being vaccinated but didn't infect anyone," a source said.

## Plan 500,000

The Junta de Andalucía expects to reach the summer with half of the population vaccinated as part of its Plan 500,000 to give out half a million jabs a week.

But Minister of Health Jesús Aguirre warned that the vaccination plan "is for several months,

or possibly for a year or more".

According to Aguirre, the Junta's Covid vaccination strategy is working well, delivering an average of 150,000 doses per week, and it is expected that at the end of April or the beginning of May there will be a big increase in the delivery of vaccines.

## Delays

Despite the positive news, the vaccination of people over 80 years who do not live in care homes in Andalucía was affected this week as the region received only half of the planned doses from Pfizer.

Some Malaga health centres

had to postpone the vaccination of the elderly and were calling patients to notify them that they will receive the injection on another date, once the supply gets back to normal next week.

Nursing staff consulted by SUR have said that they were contacting people who had an appointment from Wednesday onwards to inform them that, due to the lack of doses, they would not be able to give them the vaccine as scheduled and that they will be inoculated next week if enough vials arrive.

The major obstacle faced by the health centres in Malaga is that they receive very few vaccines (about 30 per centre per day) for the elderly population. Sources consulted by SUR said that in two days, or at most in three, all elderly people could be vaccinated if there were enough doses.

Health professionals said: "We do everything we can. We have plenty of capacity to give the injections."

**Nurses were contacting people who had an appointment from Wednesday onwards to inform them of the delay**

## Local teachers get their jabs

School teachers in the Axarquía area started getting their Covid-19 injections this week from tents set up behind the district hospital in Torre del Mar. As part of the plan to give the AstraZeneca vaccine to key workers rather than those over 55, 135,000 Andalusian teachers are being vaccinated. There was excitement and relief among the professionals gathering this week. "It is really exciting, this gives us a lot of peace of mind to keep on working," said José Luis Ruiz, a primary school teacher in Torrox. Raquel Gil, a teacher at another school in Torrox, added, "Up to now we've been lucky and not had any cases at our school, but this gives us the confidence that we will be able to finish the school year."



E. CABEZAS

## Costa del Sol Hospital studying genetics of Covid patients with help of a large donation

### JOAQUINA DUEÑAS

MARBELLA. Covid-19 affects patients in many different ways; some show no symptoms while for others it is proving fatal. In

order to better understand why this is happening, Marbella's Hospital Costa del Sol has joined up with the University of Malaga to investigate the likely genetic factors at work in the develop-

ment of Covid-19 symptoms.

The research centres on a study to define the relation between viral load and up to 700 genes related to the immune system and inflammatory response that a patient's body has on entering the hospital and as the illness develops during their stay.

Researchers want to see which genetic profile those with the worse symptoms have. This would then allow medics to identify early on those most predisposed and so anticipate their

needs and avoid them going on to intensive care.

The work has been funded by a 15,500-euro grant from the local El Fuerte foundation, given to the hospital at the start of the pandemic. Results are expected in the first part of this year.

In parallel, the hospital and the university are supporting a nationwide programme to develop a Covid-19 risk scale to help identify the patients most likely to be worst affected by the virus.

## IN BRIEF

### PRIMARY CARE

#### Face-to-face GP appointments to return

**E.P.** The Junta de Andalucía's health minister, Jesús Aguirre, announced this Wednesday on a visit to Cordoba that face-to-face appointments with family doctors or primary care nursing staff will be available again in the region from 2 March.

He said the decision follows a decrease in the coronavirus case rate which makes it possible to restore "normal health care", but "in a safe way".

Aguirre said that, "anyone in Andalucía can visit their family doctor or nurse in a normal way, as before, through the return of face-to-face appointments - but while always guaranteeing safety".

### VACCINATION

#### Police ask not to be given AstraZeneca

**A. F. / J. C.** An association representing more than 100,000 local and regional police officers across Spain has asked the national government to stop giving officers the AstraZeneca vaccine against Covid-19.

The CSLA claims that it is the vaccine that gives the least protection of all those on the market and, in addition, the association claims that it is causing numerous side effects among the people who receive it.

The Catalan government began to give the vaccine a few weeks ago to its regional police force and it has reported similar side effects to those experienced by officers in France.

### MALAGA

#### Diputación hands over land for new hospital

**A. ROMERO.** The Diputación, Malaga's provincial authority, unanimously voted on Thursday to hand over a large plot of land in Malaga city to the Junta regional government to build a 810-bed new hospital.

The site is behind the Hospital Civil and close to the Materno children's hospital. The land the Hospital Civil is on, as well as some other healthcare-related buildings, are also included in the free land transfer between the two public authorities.

The Diputación called it a "historic moment", although the opposition parties called on the Junta to go on and build the planned hospital urgently.

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## Dog escapes from an animal shelter and walks 50 kilometres to look for late owner

Ribero jumped a two-metre high fence at the rescue shelter in Malaga city and took eleven days to reach his old home in Guaro

IGNACIO LILLO

MALAGA. Ribero a two-year-old dog, lived on the streets of Guaro after his elderly owner died of natural causes two months ago. For several weeks he wandered around his old home, where a young man took him food. With the help of volunteers, he was rescued and taken to an animal protection shelter in the La Virreina

area of Malaga city.

But his stay was short-lived. He was taken in on 5 February but just two days later Ribero had escaped after jumping a two-metre-high fence. What no one could imagine is that Ribero would appear back at his old home eleven days later on 18 February. He had travelled around 50 kilometres, crossing busy motorways and roads, until he reached the same place where he was first found.

"In the villages there are many animals that are used to entering and leaving the houses freely, but when the owner died, our first intention was to rescue him and find him a home," explained Carmen Manzano, president of the



Ribero, after being rescued and transferred to the shelter. SUR

animal association.

Given the circumstances, however, the charity has changed its strategy with Ribero. "Since he is

safe there, the youth who was taking care of him will continue to do so, so that he will gain confidence, because it is clear that he

won't get used to the shelter."

### Looking for a new home

Manzano is now appealing for a family that has a fenced farm or large house to take care of him. A home with other dogs, a pack which Ribero could join. "He is an animal that needs to be outdoors; it would be ideal."

The charity's president draws attention to the "loyalty and affection" shown by the pets of people who have died during the coronavirus crisis. Manzano points out that since the beginning of the pandemic many dogs and cats have been taken to the shelter after being 'orphaned' following the death of their owners, often people who lived alone.

This is not an isolated case of a dog being picked up by the charity after going in search of its home. Previously, there was another case of a dog that lived with an elderly lady in Campañillas. When she died, he was given up for adoption to another family in the city, but he too ran away and appeared back at his first home.



IN UNCERTAIN TIMES, YOUR CAR SHOULDN'T BE.

## Council to plant more than 2,000 trees before end of current term

MARBELLA

The town hall believes that boosting the town's vegetation will increase residents' quality of life and contribute to the area's unique climate

JOAQUINA DUEÑAS

MARBELLA. Even though Marbella heads the provincial rankings in terms of green spaces per inhabitant (29.7 square metres), the town hall this week announced that it will increase the municipal tree stock by more than 2,000 units before the end of the current term.

The councillor for Parks and Gardens, Diego López, explained that "this planting plan is in addition to the pruning and plant



Martín-Lomeña, left, at the bird observatory. JOSELE

health work that we carry out regularly to guarantee the conservation and maintenance of the town's green areas".

The aim, he said, was "to improve residents' quality of life",

stressing that it is this vegetation that is "one of the great generators of our privileged climate as it helps to reduce CO2 emissions and shelters innumerable species of birds and contributes to

urban biodiversity".

"A great deal of technical and operational work is being done to continue expanding the diversity of species, taking into account the space available, avoiding those that may have allergenic potential and giving priority to aesthetics so that the municipality presents the best possible image," he said.

### New birdwatching lookout

Another development this week has been the opening of the town's first birdwatching observation point between La Concepción dam and the mouth of the Río Verde.

The project, financed by the Malaga provincial council will, according to Victoria Martín-Lomeña, director general for the Environment in Marbella, will allow "visitors to enjoy the extraordinary flora and fauna of this area just a few metres from the Paseo Marítimo and the town centre".

From the viewpoint, numerous birds can be observed, among them cormorants or coots, flycatchers, kingfishers and brown bush-warblers.

## Two-million-euro aid package announced for small businesses

J. DUEÑAS

MARBELLA. Marbella town hall has announced an aid package for small and medium-sized businesses of two million euros, which can be increased by a further one and a half million, depending on the number of requests received, according to mayor Ángeles Muñoz.

There are two types of grant: one of 2,000 euros per application, aimed at the self-employed and companies with fewer than five employees, and another of 3,000 euros, for businesses with between five and 50 employees.

Applications will be open for 15 days once it is published in the provincial gazette (BOPMA) either today or on Monday, with instructions to be available on the town hall website.

## Malaga man who previously had licence revoked uploads more reckless driving clips

In his latest social media posts he also claimed that he had run over a pedestrian while riding a motorcycle during the filming of a music video

FERNANDO TORRES /  
JUAN CANO

MALAGA. It's not the first time that his name has appeared in a police report. In September 2019, he was reported for driving recklessly and for recording himself insulting police officers, actions that he published on his Instagram account. As a result of one of those videos, he lost his driving licence but, apparently, that has not stopped his antics.

Malaga's Local Police force have caught him again thanks to images

that were uploaded to social media, this time on a motorcycle and still without a licence, near the fairground.

It is claimed the 23-year-old was riding an off-road motorbike with a group of people around the streets of an industrial estate. His latest reckless actions were allegedly carried out during the filming of a music video and, SUR has learned, several Covid-19 prevention measures could also have been breached.

In addition to the reckless driving that is seen in several Instagram posts, the accused young man explained to his followers in a later video that he had had an accident after hitting a pedestrian.

The evidence was gathered by the accident investigation team of the Local Police and the young man now faces more road safety



The offence for which he was arrested in September 2019. **SUR**

charges. On this occasion he was not arrested since he appeared at the police station accompanied by his lawyer.

In September 2019 the young man had been arrested on suspicion of two road safety crimes - one for driving a motor vehicle with recklessness and another for doing so with excess speed - and a third crime which was based on a series of videos located by the investigators, in which he insulted officers from different police forces on public roads.

### 112 REPORTS

#### MALAGA

### Dog saved after head trapped between rocks

Á. FRÍAS / J. C. In a delicate two-hour operation on Monday involving stone chisels, hydraulic hammers a lot of patience, firefighters in Malaga saved the life of dog that had got its head stuck between rocks next to the Guadalhorce river, near the water treatment plant that serves Pizarra, Álora and Coín. The dog was uninjured.



The dog is safely rescued. **SUR**

#### FUENGIROLA

### Two arrested after high-speed police chase

Á. F. / I. GELIBTER. Those walking alongside Fuengirola river on Monday were shocked when a motorcycle passed at full speed heading in the direction of the beach, chased by police.

Officers managed to catch up with it when it left the cycle land and got stuck in the sand, before arresting two individuals who tried to flee on foot.

The pair reportedly tried to rob a local supermarket at gunpoint and successfully snatched a woman's purse.

SUR sources say that the weapon used was fake.

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## Two arrested for 70,000 hidden camera videos of women in public toilets

The recordings were made with a small device that looked like an air freshener but contained a camera, motion detector and a memory card

JUAN CANO / ÁLVARO FRÍAS

MALAGA. National Police officers have arrested two people - a man and a woman - and seized more than 70,000 videos after hidden cameras were discovered in public toilets for women at a shopping centre in Malaga.

A small plastic device meticulously placed next to the toilet door appeared to be an air freshener, but what it hid inside was a battery, which was attached to a motion detector, a micro SD memory card and a small camera.

According to police sources, the two people arrested had 71,080



Devices were found at a shopping centre in the city. **SUR**

videos recorded in this way from various establishments in the province apparently with the intention of publishing them on a website for "financial gain".

The investigation began on 17 January when a shopping centre in Malaga city found the strange

devices installed in the women's toilets. They did not know who had put them there, so they decided to alert the National Police.

Investigators began an analysis of the images found on the memory cards and, since they had a motion sensor, the cameras recorded the person who installed them. Despite the fact that only her clothing was visible, they managed to identify the suspect, a 31-year-old woman. Officers also found out that a 44-year-old man - her uncle - accompanied her. With the two suspects arrested, both of their homes were searched.

After seizing the videos, police said the files were classified by categories, based on the physical characteristics of the victims. There were other videos too, some containing minors, and others featuring the arrested man having sex with women, apparently filmed without their knowledge.

#### MALAGA

### Wanted Belgian who tried to kill a vet is held

Á. F. / J. C. National Police in Malaga have arrested a wanted Belgian man who had a European arrest warrant issued against his name in December 2020 after he was found guilty of trying to kill a vet who was putting his dog to sleep.

The 55-year-old man, who wasn't carrying any documentation, was found last Friday at a hostel in the city.

According to the information provided by the Belgian authorities, the man had made an appointment with a vet, with the intention of putting his dog to sleep. While the vet was treating the animal, he tried to strangle her with a belt. The victim managed to flee and call for help.

At court the man was convicted of attempted murder, assault with serious injuries, illegal custody and robbery with violence, among others. He was given a 15-year prison sentence.

#### RONDA

### Injured paraglider is airlifted to hospital

SUR. A paraglider was injured on Monday afternoon after suffering a fall in the Malaga mountain town of Ronda.

Firefighters, paramedics and police were quickly on the scene and the injured man was airlifted by helicopter to the hospital in the town.

#### MALAGA

### Man who 'supplied acid' for attack is held

J. C. / Á. F. A Police have arrested a man who is accused of supplying the corrosive acid to José Arcadio D.N. - nicknamed 'El Melillero' - the main suspect in the attack on two young women in Cártama on 12 January.

The man has appeared in court and been remanded in custody while police investigate whether he played a more significant role in the incident.

# Malaga makes its mark on Mars mission

**UMA Laserlab. NASA's Perseverance rover landing on the Red Planet places the city's university among the elite of space research**

**FRANCISCO GUTIÉRREZ**

**T**he landing of the NASA rover Perseverance on Mars was watched with bated breath by a team of researchers based in Malaga.

The scientists from the UMA Laserlab, the laser laboratory of the University of Malaga, led by Professor Javier Laserna, are among researchers all over the world taking part in this new NASA mission to the Red Planet.

The Laserlab is home to an instrument known as a Supercam, which will enable the experts to examine rocks and minerals on the surface of Mars.

Sound waves produced by the impact with rocks will be transmitted to Earth and reproduced in a chamber that simulates the temperature, pressure and solar radiation on Mars.

The simulation chamber in Malaga is 12 metres in length, two metres in diameter and weighs 20 tonnes.

## Nerves

"They were very intense minutes of great anxiety," acknowledged the UMA researcher minutes af-

ter the spacecraft landed and emitted its first signals.

"During the seven minutes that the landing operations last, as the spacecraft enters the Martian atmosphere, communication is lost, until the rover has landed on the surface.

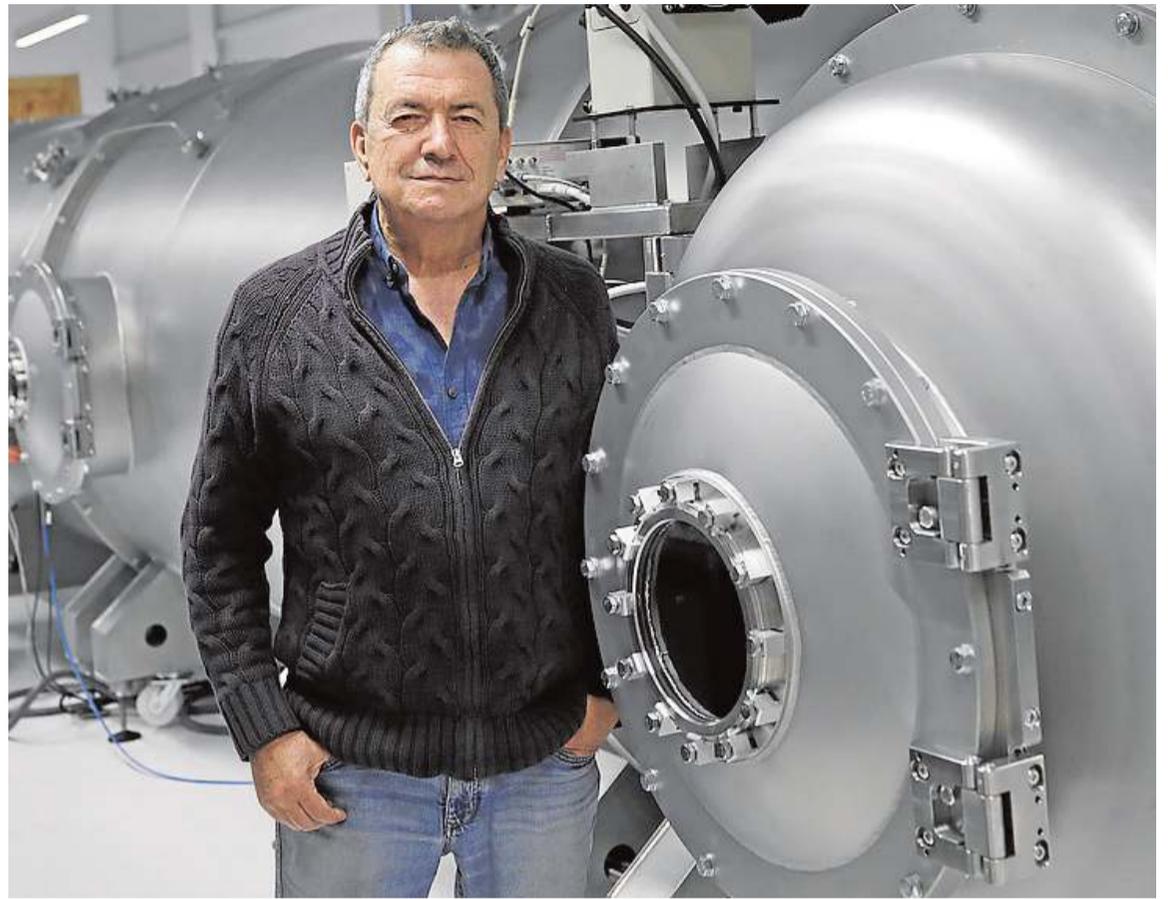
"You have to remember that half of the missions that NASA has sent to Mars have failed for different reasons," said Laserna.

The UMA Laserlab team could not meet to follow the landing live. Coronavirus crisis and the curfew forced them to follow the manoeuvres - broadcast live by NASA on YouTube - from their homes.

## Intellectual challenge

Laserna said participating in this mission "is an intellectual challenge of the first magnitude. There are great researchers, many very young. There are big problems to solve. And for us, interpreting the data in our Martian atmosphere simulator is a source of pride and encouragement."

Javier Laserna explains that the calibration card that has been mounted on the Perseverance (which verifies the results



Professor Javier Laserna with the simulator at the UMA Laserlab. **MIGUE FERNÁNDEZ**



The NASA rover lands on the Red Planet. **AFP**

of the different instruments) bears the names of the scientists who have participated in that part of the mission: "Our name, and that of Malaga is already on Mars."

The Mars 2020 mission will occupy UMA Laserlab researchers for several years.

"The rover will send a lot of data during its mission. Simulating them here and analysing them by reproducing the conditions on Mars will take a long time," said the researcher.

Meanwhile, the laboratory will continue to develop tools to detect organic matter on Mars or other celestial bodies, such as the Moon or asteroids stressed Laserna.

## Cártama to welcome centre for digital commerce with new logistics hub

**CÁRTAMA**

The project, developed by BCM/Grupo MCA, will involve an investment of almost 17 million euros and create 480 direct jobs for local people

**ANDREA JIMÉNEZ**

Cártama is set to become a hub for digital commerce after it was announced this week that a new logistics park will be built in the area surrounding the Valle del Guadalhorce hospital.

The developer BCM/Grupo MCA will carry out this project on a plot of almost 85,000 square metres, in which it will invest al-

most 17 million euros to create a large distribution centre with "good communication" with both Malaga (and the Andalusian Technology Park) and Marbella.

The aim is to have a "versatile" park so that firms from different sectors can have their warehouses there. The developer has previously collaborated with large multinational companies such as Amazon, Mercadona and Decathlon, as well as those with a smaller scope.

The project, which is expected to start in the next few months, involves the construction of three buildings, with 57,800 square metres for warehouses and offices which will all be rented out.

The project could be ready in

15 months, including all the procedures and formalities necessary for the handover, from the signing of the contract to the provisional reception certificate.

Once the construction phase is completed, the logistics park will generate 480 permanent jobs with "very diverse" qualifications, as these activities require around 80 jobs for every 10,000 square metres of property, according to BCM. "Based on experience in other similar projects, these jobs should be selected locally."

The intended activity will be the reception, storage and distribution of goods. In this respect, those responsible for the project indicate that there will be "no risk" of dumping or waste emissions.

## Calls repeated for plan to be put in place to control stray cat colonies

**ALH. DE LA TORRE**

**A. JIMÉNEZ.** The El Gato Garduño association in Alhaurín de la Torre has put pressure on the town hall to implement the plan announced in August 2017 to control the town's stray cats.

The association says that its team of volunteers, supported only by private donations, has been monitoring the around 35 colonies and has carried out the TNR (trap-neuter-return) method on around 150 cats.

In 2020, the association spent more than 7,000 euros and now they are calling for an official agreement with the town hall to carry out the work and with council funding.

## Malaga Metro works progress with two tunnels set to join up

**MALAGA**

**I. LILLO.** The long-delayed extension of Malaga Metro into the city centre is about to reach a historic milestone. The tunnel running from El Perchel, next to the María Zambrano main train station, and the other from the Alameda in the city centre should join close to El Corte Inglés on 10 March, according to SUR sources.

Junta president Juanma Moreno will attend the breaking of the separating wall. From that moment it will become a single gallery and two stations will be added on this one-kilometre stretch - one at El Corte Inglés (Guadalmina) and the other on the Alameda (Atarazanas).

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# Mijas includes first funds for its Gran Parque project in its budget for this year

## MIJAS

The park, which will be twice as big as La Paloma in Benalmádena, will cost 20 million euros and construction is due to start at the end of the year

### IVÁN GELIBTER



Five years. That is the amount of time that has passed between the initial proposal of a large public park in the municipality of Mijas and the inclusion of the project in the council budget.

The delay has been due to the technical complexity of the park, combined with the complex bureaucracy of the regional government, the Junta de Andalucía. Finally, though, Mijas council has now allocated some funds for the works in its budget for this year; in total the project will cost around 20 million euros and is expected to take a little under two years to complete.

“This has needed a huge amount of work because there were numerous difficulties to overcome, especially to prevent flooding in the area and to preserve the archaeological remains that have been discovered. It will be a major attraction for the town,” said Public Works councillor José Carlos Martín.

The total investment for this new recreational area, which will cover more than 350,000 square metres in the area known as El Ahogadero, will be paid over several years.

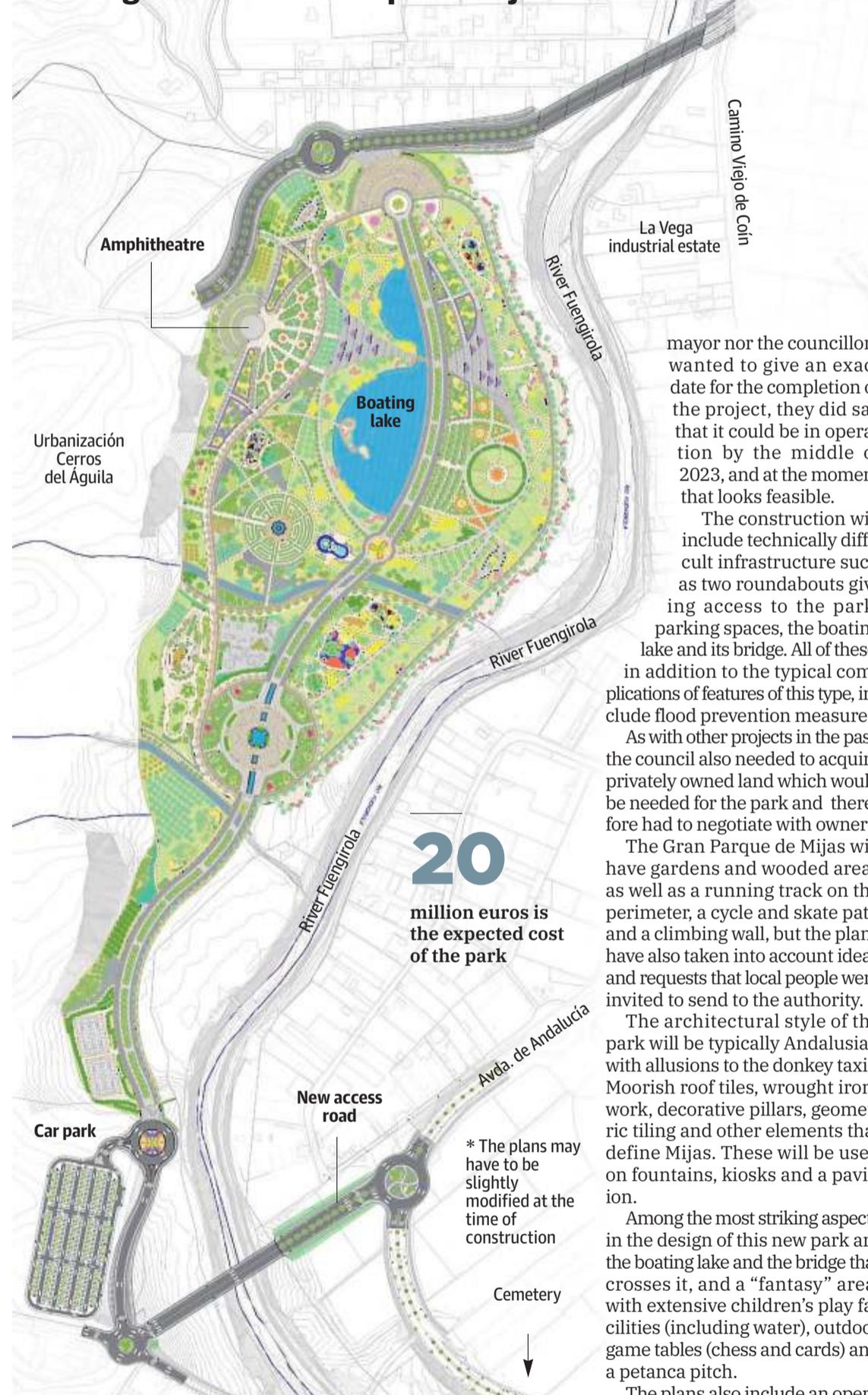
“A project of this size will take around 18 months to complete, so payment can’t all be made in the same year. Our aim is to contract the works and start the construction by the end of 2021,” said Martín, who is also the Ciudadanos party spokesman at Mijas town hall.

This step forward has been possible for two reasons: the good financial health of the town hall and the final authorisation from the regional government, which was given last October.

The park plan, which was suggested during the last term of office and has now become a key project for the coalition council of PSOE and Ciudadanos, has not had an easy path.

Different modifications had to be made to the plans after objections from the regional government’s Agriculture, Fishing and Sustainable Development department, and these have been complicated to resolve, but the park

## The design for the Gran Parque de Mijas \*



**The park, which will be very close to Las Lagunas, will be around 350,000 square metres in size**

now has the blessing of all the different administrations. To give an idea of the complexity in administrative terms, one only has to consider its size: the Gran Parque de Mijas will be as big as the famous Parque María Luisa in Seville and nearly twice as large as the Parque de la Paloma in Benalmádena.

Although in October neither the

mayor nor the councillors wanted to give an exact date for the completion of the project, they did say that it could be in operation by the middle of 2023, and at the moment that looks feasible.

The construction will include technically difficult infrastructure such as two roundabouts giving access to the park, parking spaces, the boating lake and its bridge. All of these, in addition to the typical complications of features of this type, include flood prevention measures.

As with other projects in the past, the council also needed to acquire privately owned land which would be needed for the park and therefore had to negotiate with owners.

The Gran Parque de Mijas will have gardens and wooded areas as well as a running track on the perimeter, a cycle and skate path and a climbing wall, but the plans have also taken into account ideas and requests that local people were invited to send to the authority.

The architectural style of the park will be typically Andalusian with allusions to the donkey taxis, Moorish roof tiles, wrought ironwork, decorative pillars, geometric tiling and other elements that define Mijas. These will be used on fountains, kiosks and a pavilion.

Among the most striking aspects in the design of this new park are the boating lake and the bridge that crosses it, and a “fantasy” area, with extensive children’s play facilities (including water), outdoor game tables (chess and cards) and a petanca pitch.

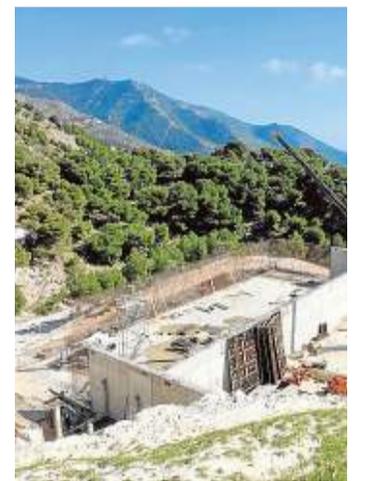
The plans also include an open-air amphitheatre which will be used for concerts, theatrical shows, and other types of entertainment.

### What do you think?

If you have an opinion about this or any other topic in SUR in English, we want to hear from you. We may publish your comments.

Email: [surinenglish.su@diariosur.es](mailto:surinenglish.su@diariosur.es)

## HERE AND THERE



The reservoir works. SUR

## MIJAS PUEBLO

### New water reservoir ready before summer

**I. GELIBTER.** Mijas town hall has said that works on the new reservoir tank that will supply Mijas Pueblo are 60 per cent complete and will be finished before the summer. The structure being built in the Cantera del Puerto area will hold 10,000 cubic metres of water, divided into two separate tanks. The new reservoir, which has cost 1.3 million euros to build, is designed to replace the aquifers which, according to councillor José Carlos Martín, are drying up

## BENALMÁDENA

### Electronic admin saves 1.5 million print-outs

**I. G.** Benalmádena town hall has said that since it adopted its paperless electronic administration system two years ago it had saved printing 1.5 million documents, many of which would take up more than one page. In financial terms the saving amounts to 100,000 euros, said the local authority, not to mention the benefits for the environment. The electronic administration also saves people having to travel to the town hall in many cases, said the authority.

## BENALMÁDENA

### Water bills this year to be reduced by 15%

**I. G.** Residents in Benalmádena can expect to see their water bills cut by 15 per cent this year. Mayor Víctor Navas announced this week that the town hall would temporarily waive the water improvement fee, normally charged to fund works to protect resources and improve supply. The discount will be in place “until we’ve left this crisis behind us”, said the mayor, and will affect both domestic and industrial users.

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## OFFERS OF THE WEEK



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## Nerja sisters donate part of hat and bag sales to cancer charity

### NERJA

Syreeta and Tanya Edwards got their inspiration while on holiday in the Maldives and have travelled extensively for inspiration

### E. CABEZAS

NERJA. Two sisters from Nerja have launched a range of bags and hats for women with ten euros from each sale going towards the Spanish cancer charity, Asociación Española Contra el Cáncer (AECC).

Syreeta and Tanya Edwards, who are the daughters of a Spanish-British couple, got the inspiration for their company, Kandhyma, and their designs, while on holiday on the island of the same name in the Maldives around two years ago.

The sisters explain that they did some “intensive research” by travelling to New York, Cambodia, Vietnam, Morocco and Dubai to get ideas and source materials, which they say are “sustainable”.

However, Syreeta, 43, was diagnosed with thyroid cancer and plans were put on hold. Now fully recovered and with more time on their hands since the hostel they run in Nerja has seen



Tanya and Syreeta Edwards in Nerja with two of their designs. E. CABEZAS

few guests in the last year, they have focused their attention on the range of bags and hats.

So far fans of their accessories include Lidia Bedman, the wife of Vox party leader Santi-

ago Abascal, and Nerja fashion blogger Jennifer Urbano.

The handmade and limited edition bags are aimed at “glamorous women looking for something exclusive”, said Tanya, 38.

## Demolition of Giner de los Ríos centre complete

### NERJA

E. C. Nerja mayor José Alberto Armijo and other town councillors, visited the site of the now demolished Giner de los Ríos centre on Wednesday to answer questions posed by owners of properties in the immediate vicinity.

The demolition work is expected

to be completed today with the company running the project, Transportes Antelo S.L., preparing the ground for a new building and putting up temporary diversion signs for access between Calle Granada and Calle Manuel Marín. Architect Joaquín López has presented a basic plan for a new cultural centre to the town hall.



Wednesday's meeting. SUR

### HERE AND THERE



Councillors Roberto and García by the ruins last Friday. E. C.

### VÉLEZ-MÁLAGA

#### Islamic period towers and wall discovered

E. C. Archaeologists in Vélez-Málaga have found the remains of two towers and part of a wall belonging to the town's tenth century Arabic fortress.

The discovery was made last week as part of a project to conserve and restore defence build-

ings of the town's Alcazaba.

Visiting the site last Friday, councillors María José Roberto and Cynthia García said that the find was “important for local culture and historic heritage”.

Each of the towers is from a different period during Spain's Islamic era, with one dating to the Almohad Caliphate of the 10th to 13th centuries and the other from the later Nazrid era, from the 13th to 15th centuries.

### NERJA

#### Red Cross to move into Nerja town hall

E. C. Nerja town hall has handed over an office within its building to the Red Cross, giving the humanitarian charity a permanent base in the town.

Mayor José Alberto Armijo said on Saturday that the office would “allow families to benefit from the projects and programmes run by the charity”.

Red Cross representatives said they were “pleased” with the central location for the new office.

### TORROX

#### Bus station refurb gets under way

E. C. Torrox town hall has started work to refurbish the coastal bus station and taxi rank. With a budget of 314,000 euros and a six-month time frame, the new design is set to include wider pavements, a smaller traffic island on Avenida Andalucía and offer more shade. Part of the shade will be provided by “vertical gardens”. Mayor Óscar Medina said the station would be “the most modern in Andalucía”.

### VALLE NIZA

#### Green light to complete housing development

E. C. Residents of the Las Canteras area of Valle Niza in Vélez-Málaga received good news on Monday when the town hall approved new regulations giving the green light to complete their housing development.

For a number of years local residents have been protesting

that the area has been “neglected and abandoned” by local politicians.

Vélez-Málaga mayor, Antonio Moreno Ferrer, said, “We have been working to try to complete the development since 2018.”

He went on to say that it was one of the “commitments” in the town's PGOU (general urban plan). He added that urban development was “one of the drivers behind generation of wealth and local employment”.



The mansion is 3,000 m2 in size and stands in 6,000 m2 of grounds with an infinity swimming pool. SUR

## Unique and exclusive, all for just 40 million

**Sold.** With ten bedrooms, 13 bathrooms and Corinthian columns, one of the most luxurious villas in Marbella now has a new owner



### JOAQUINA DUEÑAS

The world is experiencing the biggest health crisis of the past century and the majority of countries have restricted movement and even confined people to their homes. This has led many to consider moving to a larger house with more outside space.

Maybe that was one of the reasons behind the recent sale by Drumelia Real Estate of one of the most prestigious villas in Marbella, which had an asking price of 40 million dollars. Of course the climate on the Costa del Sol, or a need for more privacy or greater luxury might have had an influence too.

The property, which is in Sierra Blanca, came onto the market on 30 September 2019. It is a spacious, top quality, classical mansion with impressive Greek-style columns, in a unique location with lovely views.

It has ten bedrooms, 13 bathrooms and two kitchens and was designed by architect Jesús del Valle Cardenete. The property won the Maceal prize for best international villa in 2017.

Four storeys high, with a neo-

classical entrance, it is 3,000m2 in size on a private 6,000m2 plot with an infinity pool in the gardens.

The villa was built by British developer Joe Ricotta, and its construction took three years. It is one of the most impressive houses in Marbella, in one of the most exclusive locations in Europe. Drumelia also has three other transactions under way for properties with a market value of over ten million euros.

"All this shows that foreign buyers or investors are not being put off by Covid-19 and the current restrictions, and are still committed to investing in Marbella," said Artur Loginov, sales director and partner in the firm.

In fact, last year Drumelia received more enquiries than usual for properties in this price range.

They attribute this to the fact that, after the worst moments of the coronavirus crisis, people's preferences changed in terms of location and type of property. Instead of exclusive apartments in city centres, they are looking for spacious plots in quieter, more private areas.

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## Fuengirola announces new hiking route with picnic and exercise areas

### FUENGIROLA

Work on the new trail, which will link to the network of existing paths, is expected to take around two months to complete

### TONY BRYANT

FUENGIROLA. Fuengirola town hall has announced plans for a new hiking trail along the banks of the Arroyo Zaragoza in Carvajal. Work on the landscaped path, which will link to the network of existing trails, has already begun and will be carried out in three stages.

The first stage will be the creation of the 700-metre path. This will be followed by the creation

of two green spaces complete with a children's zone, picnic areas equipped with barbecues and an outdoor 'gymnasium' with exercise apparatus.

The new route will run from Carvajal's new boulevard to Calle Gorriones and will connect to the trails in the Parque de la Cantera and Arroyo Real.

The work is expected to take around two months to complete and will cost 426,000 euros.

Councillor for Urban Ecology Antonio Carrasco said: "Our mayor commissioned us to study areas where we could expand the paths that we already have in our town. In a municipality of just ten square kilometres, it is important to take advantage of these spaces to create trails for our residents to enjoy."

## Age Concern reopens second-hand shop and resumes weekly social meetings

### FUENGIROLA

T. B. Following the relaxation of the regulations enforced to curb the rise of Covid-19 infections, Age Concern Fuengirola/Mijas/Benalmádena has announced the reopening of its second-hand shop in Los Boliches.

After a complete sanitation of the premises and the stock, the shop has resumed business from Monday to Saturday from 10.30am to 2pm. The shop's hours have been extended on Wednesdays, when it will stay open until 6pm.

The charity has also restarted the weekly social meetings in its drop-in centres. Covid protocol will be enforced and masks must be worn.

### MALAGA

## Restaurant serves up a tasty treat for Cudeca

T. B. The Uvedoble restaurant in Malaga boosted the Cudeca Sunflower Appeal fund this week by donating 1,100 euros raised during a charity drive organised by the establishment's owner. Guillermo Orellana, known to the locals as Willy, decided to donate one euro from every Spanish omelette that he sold in the restaurant since the campaign began last October.

Several restaurants have joined the initiative by donating one euro from selected dishes and the charity is calling



Guillermo Orellana. SUR

on others to support the cause.

A spokesperson for Cudeca said, "Any help received is always more than welcome."

### FUENGIROLA

## Council passes free bus plan for residents

I. GELIBTER. Fuengirola town hall has taken its promise to make the local bus service free for residents one step further this week. The

council has passed the bylaw that will govern the new system, which involves the creation of a free bus pass for residents registered on the local census (padrón).

The plan, which also establishes the fares for paying passengers, now has to be approved by the regional authority.

# PM announces 11bn-euro aid package for businesses and the self-employed

The additional measures will be approved 'in the coming weeks' and focus on hard-hit sectors that were competitive before the pandemic, such as tourism and hospitality

LUCÍA PALACIOS

MADRID. Spain's prime minister, Pedro Sánchez, announced in parliament on Wednesday that central government will approve

in the "next few weeks" an additional financial aid package of 11 billion euros for "new measures" for larger firms, small and medium-sized enterprises and the self-employed.

This is a "significant amount of resources for sectors that were competitive before the pandemic, such as tourism, hotels or small businesses," said Sánchez during his speech in the Congreso chamber.



Sánchez on Wednesday

The aim, said the prime minister, "is to facilitate the return of economic activity, reinforce the solvency of balance sheets and to make investments and hire workers to be fully ready for the start of the economic recovery".

However, Sánchez did not make clear if it would be direct aid, which other countries, such as Germany, have deployed and something that business leaders, employers and different economic organisations have

been demanding.

During his speech on the coronavirus pandemic and the current state of alarm, the PSOE leader said, "We not only want to save companies and jobs, but also to strengthen them and create new companies and jobs." "Economic recovery is a firm hope," he added.

The prime minister highlighted that, since the beginning of the pandemic, the government had committed 20 per cent of gross domestic product in resources in "a protection exer-

cise never seen before".

He also added that funds sent to the devolved regional governments since the beginning of the pandemic exceed 24 billion euros, designed to strengthen healthcare but also, he said, to inject direct aid as the regional authorities are closest to and aware of the impact of the restrictions applied.

Representatives of the self-employed have said this week that some 300,000 'autónomos' will have to give up work due to the pandemic.

The ATA association said in its latest study, published on Wednesday, that one in six self-employed have not worked since last March and half say that, despite still being open, the volume of their business has fallen by half.



Greater take-up of low-skilled jobs by women increases the gender pay gap. SUR

## Andalucía's wage gap under fire as report shows women earn 24% less than men

To mark Spain's Equal Pay Day this week both the regional government and the UGT union in Malaga published their separate analysis of the situation

J. L. PIEDRA / A. PÉREZ-BRYAN

SEVILLE / MALAGA. Women in Andalucía earn an average 24 per cent less per annum than men and also have double the number of part-time contracts, according to data included in the 2020 Andalusian salary structure survey published by the regional government. The figures were released on Monday to mark Spain's annual Equal Pay Day.

Announcing its study for all the Andalucía region in the

Junta's report, regional minister for Equality, Rocío Ruiz, said that "the gender pay gap currently represents one of the greatest social injustices in the world".

### Across Andalucía

According to national government statistics quoted in the regional study, the average annual salary of women in Andalucía in 2018 was 18,672 euros, while men earned 24,712 euros, a gap of 6,040 euros, which is slightly higher than the figure nationally.

Separate data quoted by the Junta shows that, in 2019, the proportion of part-time contracts for women was double that of men: 44.02 per cent compared to 21.81 per cent.

The Andalusian Institute for

Women (IAM) has prepared an information guide on the wage gap and feminisation of poverty.

Marking the same day, the UGT trade union published its analysis of the situation just in Malaga province, including the Costa del Sol area.

### In Malaga province

In its separate report, the UGT union in Malaga said the gender pay gap for Malaga province is currently 22 per cent.

The union explained that the gap has increased locally from 20 per cent last year due to negative effects of the Covid-19 pandemic on women's working conditions.

"It is a key factor in [causing] social inequality," said María Adela Zafra, UGT Malaga's spokesperson on Equality.

The UGT explained that the gender pay gap doesn't necessarily mean less pay for the same job, but rather that, overall, women earn less than men.

This is principally due to women failing to rise to as many senior positions in firms or them taking more lower-skilled work on the whole.

## Russian discount supermarket chain plans to follow Lidl and Aldi with its own roll out in Spain

MALAGA

SUR. Mere, the supermarket chain that has been dubbed "the Russian Lidl", is planning to open 40 stores across Spain - including in Malaga province - before the end of the year.

The firm has a business model that promises prices up

to 30 per cent cheaper because of savings on local costs, personnel and also in packaging and size.

"We do not need shiny and attractive wrapping," said the company, adding that its supermarkets do not have shelves or sales assistants. Everything is sold without frills from pallets or boxes, a model that is reminiscent of other supermarket chains such as Lidl and Aldi.

The company explains on its website, "The objective is to open supermarkets in all major cities in Spain and establish solid relationships with national suppliers and throughout Europe."



Opening day at the designer outlet mall last year. SUR (FILE IMAGE)

## Designer Outlet Malaga celebrates first year success despite Covid-19

MALAGA

SUR. The McArthurGlen Designer Outlet Malaga mall, part of the Plaza Mayor complex close to Malaga Airport, has announced that it has had three million visitors since opening in February last year.

Bosses at the British-owned operation said that this is "positive" news, "despite the impact

of the pandemic, in terms of the number of visitors, the growth in brand names taking up shop units and the high level of visitor satisfaction".

The mall, which specialises in upscale branded fashion and goods at discounted prices, reopened in June last year after being forced to shut during lockdown in spring. Since then it has added new names to its range including Prada, Burberry, Armani and Furla, as well as Spanish brands Bimba y Lola, Ecoalf and Silbon.

Some of these have opened their first ever store in the south of Spain in Malaga, said McArthurGlen.

# We Andalucía

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# Spain marks 40th anniversary of failed military coup

Some politicians have called for classified documents about the 1981 attempted takeover to be made public

MIGUEL ÁNGEL ALFONSO

MADRID. The frightening events of 23 February 1981 are etched in the memory of every Spaniard who is old enough to remember them.

This week politicians and dignitaries met in the Congreso de los Diputados parliament building in Madrid to mark the fortieth anniversary of the failed military coup.

King Felipe VI, who led the event on Tuesday, was only 13 when news reached the Royal Family that Guardia Civil officer Antonio Tejero had taken MPs hostage in the parliament chamber as the first stage of an insurrection by some in the armed forces.

The King remembered the key role in ending the crisis played by his father, former King Juan Carlos, who he said had been “decisive for the defence and triumph of democracy”.

While King Juan Carlos’s late-night television address in 1981 is seen as successfully putting an end to the coup d’état, there was much comment this week on the absence of the former head of state, in self-imposed

exile in Abu Dhabi while his financial affairs are investigated.

The leader of the government coalition partners, anti-capitalist Unidas Podemos did not applaud King Felipe’s speech.

“Forty years on, monarchy is no longer a precondition of [Spanish] democracy,” Pablo Iglesias said.

Some left-wing and nationalist parties called for all documents around the failed coup to be declassified so as to “know for sure” what really went on.

Tuesday’s event in Madrid drew together many people who had been held hostage in 1981, including MPs, parliamentary staff and journalists, who all shared anecdotes from 40 years ago.



King Felipe talking with MPs in parliament’s debating chamber on Tuesday about the events there in 1981. EP

## IN BRIEF



Crowds at Women’s Day in central Madrid in March 2020. EFE (FILE IMAGE)

### SPAIN

#### Confusion at top over Women’s Day marches

**SUR.** The government this week approved marches in Madrid of up to 500 people for the International Women’s Day celebrations on 8 March, only to seemingly contradict itself later. The government representative for Madrid, with the support of the national Ministry of Equality has said they can go ahead. But the

minister for Health said on Wednesday that there was no place for demonstrations. “The state of the epidemic doesn’t allow it,” she explained.

The decision to allow large marches a year ago in Spain on 8 March despite the surge in coronavirus has been inconclusively blamed for fuelling the spread and causing more deaths.

The mayor of Madrid said it will be very hard to keep numbers to 500 and called for different ways to celebrate the day.

### GALICIA

#### Right to fine vaccine avoiders is approved

**M. SÁIZ-PARDO.** The Galician regional government has approved a bill which would allow it to fine those who refuse to be vaccinated against Covid-19 and any future viruses.

The legislation does not have the support of central government, which believes that it violates fundamental rights and contradicts national regulations. This opinion is shared by opposition parties and legal experts.

The new rule only gives Galicia optional powers. Fines, which could go up to 60,000 euros for a serious offence, will not be used for the moment.

### BRUSSELS

#### Ex-Catalan leader’s Euro immunity nears its end

**SUR.** The ex-head of the Catalan government, Carles Puigdemont, who is self-exiled in Belgium, could be stripped by Euro MPs of his immunity from prosecution in a vote in early March.

An EU parliamentary committee has said, in a response to a request by Spain, that Puigdemont and two former Catalan ministers cannot claim immunity for leading the 2017 illegal referendum in Catalonia as they weren’t Euro MPs at the time.

Ending immunity means arrest warrants would kick in again, but it is not certain that Belgium would agree to an extradition.

## THE EURO ZONE

MARK NAYLER

# Inner conflict



“A government that includes [Podemos leader Pablo] Iglesias would not work, it would be paralysed.” So said Socialist leader and soon-to-be prime minister Pedro Sánchez in a TV interview in July 2019, as his party cast around for a partner with which to form a national leadership. But in November of that year, after another general election failed to give any party a majority, Sánchez and Iglesias

teamed up, miraculously appearing to have put their differences aside.

The two politicians enjoyed a brief honeymoon period, but now, just over a year later, it appears that the Socialist leader was right to express scepticism about their union. Increasingly, the fragile partnership between these two forces - one centrist and at core traditional, the other in love with Marxist ideas and rebelling against the status quo -

is marked by conflict rather than collaboration.

The centrist Socialists and leftist Podemos have presented a more-or-less united front during the pandemic, but the question of how to spend €72 billion in EU recovery grants is now causing problems. Podemos, rightly, wants to keep it away from massive multinationals, whereas the Socialists, bafflingly, want to give chunks of it to companies such as Iberdrola and Seat, multi-billion-dollar behemoths that can generate their own resources for change. Issues such as rent capping, pensions and taxation have also pushed both parties out of their comfort zone, resulting in rancour and disappointment within the coalition.

The two leaders’ ideological differences, especially those

concerning Catalan independence and the Spanish monarchy, go even deeper than financial clashes. Iglesias wants a legitimate independence referendum in the northeasterly region, and publicly backed the illegal plebiscite held by its separatist government in October 2017, saying beforehand that it would “mobilise” the electorate.

Like most of the ‘independistas’ with whom he pledges allegiance, the Podemos leader is also strongly anti-monarchist, once promising that he would hold a national referendum on the institution’s future if he came to power. Sánchez, by contrast, is against a Catalan independence referendum and supports the Spanish monarchy. If you were having a dinner party and inviting these two over, both issues

would have to be banned from the table; best just to stick to their mutual hatred of the right.

The lack of a functioning opposition hardly compels these two men to face the enemy as one. As an anonymous minister told El País this week, “Our great advantage right now is that there is nothing across from us.” The Popular Party is in corruption-induced meltdown and centrist Ciudadanos is on sabbatical, at least for the moment. Vox maintains an angry presence but is too small, by itself, to cause the government many problems. Instead of exploiting this situation to its advantage, the PSOE-Podemos partnership is paralysing itself with inner conflict, just as Sánchez feared it would long before he shook Iglesias’ hand in November 2019.

# Gibraltar-registered vehicles are being impounded in Spain

People who officially live in Spain are subject to rules regarding importation of vehicles and residency status, even if they have a Gibraltar address as well

ing importation of vehicles and residency status of their owner. Nobody who is officially resident in Spain can own a Gibraltar-registered vehicle, and vice versa. Even if someone has an address in both places, they can-

not be officially resident in Gibraltar and Spain at the same time. Anyone in this situation who decides to make Gibraltar their official residence must legally cancel their residence status in Spain, otherwise the



The Gibraltar border. SUR

Spanish system will still treat them as if they are living there.

After taking the matter up with the Spanish authorities, the government advice is for those in this situation to familiarise themselves with the legal requirements in Spain and ensure that they comply with Spanish and Gibraltarian residency rules, with the help of a lawyer or tax adviser if necessary. Failure to comply with the requirements could result in their Gibraltar-registered vehicle being impounded.

## DEBBIE BARTLETT

**GIBRALTAR.** The Gibraltar government has issued advice to people who live in Spain but drive a Gibraltar-plated car or motorcycle, following a crackdown by the Spanish authorities. Over 20 vehicles are believed to have been impounded so far.

This is not related to Brexit, but is to do with customs procedures under EU rules, regard-

## IN BRIEF

### CORONAVIRUS

#### Fewer Covid cases and more vaccines

**D.B.** The number of positive Covid-19 cases and hospitalisations continues to fall in Gibraltar, and the Health Authority has reduced its states of alert and readiness to Amber (Substantial) after nearly eight weeks. Figures issued on Wednesday night showed that 32,705 doses of the vaccine had been given, of which 12,846 were second doses. Nearly 13,000 more doses also arrived on Wednesday from the UK.

### CULTURE

#### Launch of website for Gorham's Cave

**D.B.** The Gorham's Cave complex World Heritage Site now has a website of its own instead of a dedicated section on the website of the Gibraltar National Museum. The museum is the authority that manages the complex on behalf of the government. The website [www.gorhamscave.gi](http://www.gorhamscave.gi) has information about the WHS, its history, and how it can be visited.

### CULTURE

#### World Book Day will be marked online this year

**D.B.** The traditional event to mark World Book Day at the John Mackintosh Hall cannot take place because of the pandemic, but there will be plenty of online activities from Saturday 27 February and they will continue all week. The events can be found on social media, such as the John Mackintosh Library and GCS Facebook pages, on local radio and in the press.

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LETTERS  
TO THE EDITOR

## Fight against drugs

Last week, in the 16 February issue of the Spanish SUR, there was a small article (with photo) about a chase, that took place in the harbour of La Duquesa, by the Guardia Civil, against the fast smuggler boats supplying fuel to other delivery boats in need for fuel to get on further along the coast.

Working on boats for years in this harbour, we have been watching these people doing their business two or three times a week. The spectacle: shouting, loading, jumping in the boats, taking off at high speed, could be seen frequently for many years, and left us all wondering: "Why are the police not interfering with this?"

I can agree that some time is needed to dismantle a gang, but, allowing these people to do their business for so many years seems strange to me.

Can anybody give me an acceptable reason why, in this case, dealers were allowed to do this for such a long time without getting caught? **DIRK BOGAERT**

## Health and safety

I urge you to do an article on the necessity for the town halls to prohibit the use of bicycles and e-scooters on the Paseos along the coast, especially Marbella.

Frequently riders can be seen racing each other and unsupervised children winding their way between pedestrians, some very mature.

Needless to say none of the culprits have insurance in the event of injury resulting from

this nefarious practice.

Paseos are meant to be for the enjoyment of the majority and not to be turned into race tracks by the ruthless irresponsible uncaring minority.

I call on town halls to make the necessary decision and place appropriate horizontal signs on the paseos prohibiting all bikes and e-scooters before serious injury and death, otherwise it will be a dereliction of their responsibility.

**CHEVALIER JOE TIERNAN**

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## A comedy of errors

It happens like this: you hear some very welcome news related to events of the past, feel a shoot of joyous energy, dance a lovely little jig around the living room floor and then slump back onto the sofa, exhausted, in order to consider the implications of what you've just found out a little more profoundly. That, I'm afraid, is when the trouble starts.

It's a scenario that can apply to anything from meeting up with friends from long ago or hearing that your ex, for whom you've convinced yourself you still hold a flickering torch, wants to get back with you.

In the case of the former example, you slowly start to remember how it always seemed to be you who gave your chums a lift to the pub, bought the drinks and listened to their in-

terminable stories about their any-minute-now success.

In the case of the latter, it gradually dawns on you that she's your ex for a reason, of being nagged to within an inch of your life and how your flat smelt perpetually of nail varnish and cup cakes.

Inevitably, you come to the conclusion that the past is better left alone. Your lovely little jig was in vain, based on a false premise.

So it was this week when I heard that Paramount is set to bring back the hilarious TV series, Frasier. Oh yes! What could be better? More hapless antics from the well-meaning but teeth-grindingly pedantic psychiatrist, a man paid to advise others about their problems while his own life spirals out of control in a succession of ever

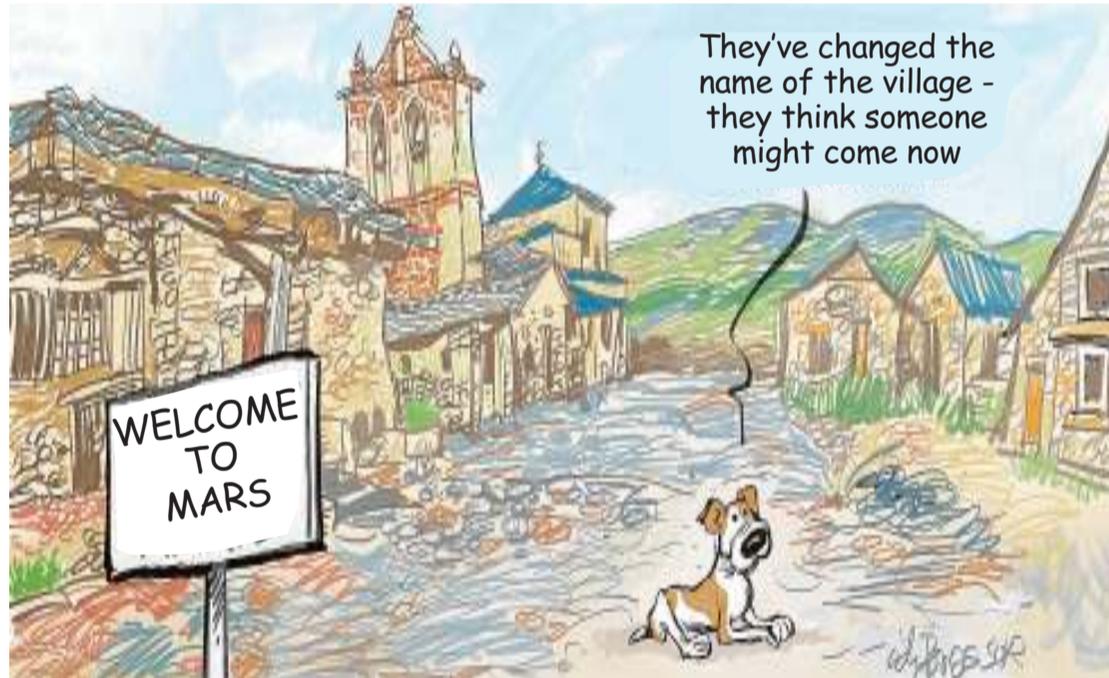
more excruciating circumstances. And yet...

A TV series will usually come to an end because the writers feel there's nothing more to say on the subject and they don't want to recycle the same, tired tropes for all eternity. In addition, many years later, the cast will have moved on professionally and, occasionally, may even have passed away (as is the case here with John Mahoney who played Frasier's pragmatic, long suffering dad).

No, the more I think about it, the more I don't like the idea of my favourite series coming back for a shot at recapturing its former glory.

Much better to dig out the old box sets, grab a few cans of beer and prepare a delicious feast involving bacon sandwiches - and not a single cup cake.

## IDÍGORAS



**SUR** in English

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MORRIS BISHOP

## The San Pedro speed bump saga - a campaign with a happy ending

The story begins in November 2011 when I complained to the Ayuntamiento in San Pedro Alcántara that the speed-bumps in Calle Oriental and Camino Cortés were 'dimensionally' illegal in that the length of the approach slopes was below the one-metre minimum allowed. Indeed, they ranged from 40cm to 60cm. Shortly after this I made a presentation to the town hall's district coordinator, Juan Pedro Carrasco, who was sym-

pathetic to my concerns and agreed to investigate the issue. Over the next year or so he formulated a plan of action that resulted in the removal of 13 bumps from Camino Granadilla, north of Calle Oriental and four in Camino Cortés. He then revealed that the southern end of Calle Oriental from the Barceló hotel crossroads to the roundabout junction by the N340 were owned by the Guadamina Golf Club and that the eastside footpath was the only part under

the council's control. So, without the cooperation of the club there was little more that could be done.

Some months later in desperation I wrote directly to Ángeles Muñoz, Marbella's mayor, in the hope that she could unblock the impasse, and this instigated a meeting with David Díaz Muñoz, the then director for San Pedro at the town hall, who, together with his chief engineer formulated a design to address the problem, as and when it could be put into being.

After some years passed, at a meeting with Juan Pedro, he mentioned that there was a possibility that they could adopt the part of Calle Oriental from the club and thus put into effect planned work. However in the 2015 election the PP lost their majority and the PSOE formed a coalition council that resulted in all the managerial positions within the administration being

changed, thus putting the bumps problem back to square one.

A further two years passed and the two OSP councillors (San Pedro separatist party) were wooed to switch allegiance from the coalition to the PP, thus putting them back in power. Then in the result of the 2019 election they saw their position reinforced.

Some months later I noticed that work had started in Calle Oriental, creating a footpath on the west side, and then the speed bump at the N340 end had disappeared, and by 21 February the whole road had been transformed with moderate speed bumps and electronic warning pedestrian crossing places installed.

You can imagine my elation that after a decade, all of the road's shortcomings were gone.

So thank you Ayuntamiento!

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 Helicopteros 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?**

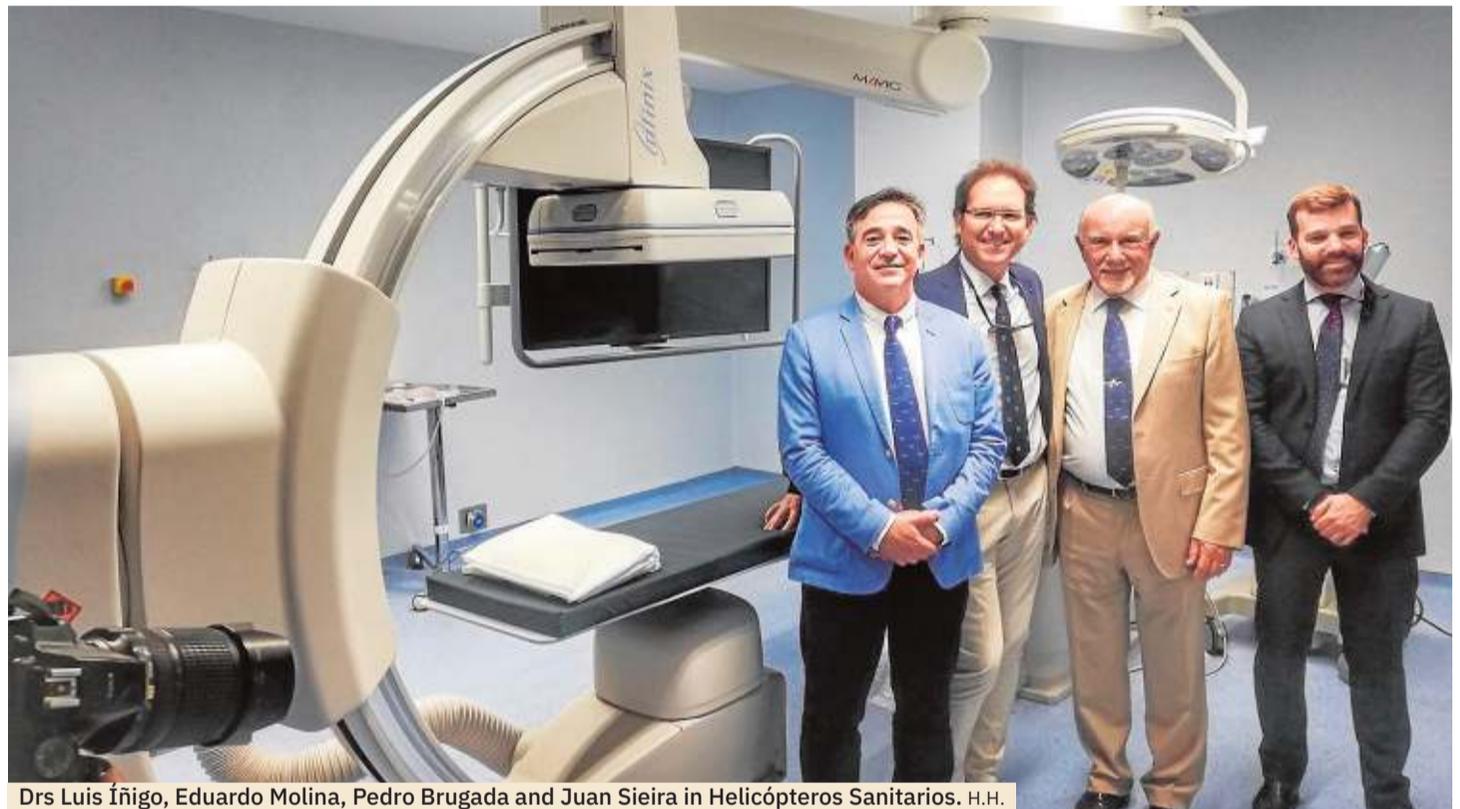
Heart failure, angina pectoris and myocardial infarction can all alter the electrical function of the heart. Changes in the supply of oxygen and other nutrients to the heart cells alter the electrical function of these cells, causing tachycardias or bradycardias. The consequences are highly variable, 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.

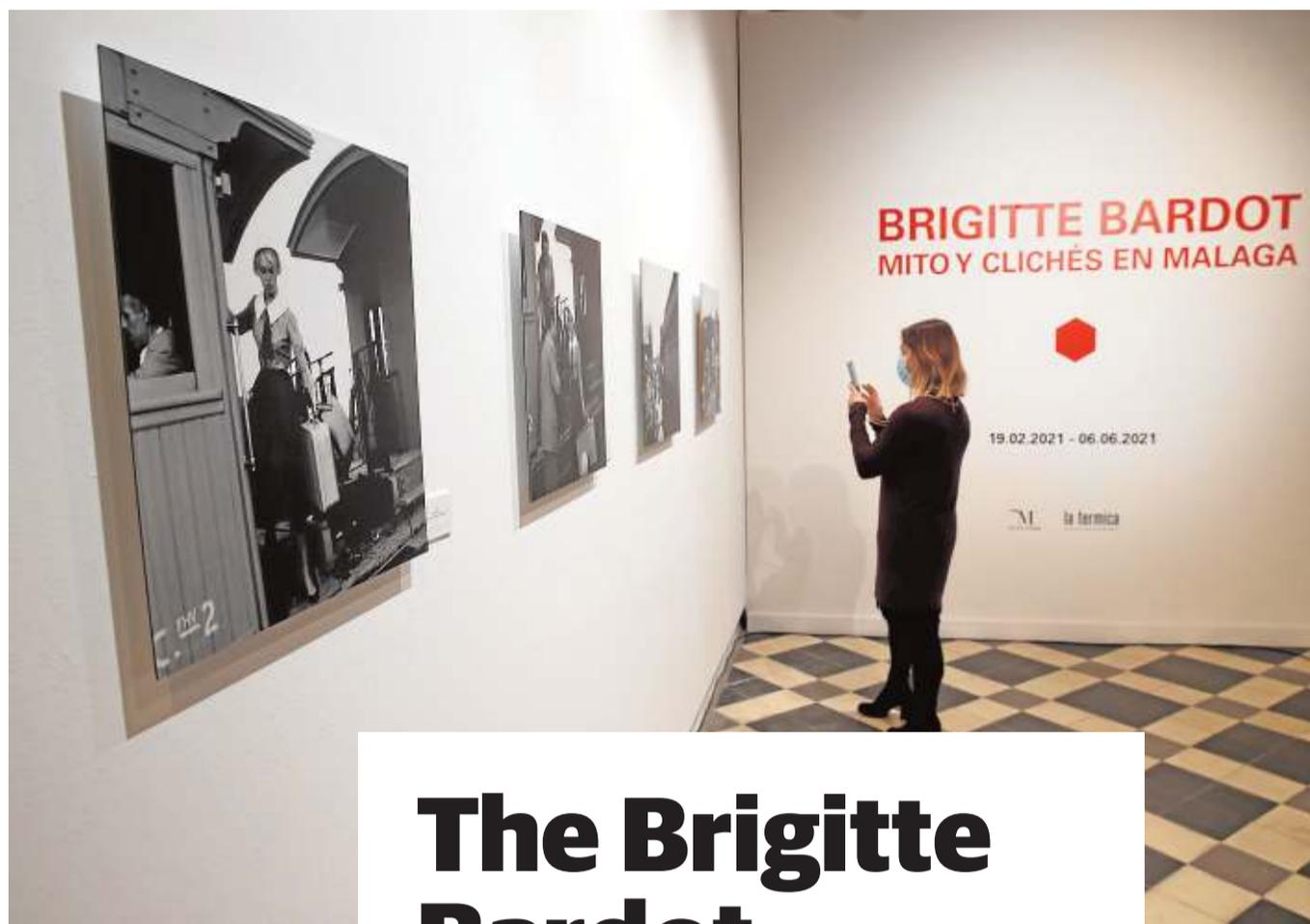
**And which arrhythmias are the most frequent?**

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.



# The Brigitte Bardot treasure that turned up in an auction

He came across it with a click of the mouse and his expert eye recognised not just the face, but also the background. It was Brigitte Bardot in a striking Andalusian setting which just had to be Malaga. It was the filming of *The Jewellers of the Moonlight* (1957), one of those foreign films that found an easy passport to post-war Spain when the Franco regime wanted to show the world its apparent openness. The whole history of this film, as well as the iconic BB, was there on a French auction website, as a series of 400 photos which were taken at the time. José Luis Cabrero didn't hesitate to snap it up. Now, that unexpected treasure has been digitalised, restored, enlarged and studied and has ended up in the exhibition called *Brigitte Bardot, Mito y Clichés en Málaga*, (*Myth and Clichés in Malaga*) which is now on at La Térmica. It is a chance to see the *Torremolinos* of old, in glorious black and white.

"The pictures belonged to a French collector and when I saw them, I knew this was a great opportunity because the price didn't compare with their value," said José Luis, who is the co-creator of the *Torremolinos Chic* website, at the opening of the exhibition. He said the person who sold the collection denied afterwards that it was he who had done so, "maybe because he doesn't want it to be known that they are no longer in France".

He was reluctant at first to reveal how much he paid for this valuable acquisition, but finally admitted that it was over 1,000 euros. It is a lot of money, but when you see the collection, you realise it was actually a real bargain.

The display, which will continue until June, is a mixture of glam-

**Exhibition.** La Térmica is showing a collection of previously unseen photos of the actress filming *The Jewellers of the Moonlight* in Malaga province, which were bought at a French auction by José Luis Cabrera; the original owner later regretted selling

► Original. The photos were only 6x6 cm in size and have been enlarged. **ÑITO SALAS**

**FRANCISCO GRIÑÁN**



our, fascination, innocence and nostalgia, showing images of Bardot getting off the train at El Pinillo (near Arroyo de la Miel), walking with a script in her hand with film director and her then partner Roger

Vadim, posing in a bra in a scene which does not try to hide its eroticism and the film's intention to be provocative (it was censored in Spain), and at El Chorro with Stephen Boyd (Mesala in *Ben Hur*)

and the famous little donkey Romeo, which 'BB' loved so much that she took it to the cottage she was renting in La Carihuela and let it sleep on her bed.

## Also off the set

The film *The Jewellers of the Moonlight* was not outstanding in quality but it brought an icon of "beauty, freedom and controversy" to a Malaga which was still only just becoming known as the Costa del Sol, and a collection of photos which, with the passing of time and because of their quality, have acquired artistic value.

"The film tried to bring out the most atavistic and antiquated part of the country, showing a region which was almost feudal, which is what foreign creators

wanted to find in Spain at that time. They wanted to portray that image, that was inherited from the 19th century, says José Luis.

The exhibition also shows photos of the inevitable scene of the star fighting a young bull in Mijas bullring. This is particularly striking, "bearing in mind how anti-bullfighting Brigitte Bardot has been", he points out.

In the total of 61 photos and 27 other items in the display, including magazines, books, postcards and four sheets of original pictures, Vadim's film is not just the protagonist, as photographer Jorge Dragón pointed out at the inauguration.

**Natural.** Bardot seems comfortable in these photos. **ÑITO SALAS**



**El Remo.** Brigitte Bardot, getting out of the swimming pool at this club in La Carihuela. **ÑITO SALAS**



## THE EXHIBITION

► **Title:** 'Brigitte Bardot, mito y clichés en Málaga'. 61 photos of the filming of *The Jewellers of the Moonlight* (1957).

► **Curator:** José Luis Cabrera.

► **Where and when:** La Térmica, until 6 June.

This piece of photographic history which can now be seen in public for the first time "also shows what we don't see on-screen", he explained, like the legendary actress in the swimming pool at Club el Remo, and chatting, surrounded by children, in La Carihuela.

Also at the opening were writer Alfredo Taján; the director of La Térmica, Salomón Castiel; and the president of the Malaga provincial government, Francisco Salado, who were all interested in the photos which had been taken off set, such as the series which portrays Bardot with two dancers, wearing a Cordoban hat and learning to play the castanets on the terrace of the Playa Montemar hotel, which was owned by Viscount Llanteno.

The images show a *Torremolinos* of little white houses and are obviously aimed to be artistic, although paradoxically we don't know who took them. In fact, it is believed that six photographers could have taken these 400 pictures in the collection, and one was probably Yves Mirkiné, who was French but of Ukrainian origin.

The photos were originally miniatures measuring 6x6 cm, and were more than 60 years old. Now they are making a big impact on the walls at La Térmica, for everyone to enjoy.

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DENISE BUSH



GARDENING

# Cleveland sage

Native to California, Cleveland sage or *Salvia clevelandii*, is a large evergreen shrub with aromatic silver-green leaves and whorls of fragrant deep-purple flowers from spring through to the end of the summer. It is also known as Jim sage, blue sage and fragrant sage.

Cleveland sage is ideal for the Mediterranean climate as it thrives in drought (it needs very little watering during the summer) and can withstand extreme

heat provided it has a little shade during the hottest part of the day. It is also frost hardy for those of us that live further inland away from the coast.

The arching branches are clothed with wrinkled, oblong leaves which are highly aromatic and sometimes used in cooking in place of culinary sage (*Salvia*

*officinalis*). The leaves are also used to make a refreshing tea used to treat coughs and chest colds. They can also be sprinkled on hot water for a facial steam bath or used as a hair rinse. The water from boiled sage leaves can be used as a mild disinfectant and bunches of the dried herb burnt to fumigate rooms.

Cleveland sage can grow quite big, around 1.5 metres high by the same wide, so it needs plenty of space. It is suitable for a cottage or informal style garden or can be grown in a large pot.

The lavender to deep-purple flowers (there are several cultivars with slight variations on the shade of blue), form in widely spaced whorls on 30cm spikes. They open from late spring and all through the summer, attracting butterflies and bees as well as other beneficial insects. Deadheading will extend the flowering period although the brown seed heads look good all through the winter.

Cleveland sage can be kept compact with a trim in autumn or alternatively, look for the cultivar *Salvia clevelandii* 'Winfred Gilman' which has deep red calyxes and electric blue blooms and a more compact growth.

*Salvia clevelandii* can be grown from seed collected and sown in the autumn or from semi-ripe wood cuttings.

It is named after amateur botanist, plant collector and lawyer David Cleveland, co-founder of the San Diego Society of Natural History.



*Salvia clevelandii* and close up of a flower head (inset). WIKIMEDIA

READERS' PHOTOS



LYNN HOPKINS

## A doughnut peach

The milder weather recently has fooled Lynn Hopkins' Paraguayo tree into blooming early. Paraguayos have flat, round fruit earning it the name the doughnut or saturn (like the rings of Saturn) peach.



ERIKA FEBRES

## Donkey tail sedum

This photo of *Sedum morganianum* 'Burrito' (donkey tail sedum) was sent in by avid plant collector Erika Febres in Benalmádena. She says (about plants), "I love the colour they bring into my life. And the life they bring to my garden, bees, bumble bees and birds of different types."

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@diariosures.es](mailto:english@diariosures.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/surenglish)) or Twitter (@SUR\_English).

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DEBBIE  
BARTLETT

## WHAT HAPPENED TODAY?

26 FEBRUARY 1981

## Leopoldo Calvo Sotelo becomes Spanish PM

Three days earlier there had been fears that democracy in Spain had been short-lived when parliament was held hostage in an attempted coup

Forty years ago today, on 26 February 1981, Leopoldo Calvo Sotelo was sworn in as prime minister of Spain. Not an extraordinary day in politics, one might think, but only three days previously, when Calvo Sotelo's election was due to be confirmed in a second round of voting, there was an attempted coup d'état by Lieutenant General Antonio Tejero and around 200 armed Civil Guard officers, who held



In 1982. EFE

everyone in the parliament building hostage for 18 hours. The attempted coup came to an end when the insurrectionists surrendered, following intervention by King Juan Carlos.

Calvo Sotelo was born into a prominent political and entrepreneurial family in Madrid on 14 April 1926. His uncle José, who had been a Minister of Finance in the dictatorship of Miguel Primo de Rivera, was assassinated in the run-up to the Spanish Civil War.

Leopoldo, who had a degree in civil engineering, had previously been the president of the national railway company Renfe, among other appointments. Following the death of Franco in 1975, he was appointed Minister of Trade in the first gov-



Calvo Sotelo being sworn in in front of King Juan Carlos in 1981. EFE

ernment of the monarchy, led by Carlos Arias Navarro, and went on to become Minister of Public Works when Adolfo Suárez was prime minister. He was also Minister for Relations with the European Economic Community from 1978 to 1980. After Suárez resigned, Calvo

Sotelo was proposed as candidate for prime minister. During his tenure, Spain became a member of NATO. On 27 August 1982 he dissolved the government and new elections took place on 28 October. His party, the UCD, suffered a major defeat by PSOE and Felipe González became

LANGUAGE  
FOOTNOTE

Ingeniero	Engineer
Fundador	Founder
Empresario	Business owner
Ministro	Minister
Investidura	Investiture
Votación	Voting
Intento	Attempt
Golpe de estado	Coup d'état
Gobierno	Government
Candidato	Candidate
Monarquía	Monarchy
Título	Title
Heredero	Heir
Democracia	Democracy
Dictadura	Dictatorship
Elecciones	Elections
Política	Politics
Rendir	To surrender
Derrota	Defeat

prime minister.

In 2002, King Juan Carlos gave Calvo Sotelo the hereditary title of Marquis de la Ría de Ribadeo and made him a Grandee of Spain to honour his service to the country. He died of natural causes at his home in Pozuelo de Alarcón, Madrid, on 3 May 2008, aged 82.

**Bilingual crossword inside back page**

## OBITUARY

## Former Age Care president Syd Weldon dies, aged 76

TONY BRYANT

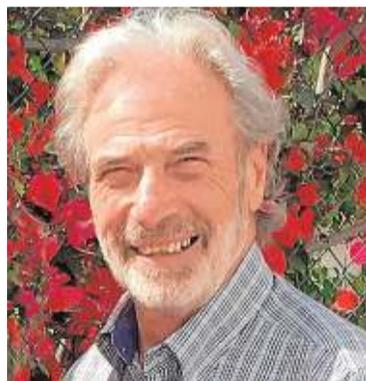
Foreign residents along the Costa del Sol were saddened by the news of the death of popular British expat Sydney Weldon, the former president of Age Care, who died on Thursday 18 February after a lengthy battle with cancer.

Known to his friends and associates as Syd, the 76-year-old Yorkshireman had been president of Age Care for almost seven years, before stepping down in 2020 due to failing health.

His involvement with the charity began in 2001, when his wife Carol became a volunteer. Syd originally began working in the charity's second-hand shop, but was eventually elected onto the committee and soon saw its potential as a holistic association.

He developed the aims of Age Care with more emphasis on care and respite care for the elderly, sick and those in need, while maintaining the social activities that he considered were important to those who live on their own.

He helped set up drop-in centres in Calahonda, Fuengirola, Benalmádena and Coin, and, with



Syd Weldon. SUR

a joint venture with Medicare, he helped found the charity's Dementia Support Group.

Syd came to the Costa del Sol to enjoy his retirement from a professional golfing career in Yorkshire, joining Miraflores Golf Club, and serving several years as a committee member.

A spokesperson for Age Care said, "It can be safely said that Syd put the Care into Age Care. His compassion and forward thinking for the needs of others will be difficult to follow, but in this era of disruption, he has set strong foundations for us to continue his work. In that alone he will be sorely missed."

WILDLIFE  
PETER HARRISON

## The importance of trees

If the wind has blown a tree over on your land, do wildlife a favour and replace it as soon as possible



Recent high winds have certainly made a dramatic impact on the environment with damage to trees. On our own land near El Chorro we awoke one morning to find a birch had crashed overnight onto the fencing which was intended to curtail our pets. First the fencing had to be repaired and then the tree needed sawing up for firewood. The third action was to replace the tree. That third step must not be overlooked. The world is suffering from a severe reduction in forest land.

At the beginning of the century Surinam in South America had 92 per cent of its land surface covered in forest. It is a different story now. Also, in neighbouring Brazil, the Amazon rainforest has suffered a similar fate at the hands of the chain saw, often in the hands of European companies eager for wood to use in housing.

Look at a map of Devon in the UK and you will see Dart-



A felled birch tree. SUR

moor Forest... What forest? I was born there. Forests of oaks were felled to supply the shipbuilding industry which flourished in previous centuries... all true. My son Neil and I planted a row of oaks on our land and my wife Erny and I were proud to see them flourishing when we revisited our old home recently.

Trees are the natural habitat of most birds and a great number of mammals which depend on them for food, safety and building natural homes. They absorb carbon dioxide which we generate and replace

it with oxygen.

It is not just high winds that destroy our valuable forests. Apart from logging, wood is needed for the construction industry for houses which are often being built on land once covered with trees.

Also fire plays a role on the destruction of trees. Flying over Cambodia a few years back, Erny and I witnessed a fire which we roughly measured to be 500 kilometres across. What pollution was being created and how many animals were losing their homes!

A few years back a substantial fire razed much land in the hills backing Mijas. The local authority is to be commended for its immediate action, so the tree cover is now largely replaced.

If the recent high winds have blown down one of your trees, do the world a favour and replace it now.

The early spring is a good time for replanting trees as the sap is still there.

ALEKK M. SAANDERS



## THE WORLD ON YOUR DOORSTEP

# Welsh flavour for St David's Day

**Patron saint.** On 1 March Wales will be celebrating the feast of St David; there's no better time to seek out and explore Welsh connections in southern Spain

Wales and Spain have more in common than you might think. Professor John T. Koch, who specialises in Celtic studies, even suggests the Welsh language can trace its ancestry back to Portugal and Spain. In Spain today, a Wales-themed experience tour could include famous Welshmen's favourite haunts, traditional cuisine or even a hunt for Iberia's answer to the daffodil.

### Somewhere to stay Following famous footsteps

The Costa del Sol is associated with Welsh actor Stanley Baker who lived in Marbella and died in Malaga in 1976. During the fifties, Baker became one of Britain's highest-paid actors. Accordingly, he was able to settle in one of the most exclusive beachfront complexes of Marbella, close to the luxury Royal Guadalmina Golf Club.

Another Welsh actor, Richard Burton, who, unlike Baker, was part of Marbella's jet-set party scene, was apparently a frequent guest at the most fashionable hotel of Marbella, Los Monteros. The luxury hotel, inaugurated in 1962, quickly became a popular meeting place for Marbella's celebrities, as well as out-of-town visitors.

### The atmosphere The Welsh Society

Since 2012 the Welsh spirit on the Costa has been nurtured with help of the Welsh Society Costa del Sol. Each year they hold St David's Day celebrations in

Benalmádena and they raise money for various charities. This year's celebrations go online and can be followed on the society's Facebook page from 2pm.

In accordance with tradition, on St David's Day the Welsh wear their national flower, the daffodil. In Spain this flower is known as the narciso and it is thought that up to 90 per cent of species of the flower can be found in the Iberian peninsula. Some of its species are native to woods and meadows in Andalucía. If you head inland, towards the town of Ardales and its 'lake' surroundings, you can find the best *Narcissus cantabricus* in large numbers.

### Eating Welsh Bara Brith and cawl

According to Tripadvisor, Stones Eatery Cafe & Bar located in the centre of Fuengirola became famous for its Welsh hospitality thanks to its owners Lesley and Nicky. However, Benalmádena seems to be the most Welsh town on the Costa del Sol. It has several bars and restaurants owned by Welsh people, serving food that is typically Welsh.

Stentons Bar, located in Arroyo de la Miel, has been inviting people to try British cuisine since 1998. Nowadays it is known for its homemade cheese-cakes and Sunday roasts. Additionally, Wales's famous speckled tea bread *Bara Brith* is offered quite often. The bread is studded with plump raisins with candied citrus peel and aromatic spices.

Another Welsh spot in Benalmádena has the name The Long Bar. Its 'Welshness' is clear from the red dragons on the sign hanging outside and televised rugby matches with Welsh teams. The owner offers her homemade mince and onion pie and even Glamorgan sausage, a traditional Welsh vegetarian sausage made of cheese, leeks and breadcrumbs.

### A souvenir In search of dragons

In Wales, most souvenirs are embellished with the Welsh dragon - *Y Ddraig Goch*. The Costa del Sol cannot boast its own dragons, but similar winged creatures can be found

just across the Strait in the Spanish city of Ceuta. These dragons 'landed' on the roof of a house on a corner of Plaza de los Reyes, known as the Casa de los Dragones.

This extraordinary example of eclectic architecture was designed by Valencian architect José M. Cortina Pérez. Unfortunately, his original bronze dragons were destroyed, but in 2006 they were replaced with creatures made of resin and fibre glass each weighing 200 kilos.

A Welsh connection is unlikely, but these dragons have become an appealing attraction of Ceuta and a memorable backdrop for souvenir photographs.



Members of the Welsh Society.



The *Narcissus cantabricus*.



Two of Ceuta's dragons. M. S.



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# Travel is dead! Long live travel!

The bad news: travel looks to be officially over. The good news: everything could bounce back rapidly for Malaga's hospitality sector, which is ready and waiting

ANALYSIS  
ANDREW FORBES



I have to admit that when I was thinking about what I was going to share with you in this month's article I was feeling a little deflated. It seemed 'tone deaf' to talk about an international destination, ignoring the ongoing 'pandemic' of covid cases, and the impact this is having on our lives, work and of course, upon our travel dreams and plans.

## Resilience

So, instead I'm taking a look at our region and how the travel and hospitality sector is gearing up for summer. In preparing for this piece, I reached out to a few people in the industry to capture their perspective of where we might be headed. I was blown away by the optimism and resilience I discovered. They shared hope that is clearly based on realism, grounded in years of experience in serving travellers and tourists. These are unprecedented times, but the sector clearly believes innovation, focus on clients' evolving needs, and a positive attitude will win through. In addition, the vaccine roll-out and the UK's 'lockdown roadmap' could help Malaga province have a much better summer season than initially expected.

But before I look at the good news, here's the bad news. In short, unreliable 'travel corridors', growing red lists, self-isolation, obligatory quarantine hotels, expensive PCR tests, and controversial vaccine passports have all combined to create the perfect storm that has battered travel and tourism.

Even the most optimistic now recognise that international travel might never be the same. With countries across the world, including the UK and Australia banning all leisure travel, and most other nations offering very limited travel corridors, global mobility and the multi-trillion euro travel industry that supported millions of jobs has been hobbled.

Despite the significant impact of these unprecedented restrictions (felt especially in tourism-dependent regions like Malaga province) they have been tolerated. As citizens in a wider community, we accept them as nec-



The Anantara hotel in Benahavis is among those preparing to reopen with optimism. **SUR**

essary sacrifices to protect national health services and most importantly the vulnerable members of our societies.

## Testing times

Beyond the economic impact upon all the households that relied on tourism income, it can be argued that there is a social cost of banning leisure travel too. This isn't just about missing out on the fun of a summer holiday or a romantic weekend break.

In our globalised world, many of us have loved ones living in a different country or even a continent away. Long-haul travel will of course come back, but not any time soon, and when it does it will undoubtedly be more expensive. The Covid-era has dragged even the most technology- and camera- shy executives onto Zoom and other online virtual meeting platforms, so it's unlikely that business travel (which was the mainstay of airlines' profits) will ever return to its peak. Add to that the 50 or more airline bankruptcies during the last year and it's likely that taking a flight, even in economy, will in the medium term a lot more expensive.

Where travel is permitted, with limited 'corridors', it comes with the obligation to show a negative PCR test; the cost of which can make a family holiday unaffordable for many.

So, the present obstacles are

keeping all but the most adventurous at home.

## Now the good news

Ok, so here's the good news I promised. There is clearly a huge 'pent up' demand for travel that when it is realised will contribute to a rapid rebound, helping Malaga province recuperate. If anything, the ups and downs of last year's travel showed us that if a destination is open, and an airline is flying then people will travel. Green shoots can appear swiftly. Everything changes very quickly once travel is permitted.

This, combined with wider immunisation against Covid-19, promises better times ahead. Russia, UK, Israel, and the USA were among the first off the starting blocks, quick to invest in vaccine research, place orders with pharmaceutical firms and create an infrastructure for mass, rapid vaccination.

Last week the UK government announced that after a review scheduled for the end of May, international leisure travel might well be possible. In addition, the UK government has said all British adults will have been offered a vaccine by the end of July 2021. This is great news, as the UK tourists are crucial to the revival of the Costa del Sol's hospitality sector, and all the employment and wealth it creates in southern Spain.

What's more, the EU might catch up on vaccines. Here in the south of Spain, the Junta de Andalucía this month published bold targets to vaccinate some 500,000 people a week. So, if countries cooperate and allow mobility, then we could see Brits back spending money here in Andalucía from August and September onwards.

## Flagship reopenings

That hope, combined with a potentially strong domestic and EU market, is driving a reopening programme across our region and beyond. Our local flagship hotels, including Finca Cortesin, Kempinski, and Anantara will all open their doors again in March.

Jorge Manzur, the General Manager at Anantara Villa Padierna Palace Benahavis, explained to me that his team has been "working hard in elevating the guest experience during the closure period over the winter". He continued, "We're optimistic about the coming season and expect to accomplish better results than last summer due to the fact that travellers are much more willing to travel now, as they are familiar with how to avoid potential risks. We are also following the vaccination plans with much hope. Initially we expect travellers mainly from Spain but also from other markets such as UK, Benelux,

central European countries, and Scandinavia. I am afraid we do not foresee the recovery of long-haul visitors until the last quarter of '21."

## Travel design

Talking to Sam Lister, Founder of Tailormade Andalucía, a business that crafts authentic experiences and private holidays in Spain, I found he echoed these sentiments about the coming year: "...the recent buzz of client enquiries has lifted my spirits," he says. "Whilst there is still a large degree of uncertainty, it does appear that the fog is beginning to clear! Vaccinations are giving people more confidence to travel in a not-so-distant future. They are beginning to dream again and wanting to set finite travel dates.

We don't expect long-haul clients from North America and Australasia this summer. In the meantime, we're looking forward to welcoming back UK and EU visitors, and we've created experiences and tailormade packages that will really capture their imagination!"

## Long-stay vacations

During the pandemic hotels and restaurants have had to be extremely resourceful to survive. Marbella Club has, while restrictions allowed, remained open throughout, and is recognising new travel trends.

Alejandra García, Public Relations Manager for the hotel, explained to me that the hotel has "reconnected with Spanish and local guests over the past year and they've reminded us what a significant part of our identity they are. So far in 2021 (and increasingly so as the vaccination programme around the world continues to roll out) the biggest trend we are seeing is that of long stays. International guests from the UK, US and Nordic countries looking to buy into not just the Mediterranean lifestyle, but what the Marbella Club can particularly offer them in terms of flexible beachfront workspaces in discreet and fully serviced villas, family and wellness-related options as an integral part of the experience, and in-house medical care to provide ongoing safety and wellbeing."

## Ready, steady...

Fay Wallis is co-founder of Marbella-based My Local Concierge. She confirms that the secret is definitely to be primed and ready for when travel bounces back. "We are ready to handle last-minute requests and have also worked on our more retreat-style holiday itineraries. Our clients are often impulsive by nature and don't have the budget restrictions that other travellers may need to consider, so we are confident that when travel restrictions ease ... we will

have confirmed reservations within days!”

Patrick Ingram is Group Managing Director of CLC World, Europe's largest independent resort operator with properties across the world, including here on the Costa del Sol, a favourite for Brits. He explained, “With the exception of the mandatory lockdown in Spain last year, CLC World has remained open to guests. We are primed and ready, across all our resorts on the Costa del Sol and globally, to welcome back the many thousands of holidaymakers who would normally stay with us as soon as travel regulations permit. Given the current vaccine roll-out, we certainly anticipate larger volumes of tourists than in 2020. Our best estimate is that travel will gradually open up with many European tourists looking to book for the summer months.”

Torremolinos was Spain's pioneering mass tourism destination and continues to invest to stay relevant in today's market. The town hall has worked with the hospitality sector to further enhance their 'Safe Tourism' health and safety initiative and be ready for the important Easter and summer seasons. The town hall remains upbeat about this year's prospects, telling me, “We think that this summer will be the beginning of the recovery of tourism in Torremolinos. We face it with optimism and hope. We are eager for visitors to return to our streets and to our beaches. Seeing the rapid vaccination in the United Kingdom, we believe that we will be able to receive many British tourists this summer, and we hope that by summer 70% of the Spanish population will be vaccinated too.”

So, as I sign off for another month, I feel more hopeful about Malaga's tourism bounce-back!

## TRAVEL NEWS

# Cautious optimism on the Costa as UK announces roadmap for travel

The Andalusian chief for tourism said that there are ways and means of promoting safe travel and that EU countries were working on vaccine 'passport' plans

PILAR MARTÍNEZ

MALAGA. A provisional date has been set for British holidaymakers to travel abroad again. As part of the UK government's roadmap out of lockdown, on Monday prime minister Boris Johnson announced 17 May as the day when leisure travel could resume. The UK government's Global Travel Taskforce will also reconvene to issue a report by 12 April recommending exactly how international trips can resume safely.

Naturally this news from the UK has come as a boost for the tourism industry on the Costa del Sol. President of the Tourism Council of the Andalusian Business Confederation (CEA), Miguel Sanchez, said that this has generated “enthusiasm and hope that companies can begin to recover activity and employment”.

Raúl González, CEO for Europe, the Middle East and Africa for the Barceló Hotel Group, also welcomed the news with cautious optimism: “My initial reaction was that having to wait until 17 May was bad news. However, the fact that they've put a date on it is good news. And if the UK takes off from there it will be very significant. We hope that the revival



Passengers arrive at Malaga-Costa del Sol Airport. NITO SALAS

in the British market will be swift.” For Malaga airport, British tourism represents almost 30 per cent of travellers. A similar proportion applies for the hotel sector, which has been suffering since the end of July from the restrictions on British travel.

To this must be added the closure of Spain's borders with the three-month lockdown which last year sank the market. Data from the Costa del Sol tourist board shows that in 2020, 81 per cent fewer travellers from the UK arrived at Malaga Airport - a loss of 2.3 million visitors to the destination.

The vice-president of the Junta de Andalucía and the regional

minister for Tourism, Juan Marín, was also positive this week.

He said there are “more than enough means” thanks to technology to promote safe tourism in the coming months despite the pandemic.

### Vaccine passports

In an interview on Canal Sur Televisión, Marín went on to say, “The reasonable thing is that all those immunised with two doses against Covid-19 - and have a certificate to prove it - can travel.”

He pointed out that within the European Union “we are working on a health card or certificate” and “we really have that possibility of reactivating tourism.”

## AIRLINES

# Spain among top destinations as Jet2.com bookings soar 600 per cent

P. MARTÍNEZ. The fifth most important airline flying passengers to Malaga-Costa del Sol Airport, has said that customer bookings soared by 600 per cent in one night after the UK prime minister Boris Johnson outlined his roadmap for easing coronavirus restrictions.

Jet2.com, together with its operator Jet2holidays, said that Spanish destinations lead the demand and “Spain is one of the countries that is benefiting the most from this confidence boost.”

Steve Heapy, CEO of Jet2.com and Jet2holidays, claimed, “We had been seeing an increase in bookings for weeks now, but yesterday's announcement has generated great confidence among our customers.”

The company has once again reviewed its flight scheduling and said that “all the protocols for changing reservations or returns will remain active as they have been up to now, practices that have led the airline to be praised by the press and customers for its excellent management and customer service during the pandemic”.

Easyjet, meanwhile, third in terms of passenger numbers in Malaga, has said that flight bookings for the summer have increased by 337 per cent since the announcement. Likewise, the low-cost airline confirmed Spain as one of the preferred destinations for travel, with Malaga at the forefront, followed by Alicante, Barcelona, Ibiza and Palma.

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## INSIDER GUIDE

## Parador perfection



Antequera.

ANDREW FORBES

Spain's Paradores de Turismo are integral to the country's culture of hospitality.

As travel begins to open up once again, why not explore Malaga province and beyond, including a stay at a Parador?

This national network of hotels was established to showcase compelling destinations, bring tourists closer to local communities, as well as to protect remarkable architectural heritage.

The unique hotels are our key to an authentic insight into local culture and cuisine.

#### Malaga city Parador del Gibralfaro

The province's capital boasts two Parador hotels; Málaga Golf (near the airport) and Málaga Gibralfaro (practically in the shadow of the ancient castle and close to the Moorish Alcazaba citadel).

Secluded in the foothills of the Montes de Málaga mountains, high above the city centre, Parador Málaga Gibralfaro is surrounded by pine trees, with privileged views of the capital and out across to the city's Mediterranean bay. It's a secluded place from which to rediscover Picasso's city of birth

(you can see a few of his works in the hotel); top up your tan by the rooftop pool and indulge in tasty local cuisine including classic fritura Malagueña, the city's quintessential dish.

#### Eastern Costa del Sol Parador de Nerja

Enjoy Europe's finest climate, and head for Nerja, on the eastern Costa del Sol, renowned for glorious coves and hidden beaches that are a delight to discover.

Built upon a sandstone bluff, above the iconic Burriana Beach, the spectacular Mediterranean setting of the Nerja Parador is captivating. Rooms and suites all have sea-view terraces; and access to the beach is via a private lift.

El Ombú del Mediterráneo is the hotel's gastronomic restaurant, its name taken from the very special Ombú plants in the Parador's botanical gardens. Seafood is superb here; try the local white prawns. My favourite tapa is the fried aubergine drizzled with local Frigiliana cane sugar syrup.

The hotel was opened in the '70s, to accommodate the sudden influx of national and international visitors - attracted by the spectacular Nerja caves, rediscovered a few years before

in nearby Maro.

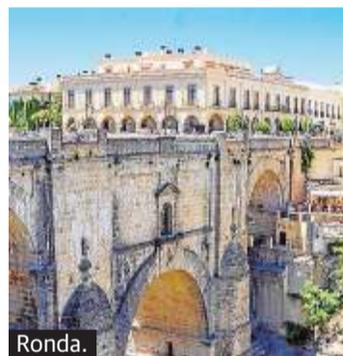
#### Inland Parador de Ronda

This Parador surely must have one of the most romantic locations - I certainly think so, as it's where I stayed on my wedding night! Ronda needs little introduction - emblematic of the region's white towns, full of history, and charm. Set right on the Tajo, the Parador de Ronda is housed within the former town hall, with guest rooms, terrace, and a pool that overlooks the deep river gorge and onto the Serranía de Ronda mountain range. Cross the nearby Puente Nuevo and you're in the old Al Andalus medina quarter, so evocative of the region's Islamic past.

#### Inland Parador de Antequera

This modern Parador, with park-like gardens and swimming pool, is a contemporary expression of Malaga hospitality, set in one of my favourite Andalusian towns, rich in architectural and cultural sights.

Minimalist design and ele-



Ronda.

gance set the tone. The Marmitta Restaurant specialises in local cuisine; at breakfast be sure to order freshly toasted molletes, the delicious, creamy local bread rolls. For a tapa, try the Pío antequerano (cod salad with olives and orange), or the porra antequerana, almost like a thick, extravagant version of salmorejo or gazpacho.

This is a superb base from which to visit the area's world renowned sites including the Unesco World Heritage Dolmens (striking Neolithic and Bronze Age monuments) as well as El Torcal natural park (a unique, other-worldly landscape that's perfect for a day's hiking). The town of Antequera is like a living museum. It's at the geographical heart of Andalucía, the crossroads of culture and trade, reflected in its Roman, Moorish, and Renaissance architecture. It also has a good food scene with some splendid tapas bars and restaurants.

#### Further afield Across Spain

Parador hotels are found all across Spain, so it can be a fun reason to build a road trip for when regional borders reopen. The hotel group has curated over 40 routes to enjoy in Spain, focusing on culture, food and wine, the environment, as well as wellness and relaxation. Parador hotels even give you a 'passport' so you can get it stamped at each property - it can get quite addictive and before you know it, you'll be planning to visit all 98 in Spain!

[www.parador.es](http://www.parador.es)

## WHERE IN THE WORLD?

Every March, the death of a man who can quite justifiably be described as 'the world's most famous saint' is marked by millions of people around the world.

He is the patron saint of the country which, according to legend, he travelled to in order to convert the pagan population to Christianity. He spent many years evangelising and converted "thousands" of druids, who were referred to allegorically as "snakes", despite the fact that snakes were not known to inhabit the region.

When he died in mid-March around 461, he was apparently buried on the site of the cathedral pictured and every year a parade takes place to mark the occasion. Elsewhere around the world, alcohol and the colour green help to mark the day.

If you know where this is, you



## World's most famous saint

### JANUARY'S PHOTO



could win a prize. Send the name of the cathedral, and the town in which it's located, and the name of the saint to [english@diariosur.es](mailto:english@diariosur.es) with your name, address and telephone number.

Congratulations to Frank Butler who correctly identified last month's photo. It was The Royal Shakespeare Theatre (the RST) in Stratford-upon-Avon and the play was Romeo and Juliet.

Send your answer to [english@diariosur.es](mailto:english@diariosur.es)

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## Local artists present collective colour and light exhibition

TONY BRYANT

**TORREMOLINOS.** As part of the town hall's new cultural agenda, the Casa de las Navajas in Torremolinos is hosting an exhibition of paintings by two local artists.

Tiempo de Color will present a collection of landscape and abstract works in oil and acrylics, including 18 works by Graciela Valinoti, a painter of Italian-Argentinian nationality who now lives in Torremolinos.

Graciela, who trained at the Manuel Belgrano School in Buenos Aires, has exhibited her work in Argentina, as well as in Barcelona and several towns in Malaga.

Self-taught artist Sara Farias, also resident in Torremolinos, will exhibit 15 works of differing themes, all



The exhibition Tiempo de Color will focus on colour and light. sur

of which focus on the colour and light of the region.

The exhibition, which is free, can be visited on Friday, Saturday and Sunday between 11am and 2pm, and from 4pm and 6pm until

Sunday 7 March.

The Casa de la Navajas has now become a permanent exhibition space and it will host a different exhibition each month throughout the year.

### EXHIBITIONS

#### Torremolinos Street Art

**TORREMOLINOS.** Caseta Municipal de Asociaciones.

The initiative includes workshops and activities for persons between 14 and 35 will include exhibitions of hip hop and break dance. On 13 March there will be workshops on creating graffiti, urban dance and customising tee-shirts. To register email: juventud@torremolinos.es or call: 659 870 542.

#### Ten years without Juan Antonio

**MIJAS.** Until 1 March. Centro Cultural, La Cala de Mijas.

Ten years have passed since the disappearance of 32-year-old climber and experienced speleologist Juan Antonio Gómez Alarcón. He vanished on 20 July, 2010, while walking from Ojén back to his house in Mijas, a route he knew well. The exhibition includes photographs of the missing man as well as details of the search.

#### Photography exhibition

**MIJAS.** Until 8 March. Casa Museo

#### Mijas Pueblo.

Open from 10am until 2pm, the exhibition 'Pareidolia' consists of photographs of nature by María Jesús Campos.

#### Centro de Arte Contemporáneo - CAC Málaga

**MALAGA.** C/Alemania.

**Pedro Cabrita Reis.** Until 14 March.

The Portuguese artist is exhibiting 224 works which include paintings, sculptures, drawings and pieces created with materials he has found.

**AAaron.** Until 4 April. In the Sala Coracha. The CAC presents the most important exhibition to date by Santiago Navarro, known under the pseudonym Aaron. The exhibition Soy Mi Jardín is composed of several pieces, a video projection and sixty pictorial works, most of them created during the periods of confinement last year.

#### Galería JM

**MALAGA.** C/ Duquesa de Parcent, 12. Selva de Tiempo is the title of the current exhibition at the gallery. It consists of works created by artist

José Luís Valverde.

#### 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 and Fin-de-Siècle. The past collections of the Thyssen museum can be viewed online at [www.carmenthyssenmalaga.org](http://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. [www.museorevellode-toro.net](http://www.museorevellode-toro.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. They can be viewed as well as other art



Street Art, Torremolinos.

works on the gallery web site: [www.galeriabeneditoshop.com](http://www.galeriabeneditoshop.com)

#### Fundación Unicaja

**MALAGA.** Centro Cultural Fundación Unicaja, Plaza del Obispo.

The XIV Certamen Fundación Unicaja de Artes Plásticas is a new exhibition of 35 works acquired by the Unicaja foundation.

#### Brigitte Bardot

**MALAGA.** Until 6 June. La Térmica. Free.

The new exhibition at La Térmica is a series of photographs of Brigitte Bardot taken during the filming of the French film Les Bijoutiers du clair de lune in 1957. It was directed by Roger Vadim and many scenes were shot in various locations in Malaga province. [www.latermicamalaga.com](http://www.latermicamalaga.com)

#### Manu Guayre

**MALAGA.** Until 7 March. Casa Amarilla, C/Santos.

#Off Yellow is the title for a series of irreverent works in the style of poster art by young Catalan artist Manu Guayre.

#### Eugenio Chicano

**MALAGA.** Until 16 March. Casa Natal Picasso.

The first director of the Picasso birth house, Eugenio Chicano, died in November 2019 leaving a substantial artistic legacy. The artist had dedicated some of his works to Picasso and the museum has selected some of these for an exhibition in his honour.

#### Paisajes Cotidianos

**MALAGA.** Espacio Cero, Contenedor Cultural, Universidad de Málaga.

British mother and son, Margaret Harris and Timsam Harding are exhibiting a selection of their works entitled Paisajes Cotidianos (everyday

views), while the father and husband, sculptor Robert Harding, has an exhibition in the garden of El Contenedor.

#### Creadores de Conciencia

**MALAGA.** Until 19 March. Salas Minigorance, Archivo Municipal y Sociedad Económica de Amigos del País de Málaga.

An exhibition by 40 journalists consisting of 120 photographs which reflect on the situations which connect with the conscience of the viewer. The photos have all been published in major newspapers around the world and feature some upsetting scenes in far away places such as Syria, Colombia, Venezuela, Iraq and Egypt and others closer to home.

#### Being With Trees

**GIBRALTAR.** Until 13 March. Gustavo Bacarissas Gallery.

This exhibition, entitled 'Being with Trees', will showcase around 100 works from over 40 artists. These form part of the internationally acclaimed group of artists The Arborrealists, also featuring the Urban Contemporaries with some Gibraltar artists. Email: [info@culture.gi](mailto:info@culture.gi)

#### Photography exhibition

**UBRIQUE.** Until 28 February. Sala de Exposiciones, Antiguo Mercado de Abastos.

F. J. Carretero Francisco will be exhibiting a selection of his photographs.

#### Sobre la Mujer

**RINCÓN DE LA VICTORIA.** Until 8 March. La Casa Fuerte Bezmiliana.

Twenty-eight art works in different styles and media all on the theme of women.

### LIVE CONCERTS AND MUSIC

#### OFM Chamber Music concerts

**MALAGA.** Auditorio del Museo Picasso de Málaga.

**7 March, 12pm.** Jazz quintet plays songs made famous by Frank Sinatra, Chet Baker, Billie Holiday etc with vocals by Raquel Pelayo.

**9 March, 12pm.** Austri Musici Tickets: [www.museopicasso-malaga.org](http://www.museopicasso-malaga.org)

#### Malaga Philharmonic Orchestra

**MALAGA.** Auditorio Edgar Neville, Teatro Echegaray or Cervantes.

**27, 28 February, 12pm.** The orchestra plays pieces by Schubert and Mendelssohn with conductor Anna Rakit-



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ina and soloist violin Leticia Moreno. Teatro Cervantes. Tickets: /entradas.mientrada.net  
 Tickets: /entradas.mientrada.net

**The Hall**

**MALAGA.** 28 February, 4pm. Calle Heroe de Sostoa, 65. 8€.

A jazz concert by Lucas Delgado (piano) and Juan Pastor (double bass).

**THEATRE AND DANCE**

**La Psicología del color**

**MALAGA.** 20, 21 March, 12pm. Teatro Cánovas, Plaza de el Ejido.

David Segura's company, Beyond Dance, will be performing his new show filled with passion, humour and fantasy.

**TALKS / LECTURES**

**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 March 4.30pm.** The Imperial Easter Eggs of Carl Faberge-After The Revolution. Lecturer Toby Faber. Between 1885 and 1916, Carl Fabergé made

fifty jewelled eggs - Easter presents from Russia's last two emperors to their wives. They have become the most famous surviving symbols of the Romanov Empire.

**The Arts Society**

**NERJA.** Lectures online.

The Arts Society Nerja season of lectures free online via Zoom for members and 10€ for supporters.

www.theartsocietynerja.com

**9 March 6pm.** The Imperial Easter Eggs of Carl Faberge-After The Revolution. Lecturer Toby Faber. More information above.

**MORE IDEAS**

**Botanical jig-saw**

**MALAGA.** 27 28 February. Jardín Botánico La Concepción, Malaga.

Fun for the whole family, twelve



Lucas Delgado, The Hall, Malaga.

pieces of a jig-saw are hidden in the garden and a puppet show for children at 11am and 12.30pm. Reservations: 951926180 / 647585457.

**Film workshops**

**MIJAS.** Casa Museo de Mijas. Free.

Learn how to make low budget films. Register by email: cultura@mijas.es or call: 952590380. Free but each participant should donate 3kg of non-perishable food stuffs to the food bank at the start of the course.

**Characterisation and special effects.** 27, 28 February. 9am-2pm.

**Photography workshops**

**MIJAS.** Casa Museo de Mijas. Free.

Learn how to take good photos. Register by email: cultura@mijas.es or call: 952590380. Free but each participant should donate 3kg of non-perishable food stuffs to the food bank at the start of the course.

**Portrait Workshop.** 6, 7 March.

10am-2pm, 4-7pm and 10am - 1pm Sunday.

**Songwriting workshops**

**MIJAS.** 13, 14 March, 9am-2pm. Casa

*Museo de Mijas. Free.*

Learn how to write songs. Can attend with or without experience or an instrument. Course run by Javier Gómez Bello, musician with 20 years of experience composing songs. Register by email: cultura@mijas.es or call: 952590380. Free but each participant should donate 3kg of non-perishable food stuffs to the food bank at the start of the course.

**O. V. FILMS**

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

**Cine Albéniz**

**MALAGA.** C/ Alcazaba, 4. Tel:

902360295. www.cinealbeniz.com

**The Little Things:** 11.45 (Fri, Sat Sun), 15.45 (every day).

**New round of hiking trails announced**

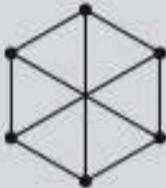
**T. BRYANT**

**CÁRTAMA.** Cártama town hall has launched a new season of winter and spring hiking trails within its Cártama en Ruta programme, which includes scenic routes through well-known natural environments in the provinces of Malaga and Granada.

The first of the routes will take a tour of the municipalities of Canillas de Aceituno and Sedella, in the region of Axarquía, on Monday 1 March. The 14-kilometre trail through Canillas, located at the foot of La Maroma mountain, will pass through vineyards, olive plantations and natural springs. The route, also abundant in natural caves, will continue to Sedella and the Alhama Natural Park.

Registration costs 15 euros and includes transport. Places are limited and registration must be made with the Sports Delegation of Cártama town hall, or by phoning 951010872.

Future trails will include routes through the Sierra de la Nieves (April) and the Tagus Trail of Los Bermejales - Río Cacín in Granada (May).

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# Restaurant indicators

ANDREW J. LINN



**A**lthough it might be considered a bit devious, inviting a job applicant to lunch often forms part of the selection process. It is common practice with law firms and financial institutions.

Aspirants are scrutinised, and the interplay with the waiter and the food they select are pointers to their suitability

as employee material. For example, if they don't look at the waiter when he asks for their order and mumble something about a dry martini, red lights flash. If they interact politely with the waiter and request mineral water, much better.

The main test involves ordering the meal. Ideally, they should ask the host's advice

about the best choice at that particular restaurant, or maybe say something like 'I can't decide between the moussaka and the filet mignon; what do you recommend?'

The best idea is to tune in to the price range of what everyone else is ordering, and request a dish costing about the same. But there are always idiots who

**Ideally one should ask the host's advice about the best choice at that particular restaurant**

think that they can order what they want regardless of price, and then wonder why they get funny looks as they tuck into their lobster thermidor.

In Spain these matters are easier thanks to the menu del día, and even though the à la carte menu may be flashed before our eyes and then withdrawn in favour of the three-course lunch for €25, no problem.

If the host suggests the guest choose the wine, without any indication regarding quality or price, look around hopefully for the sommelier or head waiter. The key phrase, as the host pretends not to be listening, is 'value for money'.

## WINE OF THE WEEK

### Gargalo Godello 2019

The Godello grape is many people's favourite white variety, and this particular wine has just won a gold medal at the UK's International Wine Challenge, being classified as one of Spain's five best white wines. The bodega was established by fashion designer Roberto Verino and now forms part of the Bodegas Riojanas group. Around 11.35 euros.



# Mantis shrimp, the 'poor man's langoustine'

Despite being reasonably priced and very tasty, few people dare to try this delicious crustacean

ESPERANZA PELÁEZ

MALAGA. If we take into account that langoustines did not sell well until the middle of the 20th century, it is hardly surprising that the mantis shrimp, nicknamed the 'poor man's langoustine', went unnoticed. With its flattened body, yellowish colour and threatening appearance (its scientific name, *Squilla mantis*, alludes to an eerie resemblance to this insect) it was sold at a bargain price. But the truth is the mantis shrimp (galera in Spanish) is uniquely tasty, so either as an ingredient in soups and rice dishes, or as the main ingredient in an appetiser, it makes a good snack now that it is in season.

Of course, you have to know how to disarm it. The galera is not only armoured against predators, but also is an amazing hunter. Unlike most crustaceans which feed on carrion, the galera has a system of retractable pincers that are armed almost like a crossbow, and are fired with such force and speed that they break the shells and carapaces of their prey. The five spines on the end of each claw act as hooks and are difficult to remove.

Would-be predators are faced with another surprise: each segment of the galera's body is topped by spines, so extracting the meat is tricky. One method of eating them is to cut off the tail, crushing

**The mantis shrimp is uniquely tasty and makes a good snack now that it is in season**



Mantis shrimp, a delicious alternative to langoustines. SUR

the body and pulling out the flesh and cutting segments as you go. Another better method is to cut down the sides of the body to remove the spines and open the body to remove the meat.

Unlike other crustaceans, the galera has a firm flesh, not unlike monk fish but with a slightly sweeter taste. It is at its best during February and March when it is reproducing as it is then that the female shrimp carry the 'coral', a long pouch of roe along the body inside the shell. The eggs are pink or yellow and delicious.

In Spain, galeras have been used for soups and as the base for rice dishes. They are more popular in Italy, where they are called 'canocchie', and, depend-



The meat is firm and slightly sweet. SUR

ing on the region where they are served, cooked with lemon, roasted in the oven with a drizzle of olive oil and a sprinkling of breadcrumbs, or stewed with tomato as an accompaniment for

pasta. In Spain, a kilo is usually in excess of 10 euros; the price in Malaga is much the same, but only a few years ago they were sold for between two and four euros per kilo.

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A woman inspects acne on her face, caused by wearing a mask. FOTOLIA

## Maskne: prevention and cure

**Skin care.** Pharmacists tell us what it is, how it forms and offer advice on how to avoid factors that aggravate it

### ROSSEL APARICIO

For some time now face masks have been used - and are obligatory - to stop the spread of coronavirus infection. We put them on to go outside, do the shopping, pick the children up from school or even during a long working day. However, prolonged use can sometimes have an effect on our facial skin.

We're talking about 'maskne', the appearance of acne caused by friction and dampness under the mask. We asked the College of Pharmacists of Almeria exactly what maskne is, how to treat it, and for some advice to stop it happening.

Their answers are below.

#### 1. What exactly is 'maskne'?

It's the word that is being used to describe the appearance of acne in the area of the chin, mouth or cheeks, caused by the continued use of face masks. It comes from 'mask' and 'acne'. In Spanish it is known as 'maskné', with an accent on the final letter.

#### 2 Why does maskne occur?

Sources at the Official College

of Pharmacists of Almeria say that it happens because of "the increase in sebum production and bacterial proliferation, due to friction, dampness, heat and perspiration under the mask".

#### 3 How can maskne be treated?

There are four general recommendations to bear in mind:

- Clean the skin with mild soap in the morning, before leaving home, and double-clean at night.
- Apply anti-acne lotions.
- Hydrate the skin with light emulsions "to maintain the balance of the skin barrier".
- Apply a sebum-regulating mask once or twice a week.

#### 4 Advice to prevent maskne

- Avoid wearing any makeup under your face mask as much as possible.
- Use a non-comedogenic sunscreen (which does not block or obstruct the pores).
- Replace the mask in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions (or before if it gets damp).
- If the maskne doesn't disappear, these experts say it is advisable to consult a dermatologist.

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# How much water should we drink?

Yes, they really do say two litres a day and preferably before we feel thirsty

YOLANDA VEIGA



**D**rinking water when you are really thirsty is, frankly, something pleasurable but for some reason nearly everything we like is bad for us and this is no exception. “Thirst is a warning sign from our body. When we feel thirsty we are already dehydrated, so the ideal is never to be thirsty,” says Giuseppe Russolillo, who is the director of the Spanish Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics.

There are endless debates about water. Should we drink two litres a day, or more? Is it bad to drink with a meal? Does it slow down the digestion?

“The minimum amount of water a day should be eight glasses, which is around 1.6 litres, although two litres is ideal,” says Russolillo. “You should drink a glass before breakfast, another mid-morning, two with lunch, another in the afternoon and another one or two with dinner”. And that’s the minimum, but what happens if we’re not thirsty?

“It might not seem important, but it is. We have to drink all through the day to stop our body dehydrating. If it has dehydrated, that’s when we feel thirsty. And yes, it is very nice to drink water when we are thirsty. In this sense, the body is intelligent and gives us gratifying rewards after sending us these warnings, but that is not actually a good thing,” he says.

In fact, the function of the water is not to quench thirst. “We talk about six major nutrients. On one hand, the proteins, car-



“Thirst is a warning sign from our body, it means we are dehydrated. It’s not good to feel thirsty”

“A cup of herbal tea or vegetable stock counts towards the two litres, but fruit juice or milk doesn’t”

bohydrates and fats; on the other, vitamins and minerals, and finally, water. If we compare these nutrients with the construction of a building, the carbohydrates and fats are the workmen, the machinery and the tools, while the proteins are the bricks and other materials needed to build the house. The vitamins, minerals and water are like the architect who decides where everything is going to go. Without water, the cells would die, and it also helps us to maintain body temperature,” explains Russolillo.

The recommendation of eight glasses of water a day is general, but this nutritionist recognises that children often don’t drink much (it’s not that they don’t get thirsty, they are just occupied with other things and forget) and says it is a real achievement to get elderly people to drink four or five.

“With age, the feeling of thirst diminishes because the alarm system for dehydration is not as efficient. Also, the taste buds on the tongue become more indifferent as we get older. Younger people might say ‘oh, this water is delicious!’ but older people don’t perceive that so much,” he says. One way of helping elderly people to drink at least five glasses a day is to give them flavoured waters or jellies made with fruits.

## Cold or room temperature?

Giuseppe Russolillo also has some advice about what counts as liquid and what doesn’t towards our two litres a day. “A cup of herbal tea, or fat-free vegetable stock or meat or fish stock counts. Fruit juice, milk and soft drinks, however, do not”.

Another question is whether cold water quenches thirst more than water straight from the tap,

“Drinking water with a meal doesn’t slow down the digestion”

People often say we should not drink water while eating because it slows down the digestive process, but this is not true. It is, in fact, beneficial to drink before, during and after meals.

“Digestion is a long process and the stomach allows the water we drink to pass. The pylorus is a valve which allows access from the stomach to the intestine. That valve opens and the water we drink passes through, while the ‘ball’ of food we have ingested continues its digestive process in the stomach without being affected by that water. In fact, we expel what we have eaten between 24 and 48 hours later,” says nutritionist Giuseppe Russolillo. Nor is it bad for us to drink water while exercising, as long as we don’t gulp it. “We should hydrate ourselves before exercise, during exercise and after exercise,” he says.

but Russolillo says they are the same. However, in the summer refrigerated water feels more refreshing. In the end it is a matter of taste. Some people prefer their water really cold, even in the winter.

Whatever the weather, it is best to sip water, not gulp it. “You need to be careful because if you have just done some sport and you drink a litre of water in one go it can cause abdominal distension. You fill your stomach very quickly and feel as if you are going to burst. Also, if your body temperature is high because of the heat or exercise, the contrast with cold water is not good for the body,” he says.

It is just as bad to drink a litre all at once as it is to go for a day without any. “Some people never drink water, and that can have different consequences, such as high blood pressure and headache. People should make sure they always have a bottle of water on their desk and drink it bit by bit, so they never feel thirsty”, says Rusolillo.



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# 'I brought my love of natural hot springs with me to Andalucía'

**Elena Novikova** Balneotherapy enthusiast

Since antiquity, soaking in hot mineral springs have been considered an efficient healing therapy. Andalucía is dotted with natural springs and spas

ALEKK M. SAANDERS

MALAGA. Elena Novikova first discovered balneotherapy while exploring some of the most important natural hot springs in Eastern Europe. Since then she has become an expert and transferred her research to Andalucía when she moved from Latvia to the Costa del Sol. She claims the best time of year to start bathing in hot mineral springs in this part of the world is March. Here, she shares some beneficial tips to help take advantage of the local thermal baths.

**-How did you first become interested in hot springs in Andalucía?**

-I had already experienced and enjoyed balneotherapy in Eastern Europe. There, they applaud this method of treating, or at least preventing, disease through the use of natural mineral hot spring water. Spas with hot springs are very popular in Lithuania, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Romania and Bulgaria. Moving from the Baltics to Mijas Costa, I sought out and continued researching hot springs around Andalucía. I learned that this practice has been used here since the Romans came and established their thermal baths. One of those ancient baths is located on the Costa del Sol, between Manilva and Casares. Two thousand years ago the Romans created the arched bathing complex of Hedionda with a sulphur spring which flows from a limestone outcrop. It is believed that no less than Julius Caesar was cured of a skin infection by bathing here.

**-What exactly "treats" the skin?**

-Sulphur... Even nowadays it is confirmed that bathing in sulphur springs improves the condition of the skin, or even cures an epidermal complaint. This mineral was known historically as "brimstone". It is interesting that in the Bible it often appears in reference to the fate of the unfaithful, and the acrid odour of sulphur dioxide given off by lightning strikes evokes the threat of "fire and brimstone".

**-Sulphur can be recognised easily... it smells like rotten eggs...**

-Exactly! Actually, pure sulphur is odourless, but when it is combined with hydrogen in a natural way, it results in this quite unpleasant odour. In fact Car-



Bathers at one of the pools in Alhama de Granada. SUR



Elena Novikova. SUR

ratraca, located just about 50km from Malaga, has this smell permanently on its streets. I also visited the spa there with sulphur springs built in Neoclassic style. Such famous personalities as King Fernando VII, Alexander Dumas and they say even Lord Byron enjoyed the spa in Carratraca.

**-What ailments can be treated by spring waters?**

-It depends. Each hot spring has its own special healing effects due to its particular mineral mix. Additionally, it appears that sul-

phur-rich hot springs might help treat arthritic pain and internal problems such as menopausal symptoms and digestive disorders as well. Some physicians opine that bathing in the hot springs stimulates the secretion of the endocrine glands and thereby improves the digestive system. The secret of treatment is simple - ionic minerals are absorbed by the body during a soak in a hot mineral spring.

**-What other minerals may hot springs contain?**

-As the water passes through earth rock layers it accumulates more than a hundred natural minerals including the aforementioned sulphur, as well as calcium, chloride, iron, magnesium, sodium, potassium, silicate, lithium, etc. Most of these can be found in Andalusian hot springs.

For example, in Almargen (Malaga province) there is a bath at Río Salado river that is rich in iodine. The hot springs in Granada province, the most balneological area in Andalucía, are characterised by their strong mineralisation and can be classified in magnesium, calcium and sulphates.

**-So what's your favourite hot spring in Andalucía?**

-I really like a hot spring on the border between Malaga and Granada provinces. The temperature of the water is about 40°C. The name of the town of Alhama de Granada means "thermal bath" and is derived from the Arabic "al-hammam". Here there is everything - old history and traditions of bathing, fantastic landscapes with picturesque cliffs. And of course the hot springs themselves. For people who want comfort and service there is the spa - Balneario de Alhama - which offers three pools that are fed by the thermal waters of Huerta Rodero. Nor-

mally, the spa is open from April until November. The entry fee for the whole day is roughly six euros. However, there is a free option. Before the entrance of the official spa the thermal water comes out of a cave and has formed two natural pools. My family and friends go there frequently the year round. I am from a northern country, with frosts in winter, so I am used to bathing even in cold water. Otherwise, it is better to go there in spring when it is warmer, especially if you want to try mud spa in the neighbouring hot spring in Dehesa de Santa Fe. The local mud really brings a smooth, bright and firm skin.

**-Do they say balneotherapy can help during the pandemic?**

-In some ways, yes. Historically, hot springs have been helpful in combating epidemics. For example, the cholera epidemics in Great Britain were brought under control due to hot springs as well. Nowadays it is reported that the Japanese use hot springs to help alleviate mental stress caused by the pressure of the pandemic. The water encourages vasodilation, which stimulates the blood circulation and the oxygenation of the tissues. In this way you can eliminate toxins and release endorphins faster and it is thought that hot spring water can also stimulate the immune system.

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IN BRIEF

GOLF

Malaga golfer Peláez begins the season with team win in the US

**M. RIVAS.** Malaga-born golfer Ana Peláez has won the fifth team trophy of her fledgling career after winning the Moon Golf Invitational tournament in Florida from 14 to 16 February with the University of South Carolina.

The competition, which teed off the university's golfing season, is one of the most prestigious in women's amateur golf in the United States. Peláez, now going into her final year on the Ameri-

can college circuit, impressed once more, finishing on 208 strokes. This score left her eight under par and, individually speaking, joint-third. Her five under par performance on the second day was particularly important in guiding her team to victory.

This victory has implications for the players' amateur world rankings, where Peláez now lies in 23rd place. All going well, she hopes to turn professional this summer, after her final university season ends.

For now, next up for Peláez and South Carolina is the Gamecock Intercollegiate tournament hosted by the University, which begins on 1 March.



Peláez with the trophy. SUR

TRACK AND FIELD

Gold for Isidro Leyva and silver for Borja Vivas

**P. L. ALONSO.** Nerja athlete Isidro Leyva continued his encouraging development in pole vault, claiming gold at the Indoor National Championships held at the weekend in Gallur (Madrid). He did so with a career-best height of 5.55 metres. Leyva, however, also tried three times in vain to clear 5.63 metres which meant that he missed out on qualification for the European Athletics Indoor Championships.

Meanwhile, Borja Vivas (Atletismo Málaga) came silver in shot put with a season-best distance of 18.81 metres.

RUGBY

Mixed results for the local rugby sides

**SUR.** Club de Rugby Málaga are now second in Group C of the División de Honor B after a comfortable 34-3 win over Jaén on Saturday afternoon. Once again, the game was played at Bahía's Park in Marbella with the Manolo Becerra ground in Rincón de la Victoria still not up to league standards.

The picture wasn't so rosy for league rivals Marbella the following day. They were soundly beaten on their trip to Almería, losing 15-43 to Playcar with Navone, Márquez and Selbie all being sinbinned.



The Rincón Fertilidad celebrate after their second-leg tie in Greece. RINCÓN FERTILIDAD

Rincón Fertilidad make history once again by qualifying for first ever European semi-final

The Malaga club are through after overcoming Greek side PAOK over two legs in the quarter-finals of the EHF European Cup

**PAOK** 23  
**RINCÓN FERTILIDAD** 22

MARINA RIVAS

**MALAGA.** Malaga-based women's handball side Rincón Fertilidad have secured a place in the semi-finals of the EHF European Cup for the first time following an aggregate victory over Greek

team PAOK in the last eight. They will now face fellow Spanish side Atlético Guardes in the semi-final, with the dates for the fixtures yet to be decided.

A narrow 23-22 victory for PAOK on Sunday in Greece was not enough for them to usurp Rincón Fertilidad's place in the final four, as the Costa side had won the first encounter 30-21 last Friday.

In the second leg, the Malaga club had to fend off a spirited fightback from their hosts. Indeed, PAOK dominated much of the first half, and the comeback seemed very possible- they took a 12-10 lead into half-time. Into the second half, PAOK pushed for more points to bridge the gap, but their physical exertions

left them vulnerable to Rincón Fertilidad's counter-attacks.

Four quickfire goals for the Costa side gave them twelve points and a 22-18 lead. Although PAOK secured five more points to win on the night, they were unable to stop Rincón Fertilidad advancing to the next stage.

For Rincón Fertilidad, they are now just one round away from a place in the final of Europe's third-tier handball tournament for which they earned qualification by winning the Copa de la Reina last season.

Should they get through the next stage, they will meet either Turkish side Yalikhavakspor or Croatian club Lokomotiva Zagreb in the final.

World Padel Tour to make stops in Malaga and Marbella

JUAN CALDERÓN

**MALAGA.** Marbella and Malaga have both been selected to host events on the 2021 World Padel Tour. From 7 to 13 June, Marbella will play host to the first Masters' tournament of the tour, and the fifth event overall. Later on, from 2 to 8 August, the Malaga Open will take place, most likely at the Palacio de Deportes.

The season will begin with the Madrid Open from 5 to 11 April and will include 13 Open events, six Challenger competitions and five Masters' tournaments, which are considered the most prestigious. Therefore, Marbella will

again play host to the best padel players in the world, having also held a Masters' event last February just before the season was suspended due to the coronavirus pandemic.

On top of this, an exhibition event will be held in Acapulco in Mexico and the season tour will return to Madrid for its conclusion at the Masters' Finals from 16 to 19 December. This gives a grand total of 26 events, the most in the tour's professional history. The majority of the tour will be held in Spain, but events will also take place in Portugal, Italy, Sweden, Argentina and Mexico.

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# Malaga bring long winless run at home to an end in spectacular fashion

Victory over Rayo Vallecano on Sunday night was the Blue and Whites' first at La Rosaleda in four months

DARYL FINCH



**MALAGA.** Malaga's terrible run without tasting victory at La Rosaleda was brought to an end in spectacular fashion on Sunday night as two early goals helped to see off Rayo Vallecano.

Four months after their last home win, against Sporting Gijón, Sergio Pellicer's side started strongly and took the lead within three minutes after some unconvincing goalkeeping from Luca Zidane from Jozabed's corner saw the ball fall to Joaquín Muñoz on the edge of the box. The winger's volley then took a massive deflection on its way into the back of the net.

The Blue and Whites continued on the front foot, aided by their high press, and a surging run from Luis Muñoz down the left would have resulted in the second had Zidane not made amends with a good save down



Joaquín Muñoz celebrates giving Malaga the lead with his teammates. SALVADOR SALAS

to his left.

The central midfielder wasn't to be denied, though. In the 25th minute he timed his back-post run perfectly to volley home Ismael Casas' cross from the right, leaving the keeper with no chance.

Caye Quintana could have

made it three in the second half but having rounded Zidane, both the angle and Luis Advíncula on the line conspired to keep the ball out.

José Ángel Pozo mustered Rayo's best chance from distance but Dani Barrio made a spectacular, if comfortable save to parry

it away.

Pellicer, who effectively set up his side like the away team, was delighted with the result. "We were really convincing against an opponent that recently was able to come back from 2-0 down at Espanyol. I said it on previous occasions: the team's performance

# 2-0

**MALAGA-RAYO**

**Malaga:** Dani Barrio; Ismael, Mejías, Juande, Matos; Escassi; Joaquín (Caye Quintana, 67'), Luis Muñoz (Jairo, 80'), Jozabed (Benkhemassa, 67'), Rahmani (Alexander González, 90'), Chavarría (Lombán, 90'). Unused substitutes: Juan Soriano, Dani Strindholm, Orlando Sá, Ramón, Cristo, Julio.

**Rayo Vallecano:** Luca Zidane; Advíncula, Martín Pascual (Joni Montiel, 46'), Catena, Fran García; Antón (Andrés Martín, 46'), Óscar Valentín (Ulloa, 81'), Trejo (Bebé, 67'), Álvaro; Pozo, Guerrero (Qasmi, 68'). Unused substitutes: Dimitrievski, Morro, Velázquez, Iván Martos, Suárez.

**Goal:** 1-0 Joaquín (3'), 2-0 Luis Muñoz (25').

**Referee:** Sagués Oscoz. Yellows for Trejo, Joaquín and Luis Muñoz.

**Venue:** La Rosaleda.

was not being matched by the results.

"The organisation, the commitment, the knowledge of how to handle the game all make me very proud of the team and the players. They were the ones who most wanted to win here again. They deserve it, they are doing an immense job in the face of many adverse circumstances."

## Gaspar tied down to lead the new project

Amid all the uncertainty surrounding Malaga CF, the club's administrator José María Muñoz rewarded sporting director Manolo Gaspar with a two-year contract extension until the summer of 2023 this week. Gaspar, who has reshaped the squad with enormous financial restrictions, has earned all-round praise for the job he has done since coming in a little over a year ago. Together with coach Sergio Pellicer, stability has returned on the playing side and Pellicer's renewal is also expected to be announced soon with his contract set to expire at the end of the season.



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

# The inquest begins

There is a distinct possibility that La Liga won't have a team in the quarter finals of the Champions League for the first time since 2005



**T**he demand for a post mortem on Spanish football is a little premature. Its health is in a very serious situation but there is still a faint heartbeat. The prognosis isn't good, and action needs to be taken as La Liga's clubs have struggled against their European counterparts.

First it was Barcelona suffering against Paris Saint Germain, followed by Real Sociedad also letting in four against Manchester United, Sevilla conceding three at home then Atletico failing to show up against Chelsea.

Only Real Madrid saved any face by beating Atalanta by a single goal. "Saving the honour of La Liga," claimed a headline in one newspaper. It hardly saved the honour, nor is Spanish football 'finished' as one

British pundit put it.

Six of the last ten Champions League titles and seven of the last eleven Europa Leagues have been won by Spanish clubs but the truth is that La Liga and its members are not evolving. As the Germans, French, Italians, and English are all taking steps to improve, their Spanish counterparts are still basking in recent glories.

I've touched on Barcelona's mismanagement and their early Champions League exit means they need to start from scratch. Life after Messi isn't far away, and they need a whole new plan.

A couple of years ago an American associate was invited to examine the club's commercial viability. He concluded that although crowds were impressive, there were so many empty



Mendy (l) secured a last-gasp win for Real against 10-man Atalanta. REUTERS

seats for every game except the Clásico. The powers just shrugged off his suggestion that they needed a marketing overhaul and his report was ignored. The ways that have

worked for decades will not work in future years. A revolution is required.

Real Madrid left Bergamo celebrating a single-goal victory against the ten men of Atalanta

and the relieved Spanish press joined in the mood. We must consider that this was the most celebrated team in the history of European football nicking a victory against a club competing for only their second season in the Champions League. Madrid needs to get a grip.

Real Sociedad added to the narrative by getting hammered by Manchester United but this is a historic mismatch and the game was played in Turin, so the Basques didn't have the advantage of familiar surroundings. In normal times, with screaming supporters at the Anoeta and a night in their own beds I suspect the margin may not have been so great.

Atletico Madrid completed the misery by losing to Chelsea. Again, there were mitigating circumstances as they had to call Bucharest home and half a dozen players were unavailable to Diego Simeone. It's possible that they can spring a surprise at Stamford Bridge - who would bet against a one-nil win and taking it to a penalty shoot-out?

The obituaries are a little early, the inquest needs to be suspended for now but there is a distinct possibility that La Liga won't have a team in the quarter finals of the Champions League for the first time since 2005.

# Femenino face play-off lottery to remain in the second tier

With just one game in the normal season remaining, a top-four finish is out of reach for Nati Gutiérrez's team

**POZOALBENSE 3**  
**MALAGA 1**

ADG

POZOBLANCO (CORDOBA). Malaga's women's team will have to compete in the play-offs to remain in the second tier after defeat against leaders Pozoalbense on Saturday afternoon ruled out any chance of finishing in the top four of Group Sur A of the Liga Reto Iberdrola.

Nati Gutiérrez's side started the game well and went ahead within four minutes through Claudia who converted a good cross from the right with a strong header.

Malaga, however, could not should have put the game out of sight, hitting the woodwork twice in the opening quarter of an hour through María Ruiz and Andrea Ríos.

However, the hosts struck back when it was least expected



Encarni plays the ball during Saturday's match in Pozoblanco. ADG

through a long ball out of defence from Guermazi to María Marín who made no mistake from just inside the area after 28 minutes.

A fine save from Lucía Martín ensured the scores were level at the break and just like at the start of the first half Malaga come out strong.

However, a double change from Pozoalbense changed the dynamic of the game completely and it was the Colombian, Farlyn, who made an immediate difference, giving her side the lead for

the first time in the game with an easy tap-in.

Just a minute after Malaga were appealing for a penalty after a tug by Hamidouche on Claudia Jiménez, María Marín made it 3-1 with 20 minutes to go under suspicion of being in an off-side position. The goal stood and the game was effectively ended as a competition.

There is now just one game left of the regular season, with Malaga hosting Cáceres this Sunday at noon.

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# Marbella find their mojo again as they push to avoid the drop

After four defeats on the bounce, the Costa side finally returned to winning ways with victory over fellow strugglers Recreativo Huelva

**RECREATIVO** 1  
**MARBELLA** 3

ADG

HUELVA. Marbella ended a run of four straight league defeats with a 3-1 victory away to fellow strugglers Recreativo de Huelva on Sunday afternoon.

The visitors started well and their early dominance paid off when Alfred scored in the 14th minute after Chumbi's initial effort was saved.

However, the side from Huelva grew into the game and were given a chance to equalise after the half-hour mark when the referee controversially judged Eliseu to have used his hand in the box. Alberto Quiles stepped up to convert the resulting penalty and to restore parity.

Into the second half, the hosts



Chumbi celebrates Marbella's second goal in Huelva. ADG

had more possession but were unable to trouble the Marbella goal. For both sides, set pieces seemed to be the best opportunity to break the deadlock, and Marbella did just that in the 66th minute when Chumbi struck home from a corner.

Marbella then pressed for a third goal to kill the game, and were rewarded four minutes

from time, with Chumbi once again involved.

He played a cross on the right-hand side that found Callejón unmarked in the box. His scuffed effort was enough to fool the goalkeeper and put the seal on a confidence-boosting win for Marbella as they continue their push into the top six to avoid a potential double relegation.



## De Miguel, national rowing runner-up

Malaga rower Natalia de Miguel, representing the Real Club Mediterráneo, returned to the water competitively for the first time this year at the weekend and came away with a medal for her efforts. De Miguel picked up silver at the Spanish Long Distance Rowing Championships, held in Castrelo de Miño (Ourense), where she clocked 22:35.16 in the 5,500m race in the individual skiff category. She was only beaten by Virginia Díaz (21:52.55), also an international with the Spanish national team.

# A fitting tribute to a man who refereed at three Olympics

## VÉLEZ-MÁLAGA

Eduardo Hernández, now 70, has lived in Torre del Mar since he was a child and has had the swimming pool which he was instrumental in building named after him

EUGENIO CABEZAS



Torre del Mar's indoor swimming pool, which is located in the Cerro del Águila area of the town and opened in 2014, has officially been named after the Olympic swimming referee and Torre del Mar resident, Eduardo Hernández. Hernández was also the town's councillor for Sports between 2008 and 2011 and is a retired English teacher.

The referee presided over the swimming events at three Olympics: Seoul in 1988, Barcelona

in 1992 and Atlanta in 1996, as well as over 20 world and European championships, including in Germany, Sweden, Bolivia and Venezuela.

Hernández has also been the president of the national referee committee in Spain as well as a member of the board of Spain's royal swimming federation (Real Federación Española de Natación).

Now aged 70, Hernández was born in Melilla but moved to Torre del Mar as a child. While working as Sports councillor he was one of the first supporters of an indoor swimming pool for Torre del Mar. "When we got into power in 2008 there was already an agreement signed by the previous mayor, Francisco Delgado, for a 25-metre swimming pool, but I didn't like the plan because it wouldn't have been able to hold competitions," the former councillor recalled.

"I agreed to be on the PSOE list as an independent candidate in 2007. My objective was to get this swimming pool for Torre del Mar," he added. With a joint financial agreement already signed with the Junta de Andalucía, he ex-

plained that it took a lot of hard work to convince them that Torre del Mar should have a competition pool, "I had to make a lot of trips to Seville to convince the regional government to change it," he remembered.

The swimming pool was completed in 2013 and the pool opened in 2014. Since then the pool has hosted numerous national competitions. "It set the stage for a world record in a 400-metre freestyle event by Alberto Alberiche," Hernández pointed out.

Hernández has also acted as referee for other sports including football, basketball, trampoline, synchronised swimming and water polo and is still very much involved in the world of swimming and refereeing, "It has allowed me to travel, meet marvellous people and be in contact with some of the best sports people of all time," he says.

Of the three Olympics he's taken part in, Barcelona, "without a doubt" was the most unforgettable, "for what it meant for the country," he explained. Asked who the best swimmers in his-



Hernández, with then president of the COI, Juan Antonio Samaranch. SUR

tory have been, Hernández said it had to be Americans Matt Biondi and Michael Phelps and the German swimmer Michael Gross. "I have had the opportunity to meet all three of them and to referee them too," he said.

Although there are no plans for an official event as yet, since Vélez-Málaga town hall announced the news a fortnight ago, Hernández said he has received messages of congratulations from across Spain.

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**FINCA** Doña Maria: Apartment 2 bed, 2 bath, parking, furnished. 700 Euros. Whatsapp 00447955405153

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**FUENGIROLA** Studio Apt. in PYR hotel. Sleeps 4, sea & harbour views. 500 euros all inclusive. 621215730

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**FUENGIROLA** beach, fantastic 2 bedroom, 2 bathrooms, seaviews, garage. 690 euros/month. 679111522

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**WWW.RENTINLAND.COM** Long term rentals Coin and surrounding areas. Phil 659537525

**COIN** large townhouse, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, patio, rooftop terrace. 550 euros/month. 679111522

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**MIJAS** Costa, large 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, terraces, garage, pool, 850 euros/month. 679111522

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**MARBELLA**

Bus Station	955038665
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**MIJAS**

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**NERJA**

Bus Station	902422242
Taxi Service	952520537
Tourist Information	952521531

Town Hall	952548400
Foreign Resident Dept.	952548401

**TORREMOLINOS**

Bus Station	902143144
Taxi Service	952380600
Tourist Office	952371909
Town Hall	952379400
Foreign Residents Dept.	952374231

**BENALMÁDENA**

Bus Station	902450550
Taxi Service	952441545
Tourist Office	952442494
Town Hall	952374231
Foreign Residents Dept.	952442494

**VÉLEZ-MÁLAGA**

Bus Station	952503162
Taxi	952540016
Town Hall	952559100
Tourist Office	952541104

**GIBRALTAR**

General emergency	199/112(mobiles)
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**

**THE STARS**

**Aquarius**  
January 21st - February 19th  
You might find the strength to let go of something that has been an issue for some time. Doing so can be a very transformative experience.

**Pisces**  
February 20th - March 20th  
As Venus joins the Sun and Neptune in your sign, your magnetic and alluring side may come to the fore. New friendships may spring up at this time.

**Aries**  
March 21st - April 20th  
Determined to make the most of a lucrative opportunity? A Mars-Pluto aspect encourages you to get focused and go for it.

**Taurus**  
April 21st - May 21st  
It may be hard to ignore a desire for something that you want very much, especially if you'll do anything to get it. Be sure you can deal with the consequences though.

**Gemini**  
May 22nd - June 21st  
Want to get closure on an issue that has affected your life for some time? Don't feel you have to do it alone, the help of a trusted friend could be invaluable.

**Cancer**  
June 22nd - July 23rd  
A friendship with someone who's powerful or influential might be a step in a positive direction. But there are also gains to be made by connecting with a teacher or life coach who can assist you.

**Leo**  
July 24th - August 23rd  
If you're willing to put the effort in this week you can benefit from an opportunity that is ripe for the picking. All it needs is one big push and it could be yours.

**Virgo**  
August 24th - September 23rd  
The urge to take on a challenge could prove hard to resist, with a dynamic aspect encouraging you to have a go whether you feel ready or not.

**Libra**  
September 24th - October 23rd  
Venus your guide planet moves into your work and lifestyle zone. This is an opportunity to smooth over difficulties, and is also excellent for meetings and negotiations of all kinds.

**Scorpio**  
October 24th - November 22nd  
Looking for love? As sultry Venus ramps up, the chances of romance in a long-term bond can go through a positive shift, or a new relationship move beyond the platonic stage.

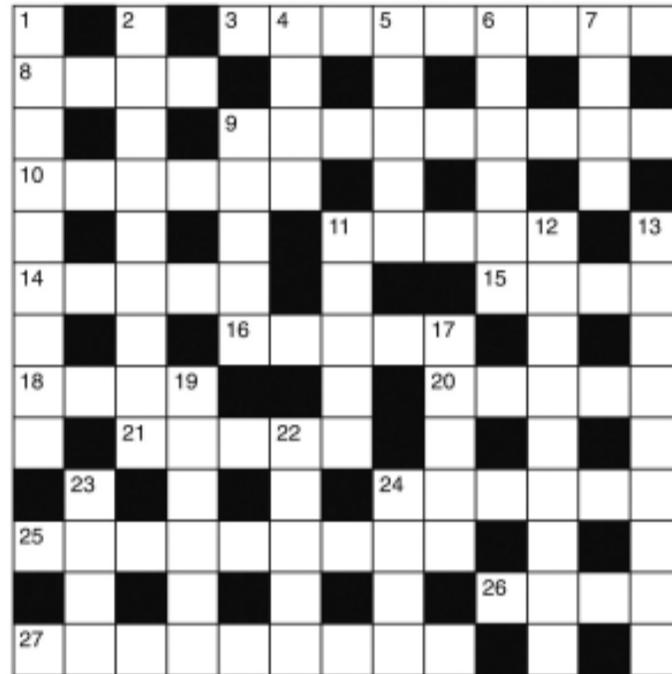
**Sagittarius**  
November 23rd - December 21st  
Grasp that opportunity, especially if it's a money-spinner. A dynamic aspect could inspire you to have a go even if you don't have as much experience as others.

**Capricorn**  
December 22nd - January 20th  
Need to persuade someone of something? With delectable Venus moving into Pisces, your honeyed words can make you impossible to resist in more ways than one.

**THE SEVEN DIFFERENCES**



**CRYPTIC CROSSWORD N° 11450**



**Across**

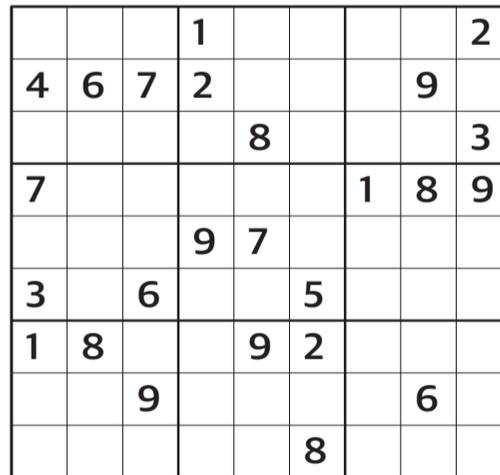
- 3 One doing exercises seen in an ambulance (9)
- 8 Some returning gin (4)
- 9 Go over and receive a military decoration (3,6)
- 10 Made beer for the children, say (6)
- 11 Kingdom of genuine monarch at first (5)
- 14 Wear down Laver between points (5)
- 15 Religious group getting electroconvulsive therapy on Sunday (4)
- 16 Gets rid of large bags (5)
- 18 Was in debt and married with nothing (4)
- 20 Cold making Companion of Honour unwell (5)
- 21 People stand to get them (5)
- 24 Crayon left on the wallpaper adhesive (6)
- 25 Or this cup is broken when wooing (9)
- 26 Whip back for a game (4)
- 27 Surveys of potential buyers (9)

**Down**

- 1 Steady character who works with horses (9)
- 2 Compose music in a jotter? (4,5)
- 4 Bound to change a diet (4)
- 5 Avoid boy returning to 7 Down (5)
- 6 Songs for girls (6)
- 7 Point the teas out (4)
- 9 Units of heredity said to come in pairs (5)
- 11 Scare over athletics events (5)
- 12 Press can take nothing in concerning intercession (9)
- 13 Painting of whisky maker's existence? (5,4)
- 17 Fight for a bit (5)
- 19 Rubble in bed the knight returned (6)
- 22 Sample state produce (5)
- 23 Tie up Othello (4)
- 24 Said to have chosen the old northerner (4)

**SUDOKU BY HANZO**

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



**THE WORDPUZZLER**

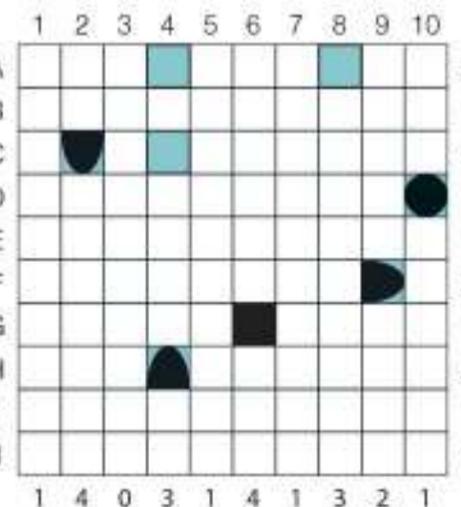
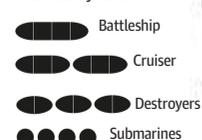


Can you identify the counties from the anagrams listed below?

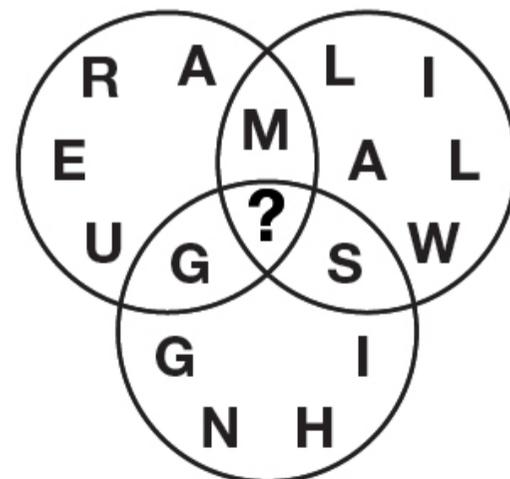
- 1. Recal
- 2. Tenk
- 3. Wopsy
- 4. Tweng
- 5. Feddy
- 6. Goils
- 7. Nova
- 8. Ubet
- 9. Kroc
- 10. Wond

**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 and below the grid indicate how many of the squares in that row are filled in with ships or parts of ships. The ships do not touch each other, even diagonally. Some have been filled in to start you off.



**CIRCLEGRAM**



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

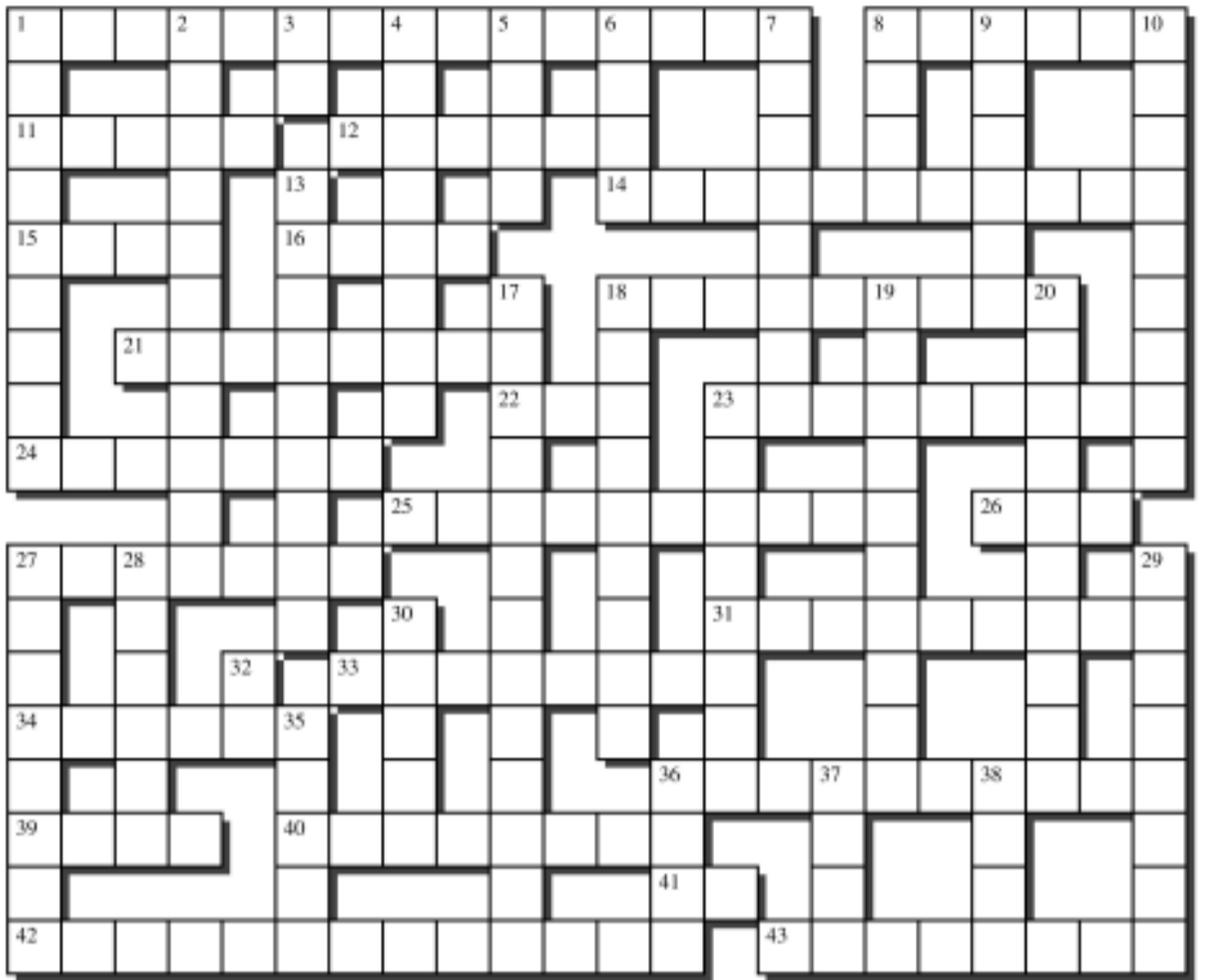
**LANGUAGE CROSSWORD** FILL IN THE SPANISH WORD

**Across**

- 1) Demonstrations (15)
- 8) Title (6)
- 11) New (m) (5)
- 12) To be in charge (6)
- 14) Business owners (11)
- 15) Rivers (4)
- 16) You are (4)
- 18) To knock down (9)
- 21) Minister (m) (8)
- 22) The (f.pl) (3)
- 23) Candidate (m) (9)
- 24) Astuteness (7)
- 25) President (m) (10)
- 26) Gold (3)
- 27) They were voting (7)
- 31) Engineer (m) (9)
- 33) Attempts (8)
- 34) Barely (6)
- 36) Stubbornly (10)
- 39) Magnet (4)
- 40) Founder (8)
- 41) It's (2)
- 42) Negotiations (13)
- 43) Heir (m) (8)

**Down**

- 1) Monarchy (9)
- 2) Investiture (11)
- 3) The (m) (2)
- 4) Journey (8)
- 5) Each (4)
- 6) Ochre (4)
- 7) Cider bar (8)
- 8) Aunts (4)
- 9) Theory (6)
- 10) Opposition (9)
- 13) Weakness (9)
- 17) Coup d'état (5,2,6) (13)
- 18) Awake (m) (9)
- 19) Honeysuckle (10)
- 20) They reopened (10)
- 23) You grew (8)
- 27) Voting (8)
- 28) Teapot (6)
- 29) Government (8)
- 30) They walk (5)
- 32) Now! (2)
- 35) I suffered (5)
- 36) Three (4)
- 37) She eats (4)
- 38) Age (4)



**ANSWERS**

**Quiz answers**

**Answer:** Gold.  
**Of interest:** James Wilson Marshall (October 8, 1810 - August 10, 1885) was an American carpenter and sawmill operator, who reported the finding of gold at Coloma on the American River in California on January 24, 1848, the impetus for the California Gold Rush.  
**Answer:** Mauveine dye  
**Of interest:** The first synthetic dye, mauveine, was discovered by William Henry Perkin in 1856. Other aniline dyes followed, such as fuchsin, safranin, and induline.

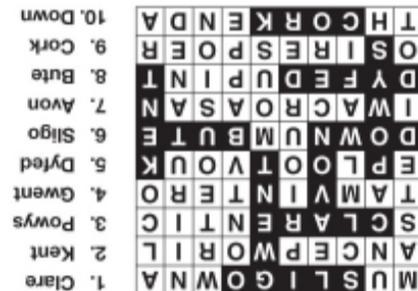
**Language Crossword**



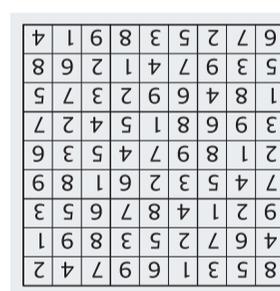
**Cryptic Crossword**

**Solutions:** Across: 3. Siretaker; 6. Tropic; 8. Get across; 10. Brewed; 11. Madelon; 13. Still life; 17. Soap; 19. Dubois; 22. Rusty; 23. Moor; 24. Pick. Down: 4. Tired; 5. Ender; 6. Cards; 7. East; 8. Games; 11. Flares; 12. Pasha; 25. Counter; 26. Goat; 27. Prospects; 28. Down; 29. Stridology; 30. Pasha; 31. Ender; 35. Sack; 36. Sack; 38. Overt; 39. Chile; 41. Sault; 42. Pasha.

**Wordpuzzler solution**



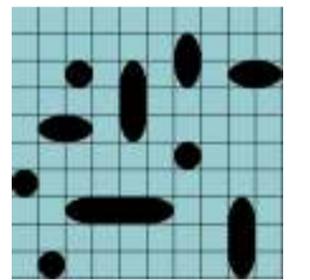
**Sudoku solution**



**Circlegram**

The letter represented by the question mark is I. Maguire, Williams, Higgins, all snooker players.

**Battleships**



**WHERE IS THIS?**



**Angels' square**

**Last week: Estepona**

Last week's photo was of the Torre del Reloj in Estepona.



**THE SUR IN ENGLISH CORNER**

**Put someone in the frame**

One of the most interesting aspects of living in this part of the world is that it is a real melting pot of different nationalities and cultures.

People come here from all over the world and bring with them fascinating stories about how they ended up here. Others, meanwhile, lived quite ordinary lives beforehand and used moving to Spain as an opportunity to do something quite extraordinary.

At SUR in English, we are always interested to hear about

the unique individuals who form part of our community. Whether they have an incredible talent, do valuable community work or are simply a well-known 'character' - if you know someone who fits the bill, get in touch! They might be suitable for a profile in our In the Frame section.

You can send us an email at [surinenglish.su@diariosur.es](mailto:surinenglish.su@diariosur.es) or get in touch with us via social media. We are on Facebook ([surenenglish](https://www.facebook.com/surenenglish)) and Twitter ([@SUR\\_English](https://twitter.com/SUR_English)).

**D**uring the next few weeks, people who visit the Parque Botánico-Orquidario in Estepona can enjoy seeing how many species are in flower at this time of year. One stands out especially among the rest, because it is difficult to find in private collections anywhere in the world and also because of its close association with one of the most influential people of the 19th century and human history, British scientist Charles Darwin, the father of the theory of evolution.

The species in question is the *Angraecum sesquipedale*, also known as the Christmas orchid, Star of Bethlehem orchid or just Darwin's orchid. It is special because, among the more than 25,000 varieties that exist, it is the orchid with the longest spur, the cavity from which insects extract the pollen, measuring between 20 and 25 centimetres.

Orchids were of special interest to Darwin. Their immense variety, shapes and colours posed interesting challenges when it came to studying their methods of reproduction, to such an extent that he published a book just about their fertilisation. It tells how Darwin received a package of several orchids from British horticulturist James Bateman, which included the *Angraecum sesquipedale*. He was struck by the length of the spur and, following the premises of his evolutionary studies based on changes in species due to natural selection, he believed that there must be a pollinating insect in existence with a proboscis long enough to reach the nectar receptacle at the end of the spur.

In other words, Darwin suggested that the *Angraecum* and its supposed pollinator had acquired their striking physiognomy through a process of evolution in which one species responded to changes in the other. Nowadays, this is known as co-evolution, or sometimes as con-



The Darwin's orchid will be in flower for another two months. J. M. M.

## The flowers of the origin of species

**Estepona.** At the orchid park, the variety known as Darwin's orchid is in flower. It helped the British scientist to advance his theories about evolution based on natural selection

JOSÉ MARÍA MARTÍN

certed evolution.

At first, this idea was greeted with incredulity by his scientific colleagues, because no insect of that type had ever been seen. However, over time Darwin was proved right: forty years later, in 1903, in Madagascar, which

is where this species of orchid originated, a type of moth appeared with a proboscis measuring nearly 30 centimetres.

This confirmed Darwin's belief, and the insect was given the name *Xanthopan morgani praedicta*, whose subspecific epithet

alludes precisely to Darwin's prediction about the existence of this hawk moth.

### Special care

Darwin's orchid can be still be seen in flower for the next two months at the Parque Botánico-Orquidario de Estepona, which has successfully adapted to the conditions it needs to survive. This was no easy task because it is a capricious species and it has taken several attempts and different locations in the park before the plant decided it was happy to grow there.

Something else unusual about this plant is that it emits its strong scent at night. One of the experts at the orchid park, Anatoli Minzatu, says it can be smelled from at least five metres away, so it is a pity that this type of natural museum can only be visited during the day.

Anatoli has been working at the botanical park since shortly after it opened, nearly six years ago. During that time he has seen it evolve and grow.

"We have nearly 1,500 species of orchid here now. There are apparently between 25,000 and 35,000 different varieties, and new ones are still being discovered. Some countries, such as Ecuador, have more than 4,500 different types, and in different parts of Asia new ones are found every year," he says.

The countries in South America are the main orchid exporters. Each species which arrives at the orchid park in Estepona has to be carefully studied and they all need special care.

"Many of them need a period of up to two or three years just to adapt to their new environment," says Anatoli.

He says the aim of the park is to have as many as 8,000 different varieties on display within the next few years, and if it is successful in achieving this it would become one of the most important parks of this type in the world.



The collection has around 1,500 plants. J. M. M.





**g/b**  
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