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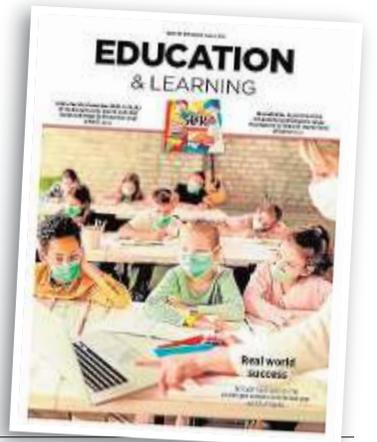
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EDUCATION & LEARNING. A SHOWCASE OF LOCAL TALENT AND EXPERTISE

Discover what the Costa's international schools have to offer in our special supplement this week
INSIDE



SHOW OF HANDS

Women across Spain marked a very different International Women's Day this week **P4**

Keeping a social distance, 150 women performed a 'feminist dance' on Malaga city's Paseo del Parque on Monday. **NITO SALAS**

Non-essential Easter travel out of Andalucía by land will be banned after regions agree common restrictions

National rules will stop excessive movement over the holiday period, although Andalucía is yet to decide if it will free up travel locally between its eight provinces. **P3**

Junta to carry on with 300m-euro removal of sewer pipe blight on Costa's beaches **P2**

Malaga hosts a star-studded virtual Goyas gala with Antonio Banderas at the helm **P21**

Brexit residency requests being turned down due to private health confusion

The British Embassy has said it is talking to the Spanish authorities about the new residence process

Hundreds of Britons who applied to be residents in Spain under the easier terms just before the end of the transition period from the EU could be facing launching an

appeal to stay in the country. Immigration officials in Malaga province and some other parts of Spain have been rejecting applications where private health in-

surance policies started after 31 December last year, the final date for residents to be legal.

Having healthcare cover at least as good as public health services is a residency rule. But campaigning group Brexipats in Spain says many have fallen foul of a misunderstanding and taken out policies dated from 1 January. These are now being rejected. **P7**

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Removal of all sewage pipes from Costa del Sol beaches expected to cost 300 million euros

The Junta is to continue with an initiative which Acosol has already started in some parts of Marbella and is applying to the government for financial support

FRANCISCO JIMÉNEZ



MALAGA. The Costa del Sol is embarking on an ambitious project to remove all the sewage pipes, pumping stations and manholes from its beaches. Some of these are less visible than others, but they have been there since the 1970s and 1980s, right by the shore and at the mercy of storms, collecting all the waste which is then pumped towards the treatment plants.

The first steps towards improving the appearance of this landscape which sustains Malaga's principal tourist industry have already been taken in several places in Marbella by the Acosol water company. The project is now beginning to grow, however, because the objective is to move all the pipes between Torremolinos and Manilva back from the beaches.

There are two reasons for this. One is the negative visual impact they have on the Andalusian tourist industry, but environmental factors are also being taken into account. Much of this infrastructure is cracked and damaged and needs to be renewed after decades of service. Its presence also complicates the natural regeneration of the beaches.

The overall plan is to replace 80 kilometres of the general pipe network, together with about 50 pumping stations and around 800 manholes.

The project is being carried out by the Junta de Andalucía, although it will be applying for financial and administrative support from the government. To move the pipes to the other side of the boundary of the public maritime land or below the N-340 highway, central government organisations such as the Coastal Authority and Roads Department will have to be involved.

Financially, the cost will be around 300 million euros, in addition to the tens of kilometres of pipes which need to be replaced, there is the complex process of moving them to land which has been almost completely developed. This will mean that privately owned properties will be affected. It will be a long, expen-



Part of the infrastructure beside the sea on a Marbella beach. JOSELE

sive and laborious process, although the machinery is already in motion to begin the first part of this plan which will completely restructure the sewage system on the Costa del Sol.

Preliminary plans

The regional government's Ministry of Agriculture and Sustainable Development is preparing the contract to draw up the initial plans. These will lay out all that will need to be done to move the general sewage pipe which runs almost entirely along the beach in each municipality.

These preliminary plans will work with recommendations from Acosol, which knows the situation well because it is responsible for maintaining the equipment between Manilva and Benalmádena (the waste from Torremolinos is treated by the Malaga sewage plant).

"Once we have the preliminary study we can prioritise the different actions and draw up

exact plans for each part," said sources at the Junta's Water Infrastructure department.

They also said that the contract for this draft document is almost ready to put out to tender, with a cost of 400,000 euros and a completion period of one year.

The new locations for the pipes will depend on different factors in each area, although it is thought that the most viable plan everywhere would be to move them to the N-340.

So far Acosol, in collaboration with Marbella town hall, has relocated the main pipe and eight manholes at Ventura del Mar (477,000 euros), relocated 650 metres of pipe and another 11 manholes at Lindavista (1.3 million) and removed the whole existing network between Río Real and Los Monteros, including the demolition of the pumping station situated opposite the hotel's beach, at a cost of 4.1 million euros.



Pumping station on a beach in Fuengirola. SUR

THE PLAN TO RESTRUCTURE THE SEWAGE SYSTEM

300

million euros is the expected cost of removing the entire existing sewage infrastructure from the beaches of the western Costa del Sol. The initiative will involve relocating 80 kilometres of the principal collection pipe, about 800 manholes and 50 pumping stations.

► **First step.** The Junta de Andalucía will soon be putting out to tender the contract to draw up the preliminary plans for the restructuring of the sewage system on the Costa del Sol. This study will detail all the tasks that need to be carried out by sector, so they can be scheduled individually in each area. The contract is expected to be for 400,000 euros with a maximum period of one year for completion.

► **Administration and financial support.** Before the existing sewage infrastructure can be moved, the land for its new location needs to be available and approval needs to be obtained from the Coastal Authority and the Roads Department. The Junta says it intends to subscribe to a collaboration agreement with the government in Madrid for the financing of the works.

The Acosol local water company welcomes Junta's commitment

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MALAGA. The public water management company for the western Costa, Acosol, has welcomed the willingness of the regional government to take a major step in improving the sewage infrastructure along the Costa del Sol.

The Junta has already made progress in terms of the treatment plants, but these latest problems have arisen due to the age and location of the pipes.

"We have been working on this dynamic for the past two years and all the money for sewage projects which are financed directly is to be used for relocating these pipes and other infrastructure. So far, we have removed about 20 manholes, but more money is needed to solve this problem. This project is vital for the Costa, because most of the pipes are on the beaches, and those beaches are essential for tourism, the area's main industry," said the CEO of Acosol, Manuel Cardeña.

He pointed out that the presence of these pipes under the sand causes the beaches to shrink in size and makes it difficult for them to regenerate.

Restrictions stay for Easter as fall in case rates starts to tail off

All non-essential movement between all Spanish regions will be prohibited over the Semana Santa period

E. MIRANDA / A. GÓMEZ / SUR

MALAGA. Easter will see restrictions on mobility between regions in Spain remain in place following a national agreement on Wednesday this week. The decision came as the Andalusian regional government weighs up whether to allow movement between the eight provinces of Andalucía once again amid signs of regional cases rising.

In the nationwide rules firmed up this week, between 26 March and 9 April measures include; only essential travel between Spain's 17 regions; meetings of four in enclosed spaces and six outside; and a curfew at least from 11pm to 6am - Andalucía currently starts its curfew at 10pm and may or may not change this.

The national measures, that only the Madrid region disagreed with but which it will follow anyway, also cover the San José weekend from 17 to 21 March in the regions where that is a public holiday (not in Andalucía).

Regions can still decide independently to keep their borders closed at other times

Junta deliberates on provinces

The Junta de Andalucía was still to decide whether to open up the borders between the local provinces now the average case rates have fallen, reaching 121 cases per 100,000 in the last 14 days on Thursday (11 March).

Malaga province was at 100 on Thursday, down from 122 a week earlier. But this was still a medium risk level.

New cases in the region have also been creeping up slightly this week compared to the week before with a sign the overall decline in cases is levelling off. A thousand new cases regionally were reported on Thursday.



Controls between regions are set to continue this Semana Santa. EFE

Western Costa still can't open bars and restaurants later

Towns in the Costa del Sol health district (which covers from Manilva to Torremolinos) still weren't able to open non-essential businesses until 9.30pm this week. While most areas of Malaga province have extended opening again, the western Costa remained at a

level 3 risk.

The risk level measure by district is different to the case rate per 100,000 in towns, and some mayors on the western Costa, such as Benalmádena and Torremolinos, complained that they were being discriminated against, as the higher Covid-19 rates are in the Marbella area.

Most of the Ronda area meanwhile moved down to risk level 3 this week.

Junta halts first doses of vaccines to over-80s for two weeks

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MALAGA. The Junta de Andalucía's Ministry of Health has been forced to halt the first vaccination against Covid-19 among the over-80s age group until at least the week of 22 March because of a shortage of doses. However the regional government still expects that the entire group will have had the first dose administered by the first week of April.

This was the view of the regional minister of Health, Jesús Aguirre, on Tuesday this week, when he warned that the region will have received "5,000 fewer doses" of vaccines against Covid than last week.

Aguirre detailed that 50 per cent of the 460,000 people in Andalucía in the group over 80 years old had already been vaccinated with the first dose but he confirmed that "the vaccines that reach us in the next few weeks will be used mainly for the second dose" of those already vaccinated with the first.

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Some 150 women took part in a symbolic dance in Malaga city to mark International Women's Day on Monday. **ÑITO SALAS**

A different approach, same message

International Women's Day was marked in Malaga with several small-scale events, the most eye-catching of which was a feminist dance on the Paseo del Parque

ANA PÉREZ-BRYAN

MALAGA. In stark contrast to the 15,000 people who marched through Malaga on the same day last year, International Women's Day was marked this Monday in an alternative yet still symbolic way. Organised by the 8M platform, the official gathering, which

due to pandemic restrictions was limited to just 150, saw the city's Paseo del Parque turned into a stage for a feminist dance.

Though the scale and image was different, the message and its force remained the same. A banner on the tarmac with the slogan 'Women in action: feminism, struggle and transformation' marked the exact place from where the participants would perform. With music and lyrics by Eskarnia, the dance was the highlight of an event that stood out not only because of the colour purple, but also social distancing.

"We want to do this with the greatest serenity possible, but we are also going to denounce all the

setbacks that have occurred for women in this pandemic," said one of the platform's spokespersons, Andrea Barbotta, during the dance rehearsal. "[During the pandemic] there have been many backwards steps on a workplace, economic and social level, especially in the case of women who work in the care sector, are nurses, domestic workers or victims of gender violence," she said.

Elsewhere in the city, earlier in the morning the UGT and CCOO unions, covered the surroundings of their headquarters in purple to repeat calls for real equality between men and women.

A gathering also took place in front of the Diputación provincial

authority building to commemorate Women's Day.

Despite these restrictions there was also a small march through the historic centre, starting in the Plaza de la Constitución, and led by the Student Union. The group, made up of no more than a hundred people, staged a sit-in that forced the traffic to stop momentarily, until they dissolved to continue the route to the Plaza de La Merced.

The often purple symbolism of 8M was also visible on many balconies in the city and at 8pm, a 'feminist applause' took place, similar to that which was observed for healthcare workers in the early days of the pandemic.

Malaga Metro extension on course for completion before the end of 2022

The two tunnels which form the extension to the city centre were connected during a ceremony attended by the regional president

IGNACIO LILLO

MALAGA. Works to extend the Malaga Metro network into the city centre (from the main María Zambrano station) reached a major milestone on Wednesday as the two tunnels currently under construction were connected

beneath the Guadalmina riverbed. This means that the end is in sight for these excavation works which first started in June 2006 - that is, 15 years ago.

The breakthrough was witnessed by regional president Juanma Moreno who announced that the tunnels could now be completed before August, with trains able to arrive in the historic centre by the end of 2022.

At present, final touches are being carried out on the tunnels and the two new stations (Guadalmedina, next to El Corte Inglés) and Atarazanas (in the



Moreno passes through the threshold between the tunnels. **SALVADOR SALAS**

Alameda Principal).

A further 14.6-million-euro investment is now needed for the installation of the tracks and other equipment on which the trains will run (6.6 million euros), as well as the installation of the signalling and safety system.

"With these two contracts, the last remaining investment pending has been unblocked," said Moreno who also confirmed the Junta's commitment to a three-station extension to line 2 up to the planned new hospital, next to the existing Hospital Civil.

Plans unveiled for new-look leisure area surrounding the Baños del Carmen

IGNACIO LILLO

MALAGA. In the same week it was announced that the Baños del Carmen would be put forward to be listed as an Asset of Cultural Interest (BIC) by the regional government (and therefore have protected status), the city hall unveiled its five-million-euro plan to transform the area surrounding the historic beach-bathing complex on the eastern side of Malaga city.

The city's mayor, Francisco de la Torre, presented a plan for the grounds, which are currently overgrown and unoccupied, which includes a coastal path, several viewpoints, 210 new trees, more space for pedestrians and an extension of the cycle lane.

The plans must now be presented to the Coasts authority in Madrid and once it receives the green light, will go out to public consultation. If all goes to plan, work will begin before the end of the year and should take ten months to complete.

Crowdfunding campaign launched to help maintain the English Cemetery

FRANCISCO GUTIÉRREZ

MALAGA. A crowdfunding campaign has been launched in a bid to secure funds to help maintain the historic English Cemetery in Malaga city which has suffered enormously from a lack of visitors due to the coronavirus pandemic.

The GoFundMe campaign was launched by Bruce McIntyre, president of the English Cemetery Foundation of Malaga, who prior to his retirement was British consul in Malaga from 2000 to 2008. On the page (<https://es.gofundme.com/f/English-Cemetery-Malaga>), McIntyre explained that because of the current situation and subsequent cancellation of events and organised visits, income has fallen and "we have now been obliged to dispense with the gardener, return to volunteers for day to day maintenance and close the cemetery to the public from Monday to Friday. If we fail in our fundraising, we will be forced to restrict access to the cemetery even further".

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- *What is wealth tax and will I be liable to pay it?*
- *How are my non-Spanish savings and pension funds taxed?*
- *What happens to my assets on death if I am resident in Spain?*
- *How is the rental income on my UK property taxed?*
- *What is form 'Modelo 720'? Does Spain need to know about my non-Spanish assets?*
- *Should I have both a UK and a Spanish Will?*

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A major growth in population is putting Costa del Sol schools under considerable pressure

Last year the Junta de Andalucía announced its new infrastructure plan for the years 2020 to 2027, but some new primary and secondary schools have already run out of space

IVÁN GELIBTER



MIJAS. For years, the parents' association of the Indira Gandhi primary school battled to get rid of the prefabricated classrooms in which their children had to be taught and they finally succeeded. The only memory of those classrooms now is the road that the council has named after the parents' association, in recognition of their efforts.

This story had a happy ending, but that is rather unusual. The lack of educational infrastructure on the Costa del Sol has always been an unfortunate reality, and the idea of schools without prefabricated classrooms is hard to imagine. Although over time many have gone because the schools have been enlarged, the rapid growth in population in some of these towns means the situation is likely to become more difficult over the next few years, and at the moment the Junta de Andalucía does not seem to have a specific plan to deal with the problem.

When asked about this, the branch office in Malaga said that the Andalusian Education Agency (APAE) will be meeting "soon" to approve the 2021 infrastructure plan. Meanwhile, the population is growing exponentially each year, which is worrying in terms of school capacity. In the Mijas and Fuengirola area, the population



Parents of pupils at the Indira Gandhi school in Las Lagunas succeeded after years of protests. **SUR**

has increased by around 5,000, but it is not alone. Marbella has increased by 4,000 inhabitants, Estepona 2,000 and, on the other side of the province, Rincón de la Victoria has seen similar growth.

In fact, Rincón is a graphic example of the problem facing the administrations. Barely a year after a fourth secondary school was inaugurated, in Torre de Benagalbón, following years of protests by local residents about overcrowded schools, the Junta de Andalucía has had to start planning for a fifth school in the municipality, where the population has doubled in the past 20 years and has now reached nearly 50,000.

The new secondary school will be in the Parque Victoria urbanisation, north of the motorway, in La Cala del Moral, on a 9,000 square metre plot ceded by the council. The Junta will spend 4.2 million euros on this school, which will have capacity for 360 pupils.

There is a similar problem in Mijas, which now has the third



Prefabricated classrooms at the Xarblanca school in Marbella. **JOSELE**

highest population after Malaga city and Marbella. The Junta de Andalucía has designed a specific plan for schools there, including the extension and remodelling of the Jardín Botánico school at a cost of 2.6 million euros.

There are also plans to extend the secondary school in La Cala de Mijas and build a new secondary school in Las Lagunas, and

plans are being finalised or contracts are being put to tender for extending the Torre Almenara secondary school and adapting the Indira Gandhi school.

The Junta also announced last year that it is to build a new secondary school in Benalmádena Pueblo, and extend the Concha Méndez Cuesta secondary school in Torremolinos and primary

schools including the Mariana Pineda in Arroyo de la Miel, Ramón Lago in Estepona and José Banús in Nueva Andalucía.

There are 44 projects to build, extend or improve schools in 19 municipalities in Malaga province at a cost of nearly 37.1 million euros, but many of these have not yet begun.

Elsewhere on the western Costa del Sol the situation is similar. In Marbella, parents of pupils at the Vargas Llosa have been calling for a new school for the past ten years, but with no success. The children started their schooldays in prefabricated classrooms on a site in Trapiche Norte, where the present school was eventually built. Years later, when moving up from primary school, they found themselves in the same situation and are being taught in prefabricated classrooms again. Work is due to begin on a new school this year, although the pupils will have to travel 11 kilometres from their homes to get there.

In Estepona, there are plans to extend the Isdabe del Mar infant school in Isdabe and the Ramón Lago primary school in Candelada. In both cases, the town hall has ceded land to the Junta so this can be done.

Manilva is also a good example of the pressure of population growth on schools, and the council is working with the Education authorities on plans for extensions. In fact, the Junta's delegate in Malaga, Mercedes García Paine, recently laid the first stone of an extension to the San Luis de Sabinillas primary school, and announced that sites are being considered for the construction of another secondary school, which will be the second in the municipality.

Contributors to this report: Eugenio Cabezas, Joaquina Dueñas, José María Martín and Andrea Jiménez.

Rural schools in danger of closure due to village depopulation

VANESSA MELGAR

RONDA. Joaquín Moreno is a PE teacher. Last Wednesday he was on a sports pitch in Siete Pilas, in Benalauría, teaching pupils from the Sierra del Espino Rural School. It is one of three branches of this school, which has 80 pupils in total. The others are in Algatocín and Benarrabá.

In Malaga province there are 12 of these rural schools, with 1,236

pupils and 184 teachers. Moreno, a former pupil of Sierra del Espino school, goes from village to village to give classes. "I travel about 30 kilometres a day," he says. "Sometimes you are held up and can't get to the next one on time, but in that case you ring to see if a colleague can go".

At present there are nine pupils in Siete Pilas, with ages ranging from three to 11. Ana Arias says teachers in these school learn to

work with all ages at the same time. She is now based at Siete Pilas, but used to travel to Algatocín, Benarrabá, Siete Pilas and Salitre, teaching music. "I can't imagine being in a town, now," she says.

The existence of these rural schools is precarious, due to the problem of depopulation in small country villages. The Salitre branch of the school had to close, because there were no pupils. With nine, Siete Pilas is considered to be doing well; at one time, the number had dropped to four. However, only two of them live in this district. These schools begin every term with relief, but never sure whether it may be their last.



The nine pupils of the rural school in Siete Pilas, with their PE teacher. **v.m.**

Hundreds could be affected by residency rejections over health insurance dates

Brexpat in Spain is asking for official intervention as some UK applicants are being turned down as their private policy only started after Brexit ended

IVÁN GELIBTER
NEIL HESKETH

MALAGA. A group campaigning for the rights of Britons in Spain after Brexit has called for urgent action from the authorities as "hundreds" of British nationals are set to be rejected as new Spanish residents.

Brexpat in Spain claim there have been misunderstandings over the start dates of applicants' private health policies. The problem is particularly evident in Malaga and Alicante provinces.

The Withdrawal Agreement between the EU and the UK gave favorable conditions to those Britons resident by 31 December last year. As well as being on the local town hall padrón and showing proof of a minimum amount of money to live on, new residents were required to show insurance in Spain that gives protection against ill health at least equivalent to the level of cover of the public health services.

Many needed a private policy

For those either working in Spain or who have a UK State Pension, the right to public healthcare is automatic. Other British residency applicants have had to take out equivalent private insurance policies and it is the start date of those documents that is now causing problems for many.

The terms of the Withdrawal

Agreement say that this healthcare cover needed to be valid from when the British national started living in Spain as a resident.

According to Brexpat in Spain, there could be hundreds of Britons caught out as their private policies were only dated to start from 1 January 2021, once the transition period after Brexit ended, instead of starting on a date up to 31 December 2020.

Although those being rejected on this basis can appeal an immigration official's decision, it is feared that only a rule change can solve the problem, as healthcare insurance companies cannot now backdate policies to comply.

Despite the problem emerging in Malaga and Alicante, Brexpat

in Spain and lawyers acting for Britons caught in the date-trap claim that immigration officials in other provinces, for example Valencia and A Coruña, are accepting private health policies that started on 1 January.

Anne Hernández, spokesperson for Brexpat in Spain, said the inconsistency is "another obstacle" in a complex process made

even more difficult in December due to travel restrictions linked to Covid-19, leaving some applicants trapped in the UK after returning for Christmas visits.

Hernández said she had been in touch with the British Embassy to see if they could find a solution with the Spanish authorities. "If not, many people will have to return [to Britain]," she explained.

An Embassy spokesperson told SUR this week, "All UK nationals who were lawfully resident before 1 January 2021 are able to stay and will be covered by the Withdrawal Agreement. The British Embassy and consular network remain in close touch with the relevant Spanish authorities on the implementation [...] and, in

Despite the Malaga and Alicante problem, other provinces are accepting policies from 1 January



Drug lord 'El Tapi' and his entire gang arrested on the Costa del Sol

Á. F. / J. C.

MALAGA. The Guardia Civil have smashed a major drugs ring operating primarily between Malaga and the Campo de Gibraltar.

The gang's alleged leader, 'El Tapi', is considered one of the leading figures in the world of drug trafficking. At the age of 33, his reputation has been built on the basis of a long criminal record and it is claimed that several gang members acted as his bodyguards.

'El Tapi', plus 45 others were arrested and 8.6 tonnes of hashish, a firearm and half a dozen boats were seized in raids.

GPS tracking devices found on the cars of the Cártama acid attack victims

Guardia Civil officers found the devices which, in their opinion, reveals the fixation of 'El Melillero' towards his ex-partner and her friend

JUAN CANO / ÁLVARO FRÍAS

MALAGA. The victims of the shocking acid attack in Cártama in January had told police they had suspicions that were being watched prior to the incident and now those concerns have been confirmed.

On 13 January, just one day af-

ter the Cártama acid attack, the Guardia Civil examined both Sandra's Mini, in which the two young women were traveling when the incident occurred, and Cristina's work vehicle and on both vehicles they found GPS trackers.

Investigators found identical geolocation devices attached to the underside of the two cars which would have allowed the person who placed them there to know - in real time - the exact location of the vehicles.

Police said that this not only confirms the suspicions of Sandra and Cristina, who felt they were being watched in the days



The car after the attack. SUR

before the attack, but also reveals the level of "fixation" of 'El Melillero' and his intentions.

José Arcadio D.N. has been held in custody for almost two months and is facing attempted murder charges on his ex-girlfriend Sandra and her friend Cristina. He has also made several court appearances in relation to previous cases that he was already wanted in connection with.

particular, the new residence process in Spain."

The Embassy's statement continued, "We are aware that some UK Nationals have had their applications rejected on the basis of not having their policy in place by the end of the Transition Period and are in contact with the Spanish authorities on this issue."

Right of appeal

"Residency decisions are a matter for the Spanish authorities, but any UK National whose application is rejected has the right to appeal the decision following the process set out by the Spanish authorities," it explained.

The Spanish government's office in Malaga was not optimistic about any change and sources told SUR it was unaware of contact from the UK Embassy, adding that rules on healthcare cover were "clear". "[A policy] had to be taken out at the time of joining the padrón municipal census; if that wasn't done, it is not the [Spanish] government's fault, but rather the responsibility of those who didn't read the instructions properly or take good advice," the source said.

112 REPORTS

MIJAS

Man held for hanging a dog from a pergola

Á. F. / J. C. A man was arrested in Mijas after his shocking mistreatment of a Siberian husky was spread on social media.

The Guardia Civil's animal protection branch opened an investigation after the video showed the dog tied by the neck to the top of a pergola with its leash. The lead was tensioned leaving the animal partially suspended, supported by its hind legs. When located, the animal's owner admitted to punishing the dog in this way for having destroyed some plants.

The dog, which didn't have a mandatory ID chip was put up for immediate adoption.

ALHAURÍN DE LA TORRE

Driver clocked at 250km/h on the A-7

Á. F. / J. C. A 24-year-old man has been reported for driving at 250km/h, more than 150 over the 100km/h speed limit, on the A-7 as it passes through Alhaurín de la Torre.

Guardia Civil traffic officers couldn't believe the vehicle's speed as it flashed past their radar check at kilometre 229 of the motorway.

The patrol radioed other Guardia Civil officers and the National Police force who located the vehicle and identified the driver who now faces road safety charges.



The Escencia Animal Álora second-hand shop needs donations. **SUR**

Animal charity to take awareness campaign to schools in Álora

ÁLORA

The volunteer-run association hopes the initiative will instigate a vast improvement in animal respect and welfare

TONY BRYANT

ÁLORA. An Álora-based animal charity has come up with an initiative to educate youngsters about the responsibility of caring for pets in an attempt to address the increasing problem of stray cats and dogs in the town. Founded in July 2020 by animal lover Kamar Goddard, Escencia Animal Álora is a volunteer-run charity that works in conjunction with the town hall. The charity plans to organise a series of awareness campaigns that focus on topics like sterilisation, the effects of abandonment, adoption and parental responsibility. The initiative, which is scheduled to take place later this year, will be taken to all schools in Álora with the aim of educating the younger generation about the responsibilities involved with looking af-

ter their pets.

The town hall is also funding the organisation's sterilisation project and has provided locations and materials to construct ten plastic huts around the town to offer stray cats shelter.

"There is a big problem with abandoned animals in the town, so therefore it seemed necessary to start a new association working with the town hall. We are hoping that with a strong emphasis on education, we can change the mindset and see a real improvement in animal respect and welfare," Kamar explained to SUR in English.

The organisation, which consists of Spanish, French, Tanzanian, German and British volunteers, has a second-hand shop in Álora, for which it is appealing for volunteers and donations. It also needs people who have experience caring for animals that can provide a short-term foster home while awaiting adoption.

"We are not a rescue centre that has space for many animals and we rely totally of foster volunteers. Each volunteer will be assessed to ensure they fully understand the commitment needed to take on animals," Kamar said.

Junta looking into road safety improvements around Ronda

VANESSA MELGAR

RONDA. The Junta de Andalucía is planning to introduce lanes for slow vehicles on the A-397, the road linking Ronda with San Pedro Alcántara, according to the regional government's delegate in Malaga, Patricia Navarro.

Though she didn't specify the size of the investment to come nor the timescale, she explained that the intention is to carry out

other improvements such as widening or reconfiguring the road at certain points to reduce the risk of accidents.

Navarro was more specific about the A-369 road between Ronda and Gaucín. She said around a million euros would be spent on increasing road safety at accident hotspots. Likewise, the Junta is also considering works on the A-372 between Arcos and Ronda, for 279,000 euros.

Finally, Navarro explained that studies were being carried out into the viability of a future dual carriageway between Ronda, Campillos and Malaga, adding that the project to widen the A-357 at Casapalma-Zalea was also being reviewed.

Meeting called between protesters and electricity company over 'destructive' pylons

BENAHAVÍS

J. M. MARTÍN. The town hall in Benahavís has agreed to set up a meeting between a protest group and the electricity company planning to install several new high-tension pylons in the area close to the Montemayor Arabic castle.

Between 50 and 60 people joined a march on Sunday, asking for Red Eléctrica Española, part of the Spanish Public Works Ministry, to reconsider its plans to install several new pylons in an area the group says would entail the destruction of 14,000 square metres of Mediterranean forest.

The platform (No a las Torres de Alta Tensión en el Paraje de Montemayor) is calling for the cables to be placed underground to reduce not only the impact on the local flora and fauna, but also the visual impact.

"It's the most logical thing to do," a spokesperson said.

Caminito del Rey daredevil walkway reopens today and tickets are back on sale

ARDALES

A. JIMÉNEZ. The spectacular Caminito del Rey walkway, suspended 100 metres above a gorge near Ardales, will reopen today, Friday, after several weeks of closure due to the Covid restrictions.

Tickets through until 4 April are now on sale and in the event of a new forced closure because of the pandemic, ticket holders will have the option to change the date of the purchases or ask for a full refund.

At the moment, the opening days will be Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays, with the exception of Easter (29 March – 4 April) when the Caminito will be open every day. Visiting hours will be from 9.30am to 3pm until 28 March, and then extended until 4 pm.

Tickets can be purchased through the official website (<https://reservas.caminitodelrey.info/>) with general admission at 10 euros or with a guided tour in either English and Spanish for 18 euros.



José Ortiz with members of DIMEE in Torremolinos on Monday. **SUR**

New association to combat gender discrimination in the workplace

TORREMOLINOS

T. BRYANT. International Women's Day was marked in Torremolinos with the inauguration of a new association for the integral development of businesswoman and entrepreneurs (DIMEE), a platform that aims to combat gender discrimination in the workplace and support business projects carried out by women in the town.

The initiative, contrived in 2019, is the brainchild of a group

of local business women who saw the need to help female entrepreneurs looking to start their own businesses in Torremolinos. The platform will offer help with the setting up of a business, and advice about social security, tax and training courses, amongst other things.

The launch was attended by DIMEE President Luisa Giráldez, and Mayor of Torremolinos José Ortiz, who pledged his total support for the project.

"In towns where we are looking at models of sustainable and equal development, women must be a fundamental part of the development of a balanced and just society.

"The town hall will offer DIMEE total support," the mayor said.



The theatre needs urgent funds to meet financial obligations. **SUR**

Final drive in campaign for Salón Varietés theatre as fund hits 58 per cent of target

FUENGIROLA

T. B. The Salón Varietés theatre in Fuengirola has announced that its fundraising drive to get the doors back open currently stands at just under 18,000 euros. The campaign, Save Our Salon: keep our theatre alive, began last year, after the theatre fell into financial difficulty caused by restrictions enforced to combat the spread of the coronavirus pandemic. The cam-

campaign target was set at 30,000 euros, the amount needed to keep the building maintained and to meet other financial obligations the theatre has incurred while closed. A spokesperson explained that in order to operate fully, they need to raise around 250,000 euros every year.

The fund has now hit the 58 per cent mark and organisers are hopeful they will raise the full amount. So far, the appeal has received several large donations, including 2,000 euros from FOTA and 1,300 euros raised during a sponsored walk organised by The Arts Society Costa del Sol.

However, the board have pointed out that there is still a long way to go and are asking for people to organise events.

Happy father's day!

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'We need to combine conservation and sustainable development'

Mariló V. Oyonarte President of the Junta Rectora of the Sierras

The new president is "excited" about taking on the role after a decade of walking in the mountains and six years writing about the area

EUGENIO CABEZAS

NERJA. Mariló V. Oyonarte, a piano teacher from Granada currently taking a period of unpaid leave, was named the new president of the Junta Rectora of the Sierras Tejeda, Almijara and Alhama natural park last month.

-What is the Junta Rectora?

-It's a consultative organisation, connected to the sustainable development council of the Junta de Andalucía, the organisation that has managed this protected park since 1999. For around a year the director of the park has been Mariana Orti Moris, a civil servant from Malaga who is very keen to work and is really helping me in the new role. Administrations, organisations and associations that represent the natural park all form part of the Junta. Over the last year everything has pretty much stopped because of the pandemic.

-What does this title mean to you?

-It's an honour. I am very excited. It's a joy and I'm very proud. I have only been hiking in this mountain range for 10 years but I am very attached to it. I go every weekend and this year as I'm on leave, I've been going several times a week.

-What are the main challenges this area faces?

-The main thing is to know how to combine conservation with sustainable development of the mountains, which are shared by municipalities in the Axarquía in Malaga province and Granada province. The Axarquía is more dynamic because it's nearer the sea and it's a lot more touristy. The area around Alhama is also beautiful and there's a lot more



Mariló V. Oyonarte. SUR

water than in other parts. Each of the villages has very different characteristics but what they all have in common is that their populations are falling. We need to promote and support them. We need to preserve the biology, the flora and fauna, but at the same time support the villages and promote sustainable development.

-What are the most attractive things about this natural park?

-There are so many! There are more than 40,000 hectares of incredible landscapes. It's a very wild space, with an enormous wooded areas. But more than these environmental values, I think the most important is the ethnography; the villages and the people that make them. For centuries there have been thousands of routes and paths that have linked the two provinces and these have been the cause of continual cultural and knowledge exchange.

-How is it possible to combine promotion and conservation?

-I think the most important thing is to educate and involve the population in the importance of this space and of its values and that will help a lot. People need to learn that they can't leave rubbish in the mountains, that the paths need to be maintained in order not to lose them. We need to promote the park as an area of sustainable development for the villages and their residents, so that they aren't forgotten. People need to continue to live in the mountains. In order to do this it's important to organise courses, environmental activities, planting and reforestation, especially among young people.

-What do you think needs to be done to stop antisocial behaviour like people who ride motorbikes across the park, or illegal hunters?

-We need to make them comply with the laws, but evidently it is impossible to achieve with just 14 forest guards for the entire natural park, because we're talking about more than 40,000 hectares. We want to set up a volunteer network of the main hiking associations in the area. I think it's a very interesting project and an opportunity to help to raise awareness, to educate about the importance of protecting the whole area.

-How is the Covid pandemic affecting the park?

-The main thing we've noticed is the huge drop in numbers of hikers and day trippers. This can be seen as a good thing to allow the area to breathe and relieve the pressure from areas such as the Chillar river in Nerja. But on the other hand it also means that a lot of the routes are disappearing under growing vegetation. We need a stronger maintenance plan for the routes beyond the 15 that are officially signposted. Fire is one of the biggest risks in the park and we need to avoid large wildfires at all costs.

HERE AND THERE



Nuria Rodríguez (centre) at the Roman bridge on Wednesday. SUR

SALARES

Bridge improvements should attract tourists

E. C. Nuria Rodríguez, the regional government's delegate for tourism, visited Salares on Wednesday to see improvements to the lighting of the village's Roman bridge and signposting of a new circular walk, which her department has financed.

"It is fundamental to continue

to encourage tourism, which is a key sector for our economy, generating wealth and employment," Rodríguez said during her visit.

The new signposts include QR codes for a three-hour circular walk that takes in fig and orange tree orchards as well as parts of the Tejeda, Almijara and Alhama mountain range. The Roman bridge is the start and end point for the walk. Rodríguez said that the walk is "accessible" for all visitors.

VÉLEZ-MÁLAGA

El Ingenio crash - two suffer minor injuries

E. C. Two people escaped with minor injuries when the car they were in hit the roundabout at the entrance to the El Ingenio shopping centre in Vélez-Málaga last Saturday afternoon.

According to witnesses, after hitting the roundabout, the car flipped over and ended up blocking the entrance to the car park. The two injured people were taken to the nearby Axarquía hospital.

NERJA

Town hall calls for new library design proposals

E. C. Nerja town hall is calling for proposals for the design of the town's new library. The deadline for submissions is 5 April.

The winner of the chosen design will be given a budget of 124,225 euros with which to complete the work. The runner up will be awarded 3,000 euros and

NERJA

Nerja beaches get new public facilities

E. C. Nerja town hall has installed a total of seven new public facilities on El Playazo, Chucho, Salón, Calahonda and Maro beaches ahead of the summer season at a cost of 198,440 euros.

According to the town hall, all of the toilets are adapted for people with reduced mobility. They have been fitted with natural ventilation and light and the council says that they improve the image of the town's beaches.

third place will get a 1,500 euro cash award.

The library, which is situated near the Balcón de Europa, has 800 square metres of usable space and the winning design must incorporate space for a children's section, archives, an audiovisual area, a lending service and offices.

The town hall is finalising the purchase of the building from the Docente José del Peso Blanco foundation for 392,626 euros.



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main market brands, both for multiple use and for specific areas of the home from the kitchen to the bathroom or outdoor areas. All presented in an orderly, accessible, easy to reach manner.

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'Political earthquake' as PP and Cs party move apart

The PP leader in Madrid has taken the surprise decision to dissolve the regional assembly to avoid a possible no-confidence vote

SUR

MALAGA. There was "a political earthquake" in Spain this week, as the relationship between the conservative Partido Popular (PP) party and liberal Ciudadanos (Cs) took a turn for the worse.

The PP had been in coalition with Cs in several regional governments, however, on Wednesday, Cs formally broke with its PP coalition in the Murcia region and combined with opposition parties there to table a no-confidence vote in the ruling regional PP.

Both PP and Cs did badly in the recent election in Catalonia. While reports say that the PP's national leader, Pablo Casado, aspired to

merging Cs into his party, and so reuniting the centre-right, the national leader of Cs, Inés Arrimadas, is said to want to distance herself from the PP in an effort to shore up the declining support for her party.

As a result of the announcement of the Murcia no-confidence motion, the president of the Madrid region, the PP's Isabel Díaz Ayuso, fearing her own Cs-supported government was next, immediately dissolved the regional assembly and called elections for 4 May.

Rules say if elections are planned, a no-confidence vote cannot be called. But there was confusion as to whether the call to elections was valid from Ayuso's announcement on Wednesday or the official dissolution of the regional assembly on Thursday.

To be on the safe side, by Wednesday evening, both the Socialist PSOE and the Más Madrid parties had lodged separate no-confidence motions in the PP's



Isabel Ayuso explains her surprise decision to the press on Wednesday. EP

Observers said that the emerging PP and Cs split would force the PP to look more to far-right Vox for support

Madrid leadership, and on Thursday said they would challenge Ayuso's dissolution in court.

Ayuso's vice-president, Ignacio Aguado (Cs), was angry with the regional president's decision

to dissolve the Madrid assembly. He said the decision was "a personal whim, probably pushed for by her entourage".

To add to Wednesday's drama, the Socialist party in the Castilla y León region also presented a no-confidence motion against the PP there, however the PP's coalition with Cs was expected to hold firm.

Observers said that the emerging PP and Cs split would force the PP to look more to far-right Vox for support, despite the PP leader recently trying to distance himself from Vox and its policies.

Andalucía leaders show political unity after nationwide splits

SUR

MALAGA. The coalition regional government of the Junta de Andalucía put on a united front this week after the political storm unleashed by the splits between PP and Ciudadanos in Murcia and Madrid.

The president of the regional government, Juanma Moreno (Partido Popular), and his vice president, Juan Marín (Ciudadanos), appeared together in the courtyard of the Andalusian Parliament to insist that in the face of the major political problem unleashed in the midst of the pandemic, Andalucía will be "an island of stability".

The pair did so despite the fact that Vox, which until now has supported the regional government executive in parliamentary votes, has called for Andalusian elections to be brought forward.

THE EURO ZONE MARK NAYLER

Custody battle



After former Catalan president Carles Puigdemont lost his immunity as a Member of the European Parliament this week, the complex legal battle between Spain and Belgium that began in October 2017 entered another round. And once again, it looks like Belgium will emerge victorious.

In January, Belgian courts rejected an extradition request for Puigdemont's colleague

Lluís Puig, audaciously arguing that Spain's Supreme Court lacked sufficient authority to demand his return. Why would they now make a different decision for Catalonia's ex-president (under whom Puig served as Culture Minister), especially given that they've dismissed all of Spain's previous attempts to bring him home?

Angered by Belgium's decision about Puig, Spain's Supreme Court has asked the

European Court of Justice to publish guidelines on how a new European arrest warrant (EAW) for Puigdemont should be interpreted under EU law. But even if such a document materialises, it's hard to see how it could place Belgium under any legal obligation to return the pro-independence firebrand to his home country (which he would no doubt name as Catalonia first, Spain second).

Ironically, this is because of the EAW, which was introduced to make extradition agreements between EU countries more straightforward. According to the requirement of double-criminality, a court may refuse to extradite someone if they're accused of an offence that is not a crime in the

country to which they've fled. Sedition and rebellion do exist in Belgian law, but they're defined differently; in other words, it's up to a Belgian judge to decide if Puigdemont's actions in Spain in 2017 would have been criminal offences in Belgium. If not, he's staying put.

There is, however, a list of over 30 offences - from arson to trafficking - where the double requirement doesn't apply: if you've committed an offence on this list, you can be extradited even if you're not judged to have committed a crime in your country of exile. It would be easier for Spain to secure Puigdemont's extradition if sedition, rebellion or the misuse of public funds were among these exempted offences, al-

though it would still be up to a Belgian judge to make the final decision. But none of them are, presumably much to the relief of the Catalan's lawyer.

A country can also refuse to hand over a fugitive if they have grounds to suspect that they're being persecuted for their political opinions, or if they doubt that they would receive a fair trial in their home country. Belgium will almost certainly argue that Puigdemont wouldn't be treated with impartiality by Spain's Supreme Court, a body that's already handed nine of his colleagues draconian sentences for the same offences, and that, in any case, the double requirement isn't met. My money's on Belgium winning this round of the legal bout.



Gibraltar hopes to have vaccinated its adult population by end of March

COVID-19

Many restrictions have been lifted and active Covid cases are falling, as the government heads towards completion of Operation Freedom

DEBBIE BARTLETT

GIBRALTAR. By the end of this month the Gibraltar government hopes to have vaccinated its entire population over the age of 16 and all its cross-frontier workers against the Covid-19 coronavirus. This would mean that around 40,000 people have had the vaccine, under the Operation Freedom campaign.

By Wednesday this week 28,932 had received their first dose of the vaccine, and 15,962 had had their second dose.

The vaccines have been arriving in batches from the UK. There have been five so far, delivered to the Rock by the RAF.

Gibraltar has recently begun to ease lockdown restrictions after a considerable drop in Covid-19 cases, and there is a general sense of relief and optimism. Schools have reopened and so have bars and restaurants, and masks are now only compulsory in certain places and circumstances, but Health Minister Samantha Sacramento has warned that people should not let down their guard, even after being vaccinated.



The cistern may date back to the 12th century. SUR

Nun's Well to open to the public following restoration

HERITAGE

D.B. The water cistern at Nun's Well was officially reopened by Heritage Minister Professor John Cortes this week after complicated restoration works. It consists of four barrel-vaulted

chambers supported by 12 pillars, all interconnected by brick arches, and is thought to date back to the 12th century. This is the last phase in the beautification and development of the site that for many years was an abandoned wasteland.

IN BRIEF

TOURISM

Tourist Board to be restructured

D.B. The Gibraltar Tourist Board is to be restructured after current CEO Nicky Guerrero retires later this year. The new CEO will be based in London to concentrate on Gibraltar's largest target market and maximise established relationships within the industry.

ENVIRONMENT

Ship's captain successfully prosecuted

D.B. The captain of the AM Ghent has been prosecuted for the oil spill which occurred off Gibraltar last month. In addition to a £20,000 fine, the ship's owner has had to pay a £1.5 million pound security bond to cover clean-up expenses.

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Investment funds showing major interest in buying hotels on the Costa

Most of these investors are looking for four and five-star establishments in luxury tourist resorts, at prices of around 40 million euros

PILAR MARTÍNEZ



MALAGA. The pandemic has taken its toll on tourism on the Costa del Sol, pushing to the limit the resilience of well-established companies and businesses which were extremely profitable before this crisis. This combination is proving attractive for investors who - convinced that things will improve, the destination has a great future and the tourists will return - are expressing an interest in owning a hotel in the area.

There are enquiries on a daily basis, and the greatest demand is for four or five star hotels in the best locations, such as front-line to the beach, with excellent facilities which can be adapted to meet the new demands of travellers, who are expected to want more personalised attention after the Covid-19 crisis.

The president of the Costa del Sol hotel association, Aehcos,



The empty beaches last year have not discouraged investors. NITO SALAS

Luis Callejón Suñé, confirms that investment funds are showing a high level of interest in hotels in the province. "We're receiving requests every day from very different groups who want to know what options there are on the market. It almost feels like a persecution, it's quite overwhelming," he says. Before the pandemic, Aehcos would have considered it rare to receive three or four requests of this type a week.

Consultancy firms say some major property transactions are already well under way, includ-

ing the purchase of five star hotels at a cost of around 40 million euros.

For sale

This coincides with a large number of advertisements for hotels for sale, not only in eminently tourist areas but also some in small rural villages which were already suffering from an increase in competition and have not been able to survive the crisis. The adverts include 50 or 60-room hotels in Fuengirola, Marbella and Torremolinos for

prices ranging from 6.9 to 10 million euros, and others from intermediaries who say they have a list of larger hotels available in resorts along the coast.

Carlos Ramallo, director of the Ramallo Abogados law firm, which specialises in investments, says the Costa del Sol is very popular. "There is a lot of interest in the coast and Malaga city, and there are many investors from very different countries," he says. However, the traditional fixed-rent hotel model on the Costa del Sol will undoubtedly change following the pandemic, and in some cases it is not proving easy to end the contracts with former operators.

Ramallo also says that some investment funds are looking for tourist apartments with few facilities because they plan to equip them with new technology. "There is a great deal of movement in the market," he says.

Nor should the luxury property market in Malaga be forgotten, as experts say transactions worth nearly ten million euros have been completed in the past month. The climate of the Costa del Sol is a determining factor for Europeans with high spending power who, after a year of pandemic and restrictions, have decided to invest their savings in the villas of their dreams in order to enjoy life there in the future.

Spain's national tourist board signals the return of German holidaymakers from May

PILAR MARTÍNEZ

MALAGA. There are green shoots of recovery starting to appear in Spain's tourism sector in the form of reservations for accommodation this summer.

At the moment there is more interest from the British market than the German, where until a few days ago Spain was part of the black list of destinations where it was prohibited to travel to.

However, in the run-up to the Berlin International Tourism Exchange (ITB) - which is being held virtually this year - the director of Spain's national tourist board (Turespaña), Miguel Sanz, has suggested that between May and June German tourists will start returning and by July and August 50 per cent of the figures reached in 2019 will be reached.

Sanz believes that from autumn there will be an almost total recovery in demand. But he warned, "we have to make international travel desirable again," and encouraged "all Spanish destinations and companies to make a joint effort to promote that travelling is safe and travelling to Spain is safer."

Turespaña has pointed out that "the expenditure of German tourism in 2020 on trips to Spain was 22.5 per cent compared to the previous year and the number of tourists we received was 22.6 per cent compared to 2019" and has insisted that "the forecast for the summer season 2021 is more favourable and will have continued positive growth once the market in Germany re-opens."

A report by Reise Analyze said that "the German desire to travel remains at a high level despite the Covid". However, it warned that reservations are also not expected to be made overnight. "German travellers remain curious and flexible, experienced, demanding and multi-optional, with a high demand for information and greater use of non-tourist sources," the report added.

Reise Analyze: "German travellers remain cautious, flexible and experienced"

The olive industry hopes to recover its American market now that tariffs have been suspended

Biden has calmed the trade war with the European Union and the agri-food sector is looking forward to increasing its exports

MATÍAS STUBER

MALAGA. The news came unexpectedly, late on Friday. A phone conversation between the president of the European Commission, Ursula von der Leyen, and the new president of the United States, Joe Biden, signified an end to the trade war in which both sides had been involved since October 2019, when Donald Trump decided to impose a 25% tariff on certain imports from Europe as a form of punish-

ment. This included olive oil which was bottled in Spain, olives, cheese and wine. It was a devastating blow. Now, with the tariffs provisionally removed for four months, a symbol of a new beginning in trade relations between the EU and USA, there is hope that the Malaga olive industry will be able to recuperate this lost market as soon as possible.

"A 25 per cent tariff was unsustainable, for the oil and the olives. We were practically removed from the market," says Esteban Carneros, director of corporate relations at the DCOOP cooperative.

DCOOP was able to avoid this tariff itself because it has bottling plants in the EU, but said at the time that the move was unfair. Carneros says this latest move was unexpected, because Biden was



The olive harvest. ÓSCAR CHAMORRO

expected to maintain the measure imposed by his predecessor. "It is a significant advance. Now we're all hoping the tariffs will be abolished permanently, but anyway this is a new opportunity," says Carneros.

The gesture has also been welcomed with open arms by small producers. Perfecto Matas, who runs Hacienda de Colchado, a 400-hectare estate in Cartaojal (Antequera), is an example. After launching his premium brand olive oil under the Legado label, he managed to get the first bottles on the shelves of American supermarkets in 2016. It costs a lot to open doors in the USA. Just as he began to see a profit, the tariffs were applied and he had to withdraw from the American market. Now he plans to return. "I already have the contacts," he says. "The quality of the product was never in doubt and now the price will be competitive again".

The US is the tenth highest consumer of olive oil in the world, and the trend is rising. In 2020, for the first time, consumption crossed the barrier of 400,000 tonnes.



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LETTERS
TO THE EDITOR

Passport control

Under the 90-day rule, all UK arrivals, other than Spanish residents and foreign residents, will need to be monitored and checked by Spanish passport control.

Presumably this will be an upgraded computer system to negate the need for the latter to carry a passport the size of a bible to facilitate stamping.

I can see thousands of expat home owners in Spain relocating to other countries where these restrictions are not in place as your analyst Iván Gelibter has already stated.

Obviously short-term tourism will be virtually unaffected, but PCR and Covid vaccination certificates will compound the problem and huge delays at Spanish passport control can be expected. **BRIAN JOHNSTON**

Pets and children

With regard to the final part of the article about twice as many pets as children (March 5th to 11th 2021), I feel myself obligated to rebate Paco Camino bullfighter who somehow claims that if you treat your old people badly it's probably because you treat your dog as a human.

More disgusting is, in my opinion, the Andalusian Hunting Federation, that seems to justify the use of dogs like tools for hunting, because dogs are happier this way (as tools) than living placidly curled up under a table

(assuming his owner doesn't ever go for a wonderful walk).

JORGE CASESNOVES GRANADO

Of roadways,
sidewalks and things

One reads about laws and fines for scooting and cycling on sidewalks and in pedestrianised areas but nobody seems to be implementing any form of control in San Pedro. Also the amount of dog mess on the sidewalks gets worse by the day. Do the powers that be really mean what they are saying?

JEAN BORGSTROM

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THE MUSIC MAKER
PETER EDGERTON

www.e-peter.com

Rust never sleeps

From time to time, it's great to have a good old clear out. Rifling through boxes that haven't been opened since about 1346 and throwing loads of superfluous stuff away is always eminently cathartic. If you're lucky, you might even work up a real head of steam and purge decades worth of bric-a-brac in a few hours, leaving you to lie back and bask in the warm glow of a job well done at the end of the day.

Unfortunately, that scenario is very much the exception. What normally happens is that you get distracted by everything and anything and end up whiling the hours away reading old football programmes and playing with a Slinky which your auntie bought you when you were little, even though you lived in a bungalow. (How childhood toys from the north of Liv-

erpool ended up in Malaga is anyone's guess, but I've come across quite a few).

Anyway, in one box full of old percussion instruments, I found what can only be described as a potential fortune. Nestling in there, hidden among the rusty tambourines and the mouldy shakers, I discovered some very old premium bonds. Now, for anyone under the age of a hundred and twenty three, these were a sort of national lottery thing, whereby you bought a bond - or, more commonly your grandma bought one for you - and crossed your fingers that you'd soon get a letter flopping onto your door mat telling you you were a millionaire, even though you were only six. Apparently, all these decades later, these premium bonds are still valid and have been entered into a national UK draw every

week or month or something ever since. Even better, no-one in our family has lived at the address they correspond to for aeons. In a nutshell, then, I might currently be the richest man in the world. My sister will be investigating further because, frankly, I can't stand the tension.

Meanwhile, I'll keep on with the clearing out; at the rate I'm going it should be all done, if not necessarily dusted, by July - 2024. It's actually a very enjoyable pastime and when I've finished writing this, I'll get back to opening a few more boxes in order to continue investigating the endless treasures within.

Oh alright, let's be honest, it's much more likely I'll get distracted, laying down a few funky grooves on a rusty tambourine. It's what millionaires do.

IDÍGORAS



SUR in English

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THE BOTTOM LINE
IVÁN GELIBTER

Save the Queen

If I'd been born in England, I would be one of those who wave the British flag with great conviction at each and every one of the Queen's jubilees.

I say this in jest, but I have to admit that this lady inspires a certain admira-

tion in me.

It's not easy to reach 69 years on the throne in a world dominated by men and surrounded by useless people like her son, and still be there to tell the tale.

Whether parliamentary monarchies

work better or worse, for me I think it's an anachronism to have heads of state inherited from father to son. Of course, if you're going to have a blue-blooded family, you should always go for professionals like the Windsors, experts in understanding their own. Just a day after Harry and Meghan told the world what a royal household is all about by pretending to be surprised, Buckingham Palace responded by showing its "concern" at the statements of the Duke and Duchess of Sussex, whose - in many cases obvious - assertions of what royalty is all about were well worth seven million dollars.

Well, what a difference, eh? Without taking away the seriousness of the fact that someone might find the skin colour

of a royal great-grandson a problem, I find it surprising the hype given by a large part of Spanish society to everything that happens in that family, while in our country nothing happens when the King Emeritus is in the Middle East while he gets his relationship with the taxman in order, Urdangarín goes in and out of prison and the Infantas Elena and Cristina trip and fall over the Chinese vaccine (how ironic) against Covid.

The Windsors make me envious. Or rather, Elizabeth II, whom neither Harry nor Meghan have criticised in the slightest. They save the Queen, because the Queen - though cold and calculating - is a professional at what she does.

Let them learn.

The Thyssen Museum in Malaga opens up to contemporary art

The Transdisciplina A/V collective has created a visual and sound installation from four emblematic works from the museum's collection

ANTONIO JAVIER LÓPEZ

MALAGA. If you have 17 minutes free and want to enjoy something rather unusual, very lovely and completely free of charge, head for the Sala Noble in the Carmen Thyssen Museum in Malaga. Once there, in the darkness, try to blank your mind and keep your eyes open. On the bare walls images will start to appear, sounds will come from somewhere and the final result will bring a moment of ultimate comfort. Because just as the health crisis is starting to have such a social, economic and cultural impact, the museum is offering something very special from the Transdisciplina A/V collective: a sound and visual installation called Emblemas, which its creators describe as an "immersive experience".

It may seem strange for a museum which specialises in 19th and 20th-century works to host something so contemporary, but Emblemas is based on four paradigmatic works from the Thyssen's own collection: Julia, by Ramón Casas; Santa Marina, by Zurbarán; La Buenaventura, by Julio Romero de Torres; and El Patio de la Casa de Sorolla, by Joaquín Sorolla.

From the portrait of Julia come 84 other pictures of women, from María Zambrano to Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie, blending into one another as you watch; from Sorolla's landscape, the elements are deconstructed and transformed into undulations flirting with abstraction; 'Santa Marina' becomes a powerful visible reconstruction of the life of this

martyr, and Romero de Torres' La Buenaventura' becomes a soundtrack.

This very special experience can be enjoyed until 9 April.



The immersive installation 'Emblemas' at the Thyssen Museum is free of charge. FRANCISCO HINOJOSA

THE INSTALLATION

► **Title.** 'Emblemas'.

► **Artists.** The Transdisciplina A/V collective, comprising Azael Ferrer, Chinowski Gara-chana and Alejandro Lévar.

► **Where.** Sala Noble of the Carmen Thyssen Museum, C/ Compañía, 10, Malaga

► **When.** Until 9 April.

► **Opening hours.** Tuesdays to Sundays, 10am to 8pm

► **Entry.** There is no charge to see the installation.

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MARIPOSA ENERGÍA



SOLAR PANELS EXPLAINED

MARBELLA

Sur. Despite Spain's sunny climate, which lends itself so well to the production of solar energy, businesses and homeowners historically have not been able to take advantage of this green and highly economical energy source.

The infamous 'sun tax' and the mounds of paperwork and legislation around solar panels had previously made it a prohibitive option.

But now all that has changed. The abolition of the sun tax and the simplified process means businesses and householders can now take advantage of the 300 days of sun per year and generate their own solar energy.

Mariposa Energía's Martin Tye explains the process of installing and using solar panels, along with the many benefits of generating your own electricity.

Installing and using solar pan-

els is actually a very simple and straightforward process. As long as you own your own roof you can benefit from this cheaper, greener source of energy.

We start off with a satellite survey of your roof. Our satellite technology is so accurate it can take the measurements of the roof without the need for anyone to actually visit your property.

From there the solar panels installation is designed and produced and the entire installation process is carried out by our team.

We also handle all the registration paperwork on your behalf and take care of any maintenance work, although you will find that the panels hardly need any maintenance at all.

All our installations come with a 20-year fully comprehensive guarantee, giving you peace of mind that your investment will

stand the test of time. We also offer low-cost financing options to help you spread the cost of the solar panels.

As soon as the panels are up and running you will see your energy bill dramatically drop and if you produce more energy than you consume you will even get paid for the surplus you supply to the National Grid.

Solar panels allow you to really take control of your own energy generation, allowing you to make substantial cost savings over the long term. And, of course, you'll be helping to save the future of our planet. Solar energy is completely renewable. As long as the sun continues to shine there will always be a source of this energy. And with more than 300 days of sun per year, Spain really is the perfect place to generate your own solar energy.

SWITCHING TO GREEN ENERGY: HOW DOES IT WORK?

MARBELLA

Sur. If you want to help save the future of the planet, and save money at the same time, switching to a green energy provider is a great step to take. But what is actually involved in changing to green energy? Martin Tye, CEO of green energy broker, Mariposa Energía explains the process.

Switching energy supplier is literally as easy as flicking a switch. If you are not familiar with changing energy suppliers then you may be thinking that you will need workmen out to your property, laying new cables and installing new equipment etc. But that's simply not the case. When you choose to switch to a green energy supplier, all that happens is that the new green energy is sent down exactly the same cables to you. There is no need for any work to be done, you continue using the same electricity

boxes and equipment and there is no need for anyone to come out to your home at all.

We have been helping businesses and consumers across Spain to go green and to save money for more than a year now. The switch is so seamless, they only notice it has occurred when they start to receive cheaper energy bills.

When you switch with Mariposa Energía all the energy supplied is certified as 100% green, coming exclusively from Spanish windfarms. This source of energy is completely renewable, meaning it will never run out and it is also cleaner energy. It does not produce harmful emissions that cause greenhouse gases like fossil fuels do.

It is a great way to do your bit to save the planet but it also saves your wallet too. Our customers are saving up to 35% on their energy bills with our cheaper tariffs, so it's



a win-win situation.

When a consumer is considering switching energy supplier we always take a copy of a recent energy bill, analyse it and then calculate the amount they will save when they switch with us. This way our customers always know they are going to save money before they decide to make the switch.

The analysis of the bill is completely free and without obligation and the switch is also completely free. We believe switching to cheaper, greener electricity really is a no brainer.



The future is green for Spain

In a bid to combat global warming Spain's government has set some ambitious environmental targets which, if approved by parliament, will cut carbon emissions to net zero by 2050.

Among the measures proposed to meet these aims, diesel vehicles will be phased out by 2050, fracking will be forbidden and there will be a greater reliance on green energy sources. Already, around 44% of the country's electricity generation comes from renewable sources, according to Statista.com and the consumption of renewable energy has saved the equivalent of 16 million tons of oil.

But more needs to be done if

Spain is to reach its targets. The opening up of the electricity market, has allowed consumers to shop around for electricity providers, paving the way for green energy companies to be able offer cheaper energy tariffs, coming completely from renewable sources.

And the removal of the infamous 'sun tax' and cumbersome paperwork that previously made solar energy a prohibitive option, now means that more and more consumers can elect to install solar panels on their roofs and generate their own clean, renewable energy. Both of these initiatives empower consumers to be able to do their bit to help protect the future of the planet and reduce the reliance on fossil fuels, which are fast running out. There can also be huge cost saving benefits associated with going green.



Meet the Mariposa Energía team

Launched more than one year ago in San Pedro de Alcántara, Mariposa Energía are a team on a mission: to save people money and to help save the future of our planet. The green energy broker guarantees to help businesses and consumers alike to save money with their cheaper, greener electricity tariffs. And with their more recent addition of solar panels to the green energy mix, consumers can now generate their own electricity and even get paid if they produce more energy than they use.

The company believes in offering first class customer service, which is why every client has their own local point of contact. No more dealing with faceless call centres. They also believe that electricity bills should be easy to understand, which is why theirs are designed to be clear and simple. And, of course, as a green company, all their bills are provided electronically by email.

MORE INFORMATION

To find out more about Mariposa Energía
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When the first lockdown in March last year was announced and Robert Lawson had to all but give up teaching English in Malaga, he turned to his lifelong passion of music to help get him through.

However, not satisfied with just picking up the instruments - namely the guitar, drums and mandolin that he already had at home in Riogordo - he set about making new ones.

The musician admits that he had "never made an instrument before" and in fact woodwork was not a subject he excelled at as a schoolboy. "I think it took me about a year to make a tea tray for my mum at school," he confesses.

Unperturbed by his early failures, Robert started experimenting with bits of wood he had lying around the house and he started to produce prototypes of dulcimers.

Inspired by little-known, yet "mythological" Irish musician Michael O'Shea, who he first stumbled upon in the late 1980s in the UK, Robert set about making his very own instruments.

According to Robert, O'Shea made a sitar-style instrument with a wooden door he had found in a skip while travelling through Germany. He went on to appear on Irish television and record an album of improvised music with his homemade instrument, which he christened Mo Chara - meaning 'my friend' in Irish.

Robert, 52, says he has now made around 12 dulcimer or zither-style instruments of varying sizes. In terms of criteria, he says, "I wanted them to be smallish and portable but able to be played." All of the instruments are made out of wood and are of "simple, cheap construction".

Piano tuners

By a stroke of luck, Robert's Dutch friend Corne, who has a piano restoration business up the road from Riogordo in Colmenar, offered Robert the use of his workshop as well as some professional



Robert Lawson playing one of his instruments. LAWSON

The art of improvisation in lockdown

Music. When Robert Lawson's English classes ground to a halt last March he rediscovered his improvised music roots and taught himself how to make wooden instruments

JENNIE RHODES



tips and piano tuners, which helped to "finesse" Robert's efforts. "Piano tuners are very hard to come by, unless you happen to have a friend who restores pianos," Robert laughs.

Some of the creations have names, including 'Big Blue' whose name speaks for itself - and Bra-

zilian - due to the green flag-shape in the middle.

Robert has also been busy recording the music he makes on his instruments and as it's improvised, he says that some of the tracks include sounds of his cats meowing or dog barking in the background.



▲ Robert Lawson emulates the only known photo of his hero, Michael O'Shea, for his Bandcamp webpage as a tribute.

He uploads them onto a page he has on a website called Bandcamp, which is an online platform where artists can create their own online store to promote and sell their music.

Last month Robert contacted BBC radio 6 presenter Stuart Maconie and was amazed when one

of Maconie's assistants replied. "It all happened really quickly," Robert explains.

The presenter was interested in playing one of Robert's tracks on his radio show, Freak Zone, which showcases underground and experimental music.

His moment of fame came on Sunday 28 February. "It's like a door you've been knocking at for years suddenly opens," Robert explains. Since then the musician says that he has already been contacted by other radio stations as far afield as the USA and Australia.

Although his English classes are beginning to pick up again, Robert has plans to continue with the improvised music scene and the instruments. He says he'd like to start workshops, especially with children. "Improvised music works better when people don't come along with the baggage of what music should sound like," he explains. "So that is why doing workshops with children is ideal."

Robert is no stranger to improvised music, having got into it in his late teens, when he was asked by a teacher to accompany a dance therapist who was working with a group of people with special educational needs. "It was the perfect place to do it. None of the participants were at all judgmental," Robert explains.

Fast forward a few years and Robert is the founder of the Riogordo improvised music festival, which has been taking place very year for about eight years. Robert hopes to play some of his new instruments when the festival can get going again.

Robert jokes that while making and recording the instruments has kept him busy over the last year, it may also have been his answer to "a mid-life crisis." Some people, he says, "buy big motorbikes, so at least this is a lot safer," he adds, laughing.

i Further information: : www.robertlawson1.bandcamp.com

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

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

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Stars shine virtually for Spain's Goya film academy awards in Malaga

The ceremony and number of guests in person were scaled down because of the pandemic and the cinema award recipients gave their winners' speeches via video links from the comfort of their homes

FRANCISCO GRIÑAN / ANTONIO JAVIER LÓPEZ

MALAGA. The ongoing coronavirus pandemic forced major changes to Spain's annual film academy awards in Malaga on Saturday.

Only around 30 guests walked the red carpet to join the host Antonio Banderas and co-presenter María Casado in person for the 35th edition of the Goyas that took place in the Malaga actor's Teatro del Soho Caixabank.

In his opening speech Banderas, the director of the gala, referenced the difficult year that the film industry had faced with many cinemas closed to the public due to the pandemic. But he recalled that the awards cere-

mony was being held in what was the first cinema in Malaga – the Pacualini – in a building that was destroyed by a bomb but was later reborn as a theatre and cinema.

"This little story contains a metaphor that can give us a very simple key to face life: fall and get up," said Banderas.

Banderas wasn't the only 'malagueño' to appear on the red carpet - María Barranco and Belén Cuesta also attended.

Others who also made an appearance in person in Malaga were director Pedro Almodóvar, actress Penélope Cruz and actor Antonio de la Torre (also from Malaga) who were among those announcing nominees – who were sitting in the comfort of their own homes and connected to Malaga virtually.

The only recipient there in the flesh to collect her Honorary Goya award was actress Ángela Molina.

Despite the complexity of the telematic ceremony it went at great speed and with few technical glitches. It ended on time - something that has never been seen before - and was probably the shortest gala of the last decade.

Akelarre (Coven) won the most Goya 2021 awards, with five. Las Niñas (Schoolgirls) won Best Film, as well as Best Original Screenplay, Best New Director, and Best Cinematography. Adú also won four awards, most notably Best Director and Best New Actor.

Despite the complexity of the virtual ceremony, it went at great speed and with few technical hitches



Malaga's Antonio Banderas co-hosted the gala from his Soho Caixabank theatre. sur



Ángela Molina. A. C

THE WINNERS

- Best film**
'Las niñas'.
- Best director**
Salvador Calvo - Adú.
- Best new director**
Pilar Palomero - Las niñas.
- Best actress**
Patricia López Arnáiz - Ane.
- Best actor**
Mario Casas - No matarás.
- Best supporting actor**
Alberto Sanjuan - Sentimental.
- Best supporting actress**
Nathalie Poza - La boda de Rosa.
- Best new actress**
Jone Laspiur - Ane.
- Best new actor**
Adam Nourou - Adú.
- Best adapted screenplay**
Marina Parés and David Pérez Sañudo for Ane.
- Best original screenplay**

- Pilar Palomero for Las niñas.
- Best Spanish language film**
El Olvido que Seremos (Colombia).
- Best European film**
The Father.
- Best animated film**
La gallina Turuleca.
- Best documentary**
El año del descubrimiento.
- Best editing**
El Año del Descubrimiento – Sergio Jiménez.
- Best art direction**
Akelarre – Mikel Serrano.
- Best special effects**
Akelarre – Mariano García Marty and Ana Rubio.
- Best costume design**
Akelarre – Nerea Torrijos.
- Best make-up and hair**
Akelarre – Beata Wotjowicz and Ricardo Molina.

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DENISE BUSH

GARDENING

Spanish lime

Although commonly called the Spanish lime, *Melicoccus bijugatus* is not a member of the citrus family. Its edible fruit does however have a slightly citrusy taste described as 'a cross between a lychee and a lime.' Other common names for this tree native to South America include Mamón, limoncillo, Quenepa tree and Guinep.

The Spanish lime is a very ornamental evergreen tree,

ideal for providing shade. It can grow up to 25 metres tall and live for fifty years in perfect conditions. However pruning while it is dormant in the winter will keep it more compact.

It keeps its leaves all year round although there maybe some shedding each year as it creates new growth in spring. The leaves are arranged in

groups of four elliptical leaflets and the small, greenish-white flowers, which form in bunches at the ends of the branches, have a sweet scent.

Most *Melicoccus bijugatus* trees are dioecious (you need male and female plants to get fruit) but some are autogamous (self pollinating). Look out for the varieties Montgomery and Queen, they both are self pollinating.

The fruits are green, spherical drupes containing one or sometimes two seeds. The seeds are large and have a slimy coating; they can pose a potential choking hazard for young children. The skin of the fruit stays green, even when ripe, and becomes hard and brittle. The flesh around the central nut is orange or yellowish and can stain clothing (it was once used to make a yellow dye).

The whitish nut is also edible and indigenous people roasted and ground it as an alternative to cassava flour. It was also made into a drink to get rid of internal parasites. The fruit is sold canned in syrup and also made into drinks and alcoholic beverages. It is said to be a mild laxative and is rich in iron and phosphorous.

Propagation is best from cuttings as the seed may not come true to the parent plant.

The Spanish lime needs free-draining soil and regular watering during the summer. It is not drought or frost resistant.



Melicoccus bijugatus in flower and fruit (inset). FLICKR / WIKIMEDIA

READERS' PHOTOS



NATALIA GOLUBEVA

Glowing mimosa

Reader Natalia Golubeva sent in this photo and says, "I can't help but gaze in awe at these gorgeous mimosas from my balcony even in the gloomy days."



EIJA KOVANEN

Swan neck agave

These bizarre looking plants are *Agave attenuatas*, commonly called for rather obvious reasons, swan neck agave. The photo was sent in by Eija Kovanen who spotted them on Bulevar Carvajal in Fuengirola.

PHOTOS

Calling all gardeners

We know many of our readers have lovely gardens, or enjoy growing plants on their terraces or balconies and some like to take photos of plants they see when out and about. Why not share them with others? Email

your photos to english@diariosur.es or send them to SUR in English, Avda Dr Merañón 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](https://twitter.com/SUR_English)).



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WHAT HAPPENED TODAY?

12 MARCH 2020

The day Covid-19 started to affect life in Spain

Announcements were made that schools and universities were to suspend classes and cultural and sports centres would close to the public for two weeks

Thursday 12 March 2020 will go down in history as the day coronavirus really started to take hold in Spain.

The Spanish stock exchange, the Bolsa, or Ibex-35, fell by 14.06 per cent - the biggest drop in one day in its almost 200-year history (it was founded in 1831) - and to its lowest level since 2012 when Spain was deep in the financial crisis.

On the same day prime minister Pedro Sánchez

recommended that all educational centres, from nurseries to universities, should suspend classes for two weeks.

The PM called for “unity, responsibility and social discipline” to tackle the spread of the virus. Sánchez announced a 3.8-billion-euro investment into the public health service to help combat the virus.

In line with the national government’s recommendations and indeed all other autonomous regions, leader of the Andalusian government Juanma Moreno also announced on 12 March that all educational centres would close from the following Monday, giving he said, “families time to organise themselves and for students to continue their learning online from Monday”.

It was also announced that



Pedro Sánchez calls for social discipline during a speech on 12 March. EFE

museums, theatres and other cultural and sports centres were also to be closed to the public as of Monday 16 March.

By 12 March, there were 3,004 reported cases of Covid-19 in the country, of which 154 were in Andalucía. Malaga province was witnessing the highest number of cases, with 97 - in other

words 61.4 per cent of the Andalusian total. Across Spain, the virus, which had been declared a pandemic by the World Health Organization (WHO) on 11 March, had claimed 34 lives.

Malaga’s regional hospital (Carlos Haya) announced on 12 March that it would be postponing all non-urgent operations in

order to free up beds and had set up a special area to deal only with Covid-19 patients.

Health professionals warned of severe shortages of “adequate resources” such as FFP2 masks and hand sanitiser. They said that demand far outweighed the current reserves.

i Bilingual crossword inside back page

LANGUAGE FOOTNOTE

Colegio	School
Universidad	University
Guardería	Nursery school
Enfermedad	Illness
Contagio	Infection
Responsabilidad	Responsibility
Inversión	Investment
Pandemia	Pandemic
Fallecimiento	Death
Mascarilla	Face mask
Riesgo	Risk
Médico	Doctor
Enfermero	Nurse
Enfermo	Patient
Urgencia	Emergency
Fiebre	Fever
Tos	Cough
Cansancia	Tiredness

ANDALUSIAN BIRD WATCH PETER JONES

European Bee Eater

The Andalucía Bird Society recommends looking out for the Merops apiaster this month

Among the most looked forward to and most colourful heralds of spring is our Bee Eater; they brighten the season with their bubbling calls as they announce their arrival from Africa to the shores of southern Spain, usually arriving in numbers by the end of March or early April. Migration can be a protracted affair lasting several weeks with northern birds arriving later and thus extending passage periods that can go on well into May. Large flocks can often be seen feeding during leisurely daytime migration, while night migrants take a more direct and urgent route northwards.

The arrival of our breeding birds is staggered with the earliest birds favouring lowland areas, while high altitudes see birds arriving much later in April and even as late as early May. The habitat for breeding colonies is diverse;



European Bee Eater. PETER JONES

we can find them in river valleys, cultivated areas with some trees, orchards, rice fields and even around cereal crops. The size of colony can also vary enormously; on my patch in the Serranía de Ronda I have colonies ranging from two or three pairs to in excess of 20.

The European Bee Eater,

also known as Golden Bee Eater, is strikingly beautiful and both their flight and sounds add further to the appeal they have for bird lovers. I hope you get as much pleasure seeing these colourful visitors as I will during this spring and summer.

i www.andaluciabirdsociety.org

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EXHIBITIONS

Mesopotamian art

ESTEPONA. Museo Arqueológico Municipal. Temporarily closed. The exhibition at the archaeology museum consists of various pieces from different periods in the history of ancient Mesopotamia. The collection is owned by Estepona resident and French architect, Jacques Cavro.

Exposicion de Taller de Grabado

MARBELLA. Until 10 April. El Museo del Grabado Español Contemporáneo. The exhibition includes art work from around thirty students and displays different techniques such as Mokulito and the use of a baren (a tool used in Japanese printing.)



IJ García, Mijas.

IJ García

MIJAS. Until 22 March. Centro Cultural La Cala.

Abstract artist IJ García has been influenced in his art by his travels and his life. The intense characteristics of the colours he uses represent nature.

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

Creadores de Conciencia

MALAGA. Until 19 March. Salas Minorance, 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.

Arte y Salud

NERJA. Permanent exhibition. Lower floor of the Hospital Comarcal de la Axarquía.

The ground floor of the hospital is exhibiting works by members of the day centre of the Fundación Pública Andaluza para la Integración Social de Personas con Enfermedad Mental

Talking 'utter rubbish' in a bid to save the Salón Varietés theatre

TONY BRYANT

FUENGIROLA. The Salón Varietés theatre in Fuengirola will present a one-man show based on the life of director and actor Colin Pollard - one of the driving forces behind the Costa's only English-language theatre.

The show, entitled Utter Rubbish - A Nobody's Hilarious Journey Through an Unbelievable Life, focuses on the fascinating experiences of the 84-year-old entertainer's time in showbiz and will include anecdotes and amusing stories from his soon-to-be-published memoirs.

Born in London and raised in Yorkshire, Colin first set foot on stage at the age of four and he is still active on the local amateur theatre scene today. Arriving in Fuengirola in 2011, Colin became involved with the



Colin on stage during a previous performance in Fuengirola. SUR

Salón Varietés and has since appeared in more than 40 of the theatre's productions.

The show, organised as part of the theatre's current fundraising initiative, will be held on Saturday 20 March and pre-registration is required.

Entry to the show is by donation and those wishing to register should send an e-mail to fundraising@salon-varietes.com

Masks must be worn in the theatre and capacity restrictions will apply.

(FAISEM).

Being With Trees

GIBRALTAR. Until 13 March. Gustavo Bacarizas 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.

Ana Mary García Rodríguez

UBRIQUE. Until 4 April. Centro de Interpretación de la Historia de Ubrique 'San Juan de Letrán'.

A selection of art work by Ana Mary García Rodríguez.

LIVE CONCERTS AND MUSIC

OFM Chamber Music concerts

MALAGA. Auditorio del Museo Picasso de Málaga.

28 March, 12pm. Harmoniemusik play music by Mozart and Soler.

6 April, 8pm. La Spagna.

Tickets: www.museopicasso-malaga.org

Malaga Philharmonic Orchestra

MALAGA. Auditorio Edgar Neville, Teatro Echegaray or Cervantes.

18, 19 March, 8pm. Tchaikovsky's piano concerto Nº 1. with pianist Nicolai Demidenko. Teatro Cervantes. Tickets: entradas.mientrada.net

Las Poderío Varieté Trío

MALAGA. 13 March, 12pm. La Cochera cabaret, Avda de los Guindos. A fusion of flamenco, theatre and music filled with humour with Blasa Sáez, Alba Olmedo and Marikilla Muñoz. Tickets: www.lacocheraentradas.com



Arte y Salud, Hospital Axarquía.

Easy Rider

MALAGA. 13 March, 7.30pm. La Cochera cabaret, Avda de los Guindos.

Vocalist Dess Diaz (Perversión) and drummer José Roldán (Nocturnia, Kabalah, Padre Cuervo), have joined with founding members of the band, the guitarists Javier Villanueva and Daniel Castellanos and bass player Jose Villanueva. Tickets: www.lacocheraentradas.com

The European Sinfonietta

GIBRALTAR. 14 March, 7pm. On TV and online.

A concert by the European Sinfonietta will be televised on the Music Box channel and also shown on the Gibraltar Cultural Services Facebook page. The orchestra will be conducted by Karel Mark Chichon OBE GMH.

The Hall

MALAGA. 27 March, 7pm. Calle Heroe de Sostoa, 65. 10€. The Ana Cisneros Quartet will be in concert.

Alice Wonder

MALAGA. 27 March, 4pm. La Cochera

cabaret, Avda de los Guindos.

Young singer Alice Wonder is continuing her Firekid Tour which she started in 2018.

THEATRE AND DANCE

Theatrical March

TORREMOLINOS. Until 27 March. Auditorio Municipal.

Torremolinos are holding a month of theatre with four plays, each 6€ entry fee. The plays are in Spanish and tickets are available online: <http://latiendadelasentradas.com/> or by calling: 615652453.

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

Art history in focus

ONLINE. Live lectures and courses throughout the year.

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

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

23 March 6pm. Seville. Great Baby-



Ana García, Ubrique.

lon of Spain.

The Arts Society UK has started up their Lectures at Home again. Check their website. <https://theartsociety.org/lectures-at-home>

The Arts Society de la Frontera

SAN ROQUE. Lectures online.

The Arts Society de la Frontera streams lectures to its members via Zoom. Free for members, 12€ for visitors. Visitors can register by contacting lucianaobrien1@gmail.com

12 March, 11am. The lecture is Cleopatra, Histories, Dreams and Distortions by Lucy Hughes-Hallett.

Floral Art Club

ESTEPONA. 16 March, 2pm. Via Zoom.

Gill Mc Gregor, Chairman of London and Overseas NAFAS will be presenting the demonstration. Gill is a qualified teacher of floral design and has performed over 1,000 Floral Art Demonstrations to many audiences in the UK and around the world. More information: jcarter-coyne@gmail.com

CHARITY

ARCH

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

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

Collective Calling Spring Fair

ESTEPONA. 20 March, 12-5pm. Tikitano Besayo restaurant, Guadal-mansa.

Live music with the Soulicious band, stalls, food, Easter egg hunt, Easter Hat competition and Easter egg workshop for children. Two-course lunch for adults 35€, children 18€. The charity Collective Calling supports the homeless and struggling vulnerable families on the coast with food throughout the pandemic. Tickets: 671316551 or email: eventos@grupobesaya.com

St Georges Day for the Poppy Appeal

NERJA. 23 April, 2pm. Chapel Bar.

A fundraising event for the Poppy Appeal by the Royal British Legion Nerja branch. Tombola, raffle and fun games. The event is being held outside to enable social distancing.

The Ralli Museum displays a surrealist's view of Oaxaca

MARBELLA

The art gallery reopens its doors to celebrate its 20th anniversary with new works from Europe and South America

JOAQUINA DUEÑAS

MARBELLA. The Ralli Museum in Marbella reopened at the beginning of March and is celebrating its 20th anniversary a year late, because of the pandemic. The exhibitions on the first floor now include new works of Latin American and European art in the permanent collection. Curator Silvia Sánchez says these works "break the prejudices about contemporary art, because they are very ac-

cessible and intuitive".

One exhibition features contemporary art from Oaxaca, described as a mixture of avant-garde, myth and tradition. "Many of the works are large with striking colours, which is what we always associate with Mexico," Silvia explains. "It invites you to enter into the culture of Oaxaca on different levels. On one hand, through popular culture and tradition, with pleasant scenes, and on the other a more disruptive aspect, exploring and experimenting with techniques

The intention is for visitors to enter directly into dialogue with the works, to see what it transmits

and languages and takes you to the Mexico that was also innovative and avant-garde," she says. "A third line introduces magical scenes, very mysterious, with beings from mythology, through a figurative language."

Completely different from a formal perspective but sharing the oneiric perspective, the exhibition Surrealism, from Giorgio de Chirico to Francis Bacon encourages visitors to reflect upon labels.

"In European art when we talk of surrealism, we are talking of a movement but not naming any artist who forms part of it," says Silvia. "These names are put in the title on purpose, to attract attention and confuse at the same time.

"The intention is for visitors to enter directly into dialogue with the work, to see what it transmits



Marbella's Ralli Museum travels to the heart of Mexico. SUR

and then decide whether they consider it to be surrealism or not, independently of whether the artist is associated with the movement".

The display includes famous names such as Man Ray, Joan Miró and Salvador Dalí, others we consider assimilated into surrealism like Giorgio Chirico and Chagall

but also some like Francis Bacon, with the aim of exploring their language and seeing what is surrealist about them.

Two very intuitive exhibitions that encourage critical thought and break through prejudices about contemporary art by interacting with those who visit them.

MORE IDEAS

Make It Happen Summit

ONLINE. 25, 30 March, from 3 to 5.30pm CET.

Since 2012, The Women's Company and Costa Women have been hosting learning and networking events, helping women in business. The event aims to increase connections and learning to develop you and your business. Bookings through hopin.com: 'IWD Make It Happen Summit 2021'.

English Cemetery guided tour

MALAGA. Sunday 14 March, 11am. English Cemetery.

Come and visit the English Cemetery and learn about its fascinating history and the people who are buried there. Your entrance fee will help support this lovely monument. A free guided tour in English will be included in the ticket price (5 euros, concessions 4 euros). Places are limited so please book through the English Cemetery website (<https://cementerioingles-malaga.org/en/cementerio/calendario-de-eventos/>).

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, a 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.

Symphony, Virtual Reality tour

MALAGA. Until 5 April. Mon-Fri, 11.45am - 3.45pm and 4.30-8.15pm.

Saturdays and Sundays 9.45am - 8.15pm. Plaza de la Marina. Free. The initiative 'Symphony' gives the public the opportunity to see the

Mahler Chamber Orchestra in two unique experiences, one audio and the other visual. It starts with a twelve minute film accompanied by music by Beethoven, Mahler and Leonard Bernstein. A guided visit can be reserved, call: 900801137.

Lux Mundi

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

Craft Group. Mondays, 10am-1pm in the centre. The craft group will be making cards in various styles including Iris paper folding, decoupage and other projects. 5€.

Knitting and crochet. Mondays, 10.30am-1pm in the centre.

Art Group. Wednesdays, 10am-1pm in the centre.

Taizé Prayer. 26 March, 7pm. San Andrés church. Taizé prayer is a monthly invitation to join in prayer. Send an email to: luxmundi@luxmundi.org to be included in them.

Lux Mundi

FUENGIROLA. Lux Mundi Ecumenical Centre, C/Nueva 3.

Boutique opening hours: Tuesday to Saturday 10am to 1pm.

Taizé Prayer. 17 March, 7.45pm. San José church.

25 March, 7pm. Nuestra Señora del Carmen church.

Taizé prayer is a monthly invitation to join in prayer. Send an email to luxmundif@gmail.com to be included in them.

O. V. FILMS

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

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MALAGA. C/ Alcazaba, 4. Tel: 902360295. www.cinealbeniz.com

The Little Things: 11.45, 18.40 (Sat, Sun).

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Unfair treatment

ANDREW J. LINN



We have to sympathise with bar and restaurant owners. They have had their backs to the wall for the last year, and the only solution to this pandemic confusion appears to be via mass vaccination. The number of restaurants that have gone out of business runs into thousands in many countries,

so has the trade been discriminated against unjustly? When the German government permitted 80,000 hair salons to re-open this month, the reason given was that the preservation of human dignity, as defined by the country's constitution, was a priority. So why are not bars and restaurants granted the same privileges? Do not they

also play their part in the defence of personal self-esteem? While there has never been much reliable data on the extent of contagion that can be passed on in such places, supporters of their continued closure cite good reasons why they may be hot-spots. Because people may be drinking in quantity, they need to go to the toilets frequently, and consequently spread germs

over large areas. But does the act of drinking increase the likelihood of becoming infected? The World Health Organisation implies that alcohol weakens the immune system, while scientific data points the other way. Dr Nicolai Worm, lecturer and professor of nutrition at the German University of Prevention and Health Care Management, has declared that "light to moderate drinkers have a lower risk of all-cause mortality than abstainers", though admitting heavy drinkers are at high risk. And anecdotally it has frequently been maintained that keeping the mouth and throat moist with alcohol is a defence against infection.

The number of bars and restaurants that have gone out of business runs into thousands

WINE OF THE WEEK

Viore Mencia

The Mencia grape is well suited to the El Bierzo region, where this wine is made. Bodegas Riojanas acquired a series of small vineyards, around two thousand metres each and south-facing, to make this very pleasing and delicate red wine. Good fruity taste. About nine euros.



The Irish saint who became the patron of a fino

Fino San Patricio was one of the first fino-style wines produced by the William Garvey bodega to gain commercial success in the early 19th century

ALEKK M SAANDERS

JEREZ DE LA FRONTERA. One of the biggest bodegas in Jerez de la Frontera was named after St Patrick by its Irish founder, William Garvey. Garvey was an aristocrat born in 1756 at New Ross, County Waterford. He came to Cadiz in 1776 in search of merino rams to breed with the sheep that his father farmed in Ireland. According to legend, his ship was wrecked in a dreadful storm in the bay of Cadiz and William was rescued by Spaniards. A captain in the Spanish Navy, Rafael Gómez, generously offered to have the Irish man looked after by his daughters in his house in Puerto Real. During

his recovery, William Garvey fell in love with one of the captain's daughters, Sebastiana Gómez Jiménez, and married her in 1794. The Irish man decided to stay in Andalucía thanks not only to Sebastiana, but also to the incredible business opportunities in Jerez where the great sherry trade with England was based. It appears that he never returned to Ireland, though apparently he did manage to send some sheep to his father. William Garvey wanted to try his fortune in the wine trade, and in Sanlúcar, where he worked as a general merchant, he took his first steps to becoming directly involved in winery. First, he started purchasing wines from one Juan O'Connery, and later from Gordon & Co, as well as from another Irishman, Richard Shiel who worked in Spain for Devereux Shiel & Co of London. After shipping small quantities of sherry to England and Ire-



Bodegas Garvey in Jerez de la Frontera. PIXABAY

land, William eventually became wealthy, and was able to afford to make his dream to create the biggest bodega a reality. In 1780, on the edge of Jerez de la Frontera he bought vineyards stretching for miles. There is a story that William commended himself to the Patron Saint of his country, and believed that St Patrick would guide him. He decided that if he could achieve his dream, he would name the bodega in his honour - St Patrick (San Patricio). The Bodega de San Patricio did become the area's largest, but this was probably due to William's son, Patrick. Patrick Garvey successfully developed the family busi-

ness and in 1823 their bodega was the first to start selling quality Fino San Patricio sherry to England. The following year, William Garvey died at home, next to his beloved bodega. At first finos were considered only good for producing vinegar. Also finos were made to be consumed fresh, and therefore they were not as ideal for shipping as the oxidised wines such as Amontillados and Olorosos. It is said that the secret of Garvey's success was in their PR campaign. Their slogan professed that only they could guarantee the finest selection of sherries. The process of fino-sherry pro-

duction needs a lot of time and much care. First, a dry white wine is fortified to between 15% and 15.5% alcohol, and then it is put in casks where a layer of oxygen-inhibiting yeast called flor forms on top of the wine. The flor imparts much of the distinctive flavour in a fino-sherry. The San Patricio Fino is rich with fruity echoes, some herbal notes and bitter almonds with hints of olive brine. The aroma is of dried apples and flowers with light leathery notes. Traditionally Garvey's wines were sold in rounded bottles, nowadays they are sold in straight bottles with a screw cap for around five euros.

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Keeping cholesterol under control

Facts. More than half of the adult population have high cholesterol. And yes, there are good and bad types

CARMEN BARREIRO



If I were to ask you how high your cholesterol is, would you be able to tell me? Or, to go further, would you know the highest recommended levels for a healthy person? And what about for someone with a cardiovascular illness or risk factors such as smoking or having high blood pressure?

If you don't know the answers to those questions, you should be warned that over half of the Spanish adult population (55 per cent) have high cholesterol and, "what is even more worrying", for the Spanish Heart Foundation (FEC), most of them are unaware of it.

"The biggest problem is that when they react, it is already late. Hypercholesterolemia kills

a lot of people and it is asymptomatic, so it is essential to be aware of its existence. It has been shown that people with a cholesterol level of 240 are at twice as much risk of having a heart attack than those with levels below 200," warns the president of the FEC, cardiologist Carlos Macaya.

The 'good' and the 'bad'

Let's start by clearing up some basic concepts, about which there is a great deal of confusion. Firstly, bear in mind that cholesterol is a natural fat substance which is present in all the cells in the body and is also necessary for the body to function correctly.

"Most of it is produced in the

liver, although it is also obtained from certain foods and from the bile," says endocrinologist Emilia Cancer, of the nutrition department of the Spanish Society of Endocrinology and Nutrition (SEEN).

The blood moves this cholesterol from the intestine or liver to the organs that need it, and it does this by joining together particles known as lipoproteins, which can be high intensity (known as HDL), or low intensity (LDL). That may not tell us very much, but if I say we are talking about 'good' cholesterol or 'bad' cholesterol, I'm sure you will have heard of it.

"We can say that what high intensity, or good, cholesterol does is remove the cholesterol that isn't used from inside the cells, remove it from the circulatory system and return it to the liver to be stored or expelled through the bile, while the low intensity, or bad LDL, transports new cholesterol from the liver to the inside of the cells," says Dr Macaya.

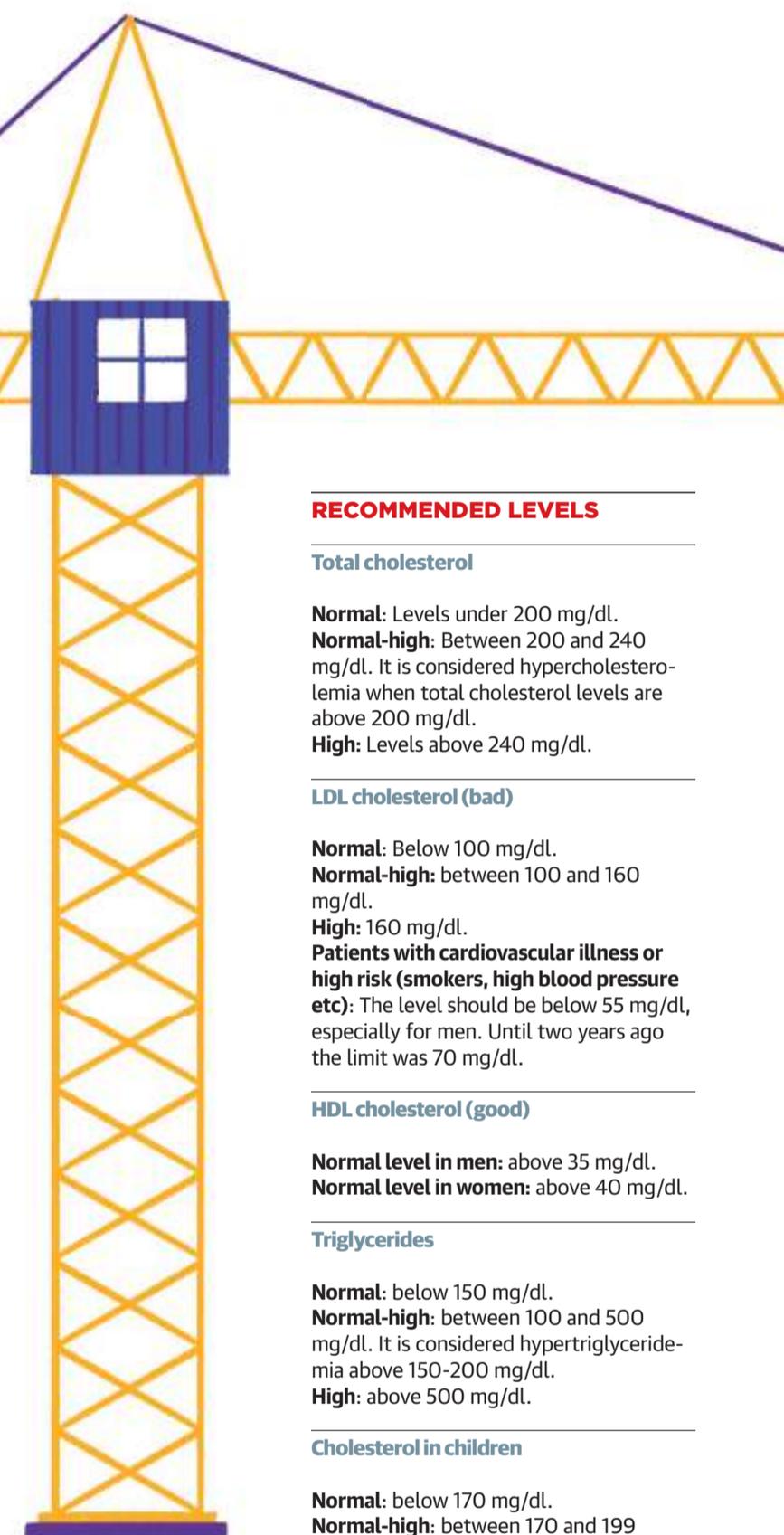
Obstruction of the arteries

And why is it so dangerous to have high levels of LDL? "Because when the cells are incapable of absorbing all the cholesterol that circulates through the blood, what is left over is deposited on the artery wall and forms plaques that make them progressively narrower. That's what is known as atherosclerosis, an accumulation of fats that make it difficult for the blood to flow. If this obstruction occurs in the carotid arteries, the ones that take the blood to the brain, it can cause a stroke, and if it occurs in the coronary arteries the result can be a heart attack," says Dr Cancer.

Over 200 mg/dl - Watch out!

Now we know how cholesterol is produced and which ones are good and bad, the next step is to know what the figures mean. In blood test results, they normally appear as four figures.

The first refers to the total, "which is a value that helps to orient us. In a healthy person, it should be below 200 mg/dl. If it is, we can be relatively reassured because it means we don't



RECOMMENDED LEVELS

Total cholesterol

Normal: Levels under 200 mg/dl.
Normal-high: Between 200 and 240 mg/dl. It is considered hypercholesterolemia when total cholesterol levels are above 200 mg/dl.
High: Levels above 240 mg/dl.

LDL cholesterol (bad)

Normal: Below 100 mg/dl.
Normal-high: between 100 and 160 mg/dl.
High: 160 mg/dl.
Patients with cardiovascular illness or high risk (smokers, high blood pressure etc): The level should be below 55 mg/dl, especially for men. Until two years ago the limit was 70 mg/dl.

HDL cholesterol (good)

Normal level in men: above 35 mg/dl.
Normal level in women: above 40 mg/dl.

Triglycerides

Normal: below 150 mg/dl.
Normal-high: between 100 and 500 mg/dl. It is considered hypertriglyceridemia above 150-200 mg/dl.
High: above 500 mg/dl.

Cholesterol in children

Normal: below 170 mg/dl.
Normal-high: between 170 and 199 mg/dl.
High: above 200 mg/dl.



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ured because it means we don't have high levels of bad cholesterol. If the total figure is above 200 mg/dl, then we should start to worry," says Dr Macaya.

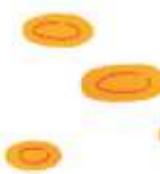
If this happens, it is essential to look at the other two figures shown in the results: the good cholesterol (HDL) and bad cholesterol (LDL), which should be below 100 mg/dl.

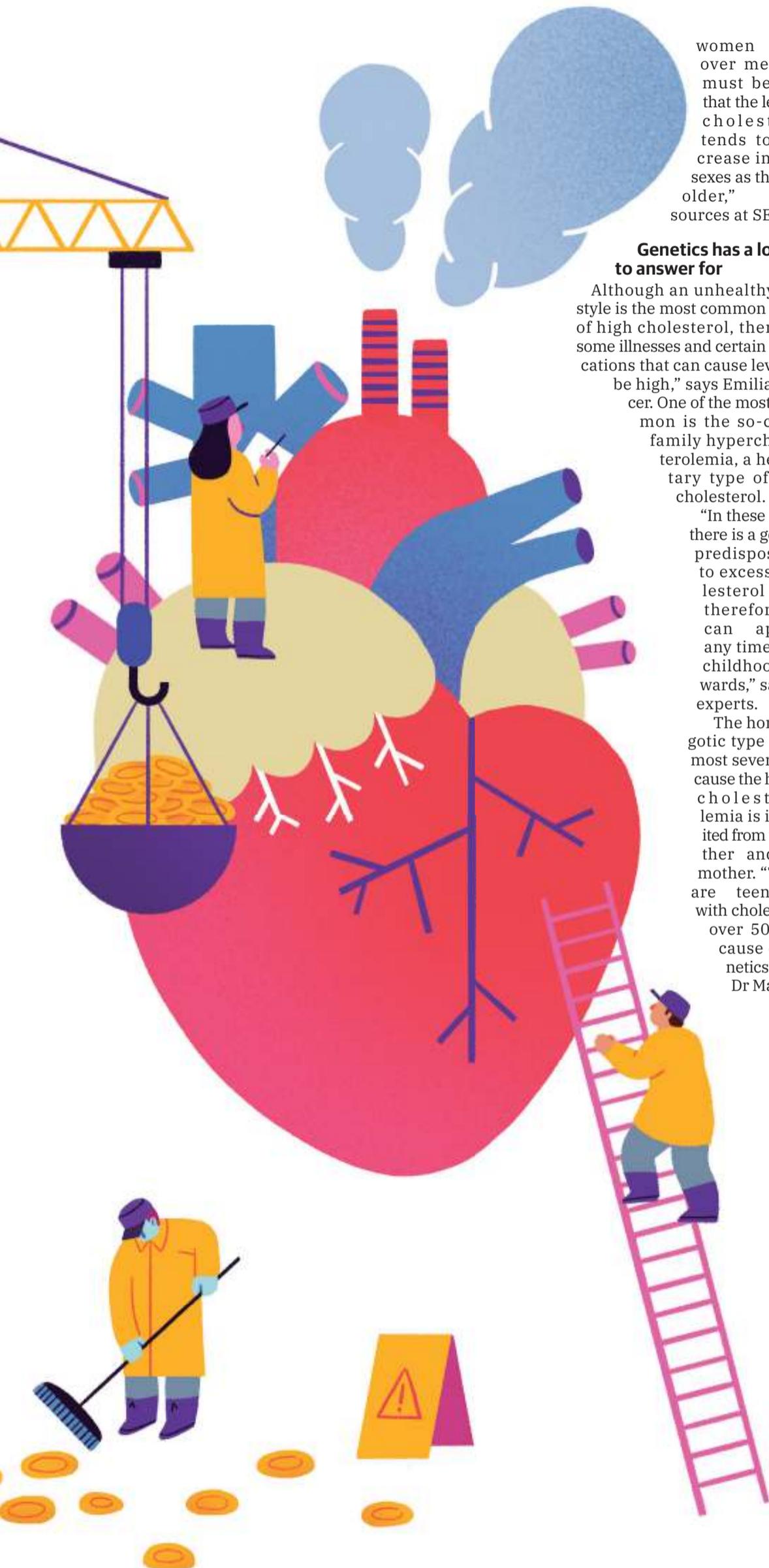
In the case of people with cardiovascular pathologies, a family history of them or who are at risk (smokers, diabetics, high blood pressure etc) the recommended maximum limit of LDL drops considerably and should not be above 55 mg/dl.

"What normally happens," says Dr Macaya, "is that for every miligram of good cholesterol

there are three or four of the bad type. That is the most common proportion. Now, women are lucky enough to have much higher good cholesterol than men, which means they are also more protected against atherosclerosis. I have seen patients with HDL levels of 90 and 100, while normally in men it is around 40. Those who have 60 to 70 can consider themselves lucky."

The fourth figure in the results refers to triglycerides, another fat that needs to be kept under control to prevent cardiac illnesses. In any case, and despite the advantage middle-aged





women have over men, “it must be said that the level of cholesterol tends to increase in both sexes as they get older,” say sources at SEEN.

Genetics has a lot to answer for

Although an unhealthy lifestyle is the most common cause of high cholesterol, there are some illnesses and certain medications that can cause levels to be high,” says Emilia Cancer. One of the most common is the so-called family hypercholesterolemia, a hereditary type of high cholesterol.

“In these cases, there is a genetic predisposition to excess cholesterol and therefore it can appear any time from childhood onwards,” say the experts.

The homozygotic type is the most severe, because the hypercholesterolemia is inherited from the father and the mother. “There are teenagers with cholesterol over 500 because of genetics,” says Dr Macaya.

Food and medication

When evaluating the results doctors, and especially cardiologists, are guided “more by the levels of LDL than by the total cholesterol”. Why is that?

“Firstly because it is the bad type and secondly because we can control it more easily. The good cholesterol can go up a bit with exercise, but it is more determined by genetics. However, we can reduce the LDL through diet or with medication,” says Dr Macaya.

With a suitable diet, the level of bad cholesterol can be reduced by up to 20 per cent. For example, a patient with a total of 220 can reduce it to 180 more or less by diet alone. What happens is that a cardiovascular patient, or one with risk factors, needs their LDL cholesterol to be lower than 55 (which would give a total of just over 100) and that level “is only achieved with a strict diet and medication”, say both experts.

“These treatments tend to be for life because we are talking about a metabolic problem which is partly determined genetically,” says Dr Macaya. The most common medications are statins (which are the most effective) and ezetimibes, the famous cholesterol pills.

“Now, when all that doesn’t work, another option can be

Mediterranean diet and exercise to reduce cholesterol by up to 20 per cent

The only way to reduce cholesterol levels is to “change your lifestyle”, says Dr Emilia Cancer, of the Spanish Society of Endocrinology and Nutrition (SEEN).

These changes include a healthy diet, controlling your weight and regular exercise. That way, “you can reduce the total level of cholesterol by up to 20 per cent, and that’s not bad,” adds cardiologist Carlos Macaya, president of the Spanish Heart Foundation (FEC).

PCSK9 inhibitors. This is a very powerful treatment and it is only used for patients who either can’t lower their cholesterol with the tablets, or can’t tolerate them. These drugs, called monoclonal antibodies, are injected once or twice a month and they cost over 1,000 euros.

“They are used mostly in family hypercholesterolemias. A 20-year-old man with a cholesterol level over 500 has to reduce it, no matter what, or he will have a heart attack before he is 30,” warns the president of the Spanish Heart Foundation.

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A double from Luis Muñoz means salvation is almost in the bag for Malaga

2-0

MALAGA-SABADELL

Victory in the 'six-pointer' over Sabadell has moved the Blue and Whites nine points clear of the drop zone

DARYL FINCH



MALAGA. This time Malaga got what their play deserved: a 2-0 victory at home to Sabadell on Sunday afternoon. After Mirandés snatched victory with their only shot on goal last time out, the Blue and Whites were determined not to suffer a repeat, even if they had to do so without their best player - Pablo Chavarría, who has been ruled out for the season.

This meant a change of shape from Sergio Pellicer, with the players deployed behind Caye Quintana expected to perform slightly different roles. One such player was defender-cum-midfielder Luis Muñoz who, at times, was playing as a false 9.

There was more onus too on wingers Joaquín Muñoz and Yanis Rahmani. After the hosts weathered an early storm, the former had his side's first chance, flashing the ball across the face of the goal from the right-hand side. The



Luis Muñoz heads in his first goal at the back post. SALVADOR SALAS

French-Algerian on the other side then brought a good sprawling save out of Sabadell's Ian Mackay, before the keeper made an even better stop to tip a Caye Quintana header over the bar.

Pellicer had little to correct during the break and his side continued on the front foot in the second half and it was Luis

Muñoz who eventually gave his side the lead, converting Joaquín's chipped cross to the back post with a powerful header.

Now behind, the onus was on Antonio Hidalgo's side to attack and attack they did. Malaga were put on the back foot and were thankful to holding midfielder Alberto Escassi and keeper Juan

Soriano for keeping the onslaught at bay.

Deep in stoppage time came an opportunity to settle the nerves when the referee adjudged Luis Muñoz's to have been fouled in a 50-50 challenge in the area. The captain on the day stood up himself and slotted home the penalty to edge Malaga

Malaga: Soriano; Ismael (Alexander, 73'), Mejías, Juande, Matos; Escassi; Joaquín (Benkhemassa, 80'), Jozabed (Cristo, 80'), Luis Muñoz, Rahmani (Julio, 88'), Caye Quintana (Larrubia, 88'). Unused substitutes: Dani Barrio, Dani Strindholm, Lombán, Cristian, Jairo, Hicham, Loren.

Sabadell: Mackay; Óscar Rubio, Jaime Sánchez (Edgar, 80'), Ibiza; Víctor García (Héber Pena, 66'), Undabarrena (Ángel, 56'), Boniquet, Cornud; Stoichkov (Aarón Rey, 56'); Juan Hernández, Gurezeta (Álvaro Vázquez, 66'). Unused substitutes: Fuoli, Froi, Chadi, Ozkoidi, Romero, Adri Cuevas.

Goals: 1-0 Luis Muñoz (62'), 2-0 Luis Muñoz (90+5', pen).

Referee: Ortiz Arias. Yellow cards for Mejías, Víctor García, Luis Muñoz and Escassi.

Venue: La Rosaleda.

one step closer to safety.

"I congratulate the players for the step forward they have taken," Pellicer said after the game as they moved nine points clear of the drop zone, leaving Sabadell to occupy the final relegation spot.

"There's still a long way to go, but today was very important. It was a 'six-pointer'. We've moved a step away from the relegation zone and we've improved our goal average. I'm extremely proud of the team."

Malaga take on another side close to the bottom of the table next Sunday when they travel to La Rioja to take on Logroñés (kick off 2pm).

Striker Stefan Scepovic set to join Malaga on a free transfer

The 31-year-old Serbian, who has played for the likes of Celtic, Club Brugge and Sporting Gijón, will replace the injured Pablo Chavarría

ANTONIO GÓNGORA

MALAGA. If all goes to plan striker Stefan Scepovic will be unveiled as a Malaga player in the coming days.

The 31-year-old Serbian will take the place of the injured Pablo Chavarría - out for the season - to complete the Blue and Whites' eighteen-man squad.

A deal has been reached with the club and the player is in the city having already completed a medical. He has been put on an individual training regime while the club waits for LaLiga to give the transfer the go-ahead due to the special circumstances



Stefan Scepovic, during training with Sporting de Gijón. ARNALDO GARCÍA

in which the club finds itself.

Scepovic is no stranger to Spanish football, having played for Getafe and Sporting in two spells (scoring 23 goals in the 2013-14 season), but struggling to fully establish himself. He has also represented clubs such as

Celtic and Club Brugge.

According to the sources consulted, the player will arrive in good shape, even though he has been without a club for a month after being released by Japanese second division team Machida Zelvia.



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A LOOK AT LA LIGA
ROB PALMER
Commentator, Sky Sports

A not-so-super league

At no point in the high-level discussions about a proposed new European Super League has the fans' experience or public opinion been mentioned



It will be the most unlikely of dinner dates, yet one of the first appointments in the diary of the new Barcelona president will be with his opposite number at Real Madrid to discuss the proposed elite European league.

Real powerbroker Florentino Pérez has been one of the leading voices in the call for a restructuring of the Champions League and Barça's newly elected president Joan Laporta needs to form a personal and official opinion of the proposals. His predecessor, Josep Maria Bartomeu, left behind many conundrums, including a statement that the club had "accepted a proposal to participate in a future European Super League".

In a nutshell the richest clubs want to insure their finances and status. Just look at recent years when the likes of Porto, Ajax, RB

Leipzig and Lyon have gate-crashed the Champions League banquet. Meanwhile the aristocrats, like Manchester United, AC Milan and Arsenal are fighting for scraps in the Europa League.

The bluebloods are getting together to devise a plan which would increase their chances of staying at the top table and minimise the opportunities of the serfs rising to power.

From what I can gather the European Club Association (ECA) would form a league where the founding clubs can avoid each other via a seeding system and the teams with more limited resources would eventually knock each other out. It would be a so-called 'Swiss system' which makes sense to few.

With wonderful poetic justice, the ECA chairman Andrea Agnelli revealed the plans in a



A lot is set to change at Barça with Laporta back at the helm. EFE

week when his club Juventus was knocked out of the Champions League by Porto. The Portuguese club don't have an invite despite having been crowned European Champions as many times as the Italian giants.

Agnelli wants the English Pre-

mier League to be reduced by a couple of clubs so he can expand the new Super League to 36 teams. I know, it doesn't make sense to me either.

Even more bizarre... he also suggests that the elite teams can't recruit players from each

other. So, Neymar and Kylian Mbappé would be tied to Paris Saint-Germain - as nobody could bid for them - and he wouldn't have been allowed to sign Cristiano Ronaldo.

His plan is to increase revenue by negotiating billion-dollar television deals. I think this is an ignorant approach. In France there is a major dispute after the deal for domestic football television rights collapsed. La Liga had to write off millions in the UK when an agreement with a streaming company was annulled. They ended up giving the rights away.

Yes, it is great to see Barcelona play Liverpool or the clubs from Manchester go head to head with those from Madrid. But it was just as thrilling to see Malaga upset the hierarchy, Leipzig gate crash the party, Porto emerge every few years and Ajax remind everyone that structure can overcome signings.

Let's be blunt, at no point in the high-level discussions about a proposed new European super league has the fans' experience or public opinion been mentioned. It's like the creation of a new Royal Family and we know just how difficult it can be to make those function without an outpouring of emotion and argument about titles.

Double relegation threat still looms for Marbella after goalless draw

Captain Añón's missed penalty in the final minutes all but confirms relegation to the third tier, but will the Costa side drop even further?

MARBELLA ○
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JULIO RODRÍGUEZ

MARBELLA. Marbella are almost certain to be relegated after a 0-0 draw at home to Las Palmas Atlético on Sunday afternoon where captain Javi Añón had his 88th minute penalty saved.

In a first half lacking in chances, Callejón's header and a shot from Juanmi that hit the crossbar were the closest the hosts could come to breaking the deadlock.

Into the second half, Marbella continued to struggle to create chances, although their performance improved after the introduction of Rafa Tresaco. As the game went on, Quezada and Granero were instrumental in some good passages of play but a breakthrough was still not forthcoming.



Sergi consoles Añón after his costly penalty miss. JULIO RODRÍGUEZ

The frustration among the 400-strong crowd was clear with chants of "Aira vete ya" (Aira out now) directed against the Marbella boss.

With just minutes remaining, the Canarians seemed to have finally buckled under the growing pressure when Marbella were awarded a penalty when Redru was fouled. However, goalkeeper Sergi stretched out a hand to save Añón's effort and to ensure the game finished goalless.

A drop of two flights

The result means that Marbella lie eighth out of ten in their league

grouping and with just two games remaining, look highly unlikely to usurp both Recreativo Huelva and Cadiz B to finish in the top six and avoid the drop.

This would mean that they spend the season's second phase in the relegation play-off groups. If they manage to finish in the top two (out of eight) in the next round, they will only be relegated one tier to the newly formed Segunda RFEF. Failing that, they will suffer a double relegation to the fifth tier (Tercera RFEF), less than a year after missing out on promotion to Segunda.



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Andrey Rublev, Roberto Bautista, Pablo Carreño and Alejandro Davidovich, four of the main attractions. EFE. AFP

Big-name stars Bautista and Gasquet now confirmed for ATP 250 tournament in Marbella

The official list of those competing in the AnyTech365 Andalucía Open at Puente Romano has been announced

PEDRO LUIS ALONSO

MALAGA. Organisers of the AnyTech365 Andalucía Open, taking place at Puente Romano tennis club in Marbella from 4 to 11 April, have revealed an official list of competitors for the ATP 250 event. Top stars such as Roberto Bautista and Richard Gasquet are among those whose participation has now been confirmed.

In recent days, world number eight Andrey Rublev and fellow top-20 players Pablo Carreño and Stan Wawrinka had confirmed that they will compete in Marbella, as did Pablo Andújar and Malaga's own Alejandro Davidovich. Although the young Italian Jannik Sinner has had to reverse his decision to take part due to injury, Spaniard Roberto Bau-

tista- the world number 13- will be participating.

Another Spanish player, Alberto Ramos-Viñolas, is also set for Puente Romano, as are Casper Ruud, Dušan Lajović and the veteran Frenchman Richard Gasquet. Additionally, Feliciano López will make an appearance, meaning that the next six top-ranked Spanish players after Rafael Nadal are all taking part. As the top four seeded players, Rublev, Bautista, Carreño and Wawrinka will receive byes into the second round.

In terms of the overall 28-player makeup of the final tournament, those already confirmed will be joined by three wildcards. These new additions will be selected at the last minute, in the hope of enticing any big names knocked out of the Miami Masters tournament taking place just days before. However, it seems unlikely that Marbella resident Novak Djokovic will participate, with the world number one planning on taking part in the Monte

Carlo Masters that same week.

Also, four qualifiers from the preliminary rounds will take part in the final event. The final two spots will be filled by 'Special Exempt' players, whose rankings should dictate that they take part in qualifying but who have previously got to at least a semi-final of an ATP 250 event.

Along with the ATP 250 event in Cagliari taking place the same week, the Andalucía Open will be the first clay court event of the season.

On Tuesday, the list of participants for the ATP 80 Challenger tournament taking place a week earlier at the same venue was revealed. It has been confirmed that Pablo Andújar will warm up for the latter event by taking part while the current title-holder Pedro Martínez will compete as top seed. The other top seeds in the 32-player tournament are Norbert Gombos, Roberto Carballés and Dennis Novak, who are all currently ranked among the top 100 players globally.

IN BRIEF

RUGBY

Perfect start for Malaga at athletics stadium

SUR. Club de Rugby Málaga got the second phase of the season off to a perfect start on Sunday as they beat first-phase leaders Jaén 23-14 at the Ciudad de Málaga athletics stadium.

Malaga, who are now competing for promotion to the División de Honor A, have recently received the backing of the city hall to play their home games at the athletics stadium as their usual home in Rincón de la Victoria is not up to the standard required by the division.



Díaz and Fernández. FRANCIS SILVA

SAILING

Local amateur duo clinch prestigious trophy

M. RIVAS. Malaga sailors Rafael Díaz and Rocío Fernández of Real Club Mediterráneo secured a surprise win on Sunday in the prestigious Trofeo Su Majestad del Rey which the club organises annually. It is the first time either, both of whom are amateurs, have won the trophy. They took victory after bad weather disrupted the event, meaning its third stage was cancelled.



Azahara Muñoz. AFP

GOLF

Muñoz misses the cut for second week in a row

SUR. San Pedro-born golfer Azahara Muñoz is in a bad run of form, missing the cut in her second consecutive tournament. Muñoz bowed out of the LPGA Drive On Championship Presented by Volvik in Ocala (Florida) having racked up four shots above par after the first two days (with a score of 73 last Thursday and 75 last Friday).

SNOWBOARDING

Hernández suffers season-ending injury

P. L. ALONSO. The season is over for Mijas snowboarder Regino Hernández. He suffered a significant fall in the Snowboard Cross World Cup in Bakuriani (Georgia), causing him to dislocate his wrist.

He will require surgery on his return to Spain. "These are the perks of engaging in a risky sport," he wrote on his Instagram profile. "Now I have to look to the future and hope to recover well," he said, adding that his helmet prevented further damage.



Regino Hernández

SCHOOL SPORTS



Volleyball for all abilities

For the recent All Abilities Day, students at Swans Secondary School participated in an array of awareness activities, while raising funds for a mobility scooter for Miss Kim Hugill, a member of staff who recently had a stroke and now has some mobility issues. The highlight was the sitting volleyball tournament in which all year groups competed.



A cross country to remember

The Year 8s at Sunland International school in Cártama celebrated the start of the new term together in a social yet safe way during the school cross country championship. The students who competed were cheered on by their classmates over a carefully planned route with spectator areas designated for different bubbles.

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£ 20 AN hour, choose your hours, choose your days. Telephone appointment booking is far easier than tele-selling, especially for a home product that is in very high demand. You'll need a PC or laptop, decent broadband, and a desk (kitchen table may suffice, if you're not eating at the time). If you have half a mind to come and work for us it's probably all you'll need! GSOH helps :-) Call Tel. Warren or Ruby on 44 208 906 5000 or message 44 7808 800 800 for a call back. 2020 has been a poor year for many, we'll help you to earn some great money this year

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SUR in English

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THE STARS

Aquarius
January 21st - February 19th
Have a desire to take control of your finances? Don't be afraid to reach out for advice, as this could enable you to move forward and bring peace of mind.

Pisces
February 20th - March 20th
Have something on your mind? Mercury's move into your sign encourages you to get it out in the open.

Aries
March 21st - April 20th
As the Sun enters your sign along with luscious Venus you'll be all fired up and ready to soar, Aries. You'll have the attractor factor too.

Taurus
April 21st - May 21st
New friendships and a chance to take a key relationship much further are all possible. From the weekend the focus shifts to a secluded zone and you'll be entering a quieter phase.

Gemini
May 22nd - June 21st
With chatty Mercury on your side, use this chance to liaise with the movers and shakers. Pooling ideas can be a winner. A shift in energy encourages you to mix and mingle.

Cancer
June 22nd - July 23rd
This week marks the transition from learning, exploring and being adventurous to using your newly gained knowledge to wow the right people and get ahead.

Leo
July 24th - August 23rd
If finances or a relationship have needed attention, then key insights could bring solutions you can work with.

Virgo
August 24th - September 23rd
Ready to look into financial and business affairs, and eager to make improvements? Get into action Virgo, as tackling edgy issues can bring peace of mind.

Libra
September 24th - October 23rd
This is the week to get organised as Mercury moves into your lifestyle sector, encouraging you to be more productive.

Scorpio
October 24th - November 22nd
You may be more magnetic and flirtatious than you know, and someone could fall for your passionate charms. Don't try to force things as it might backfire.

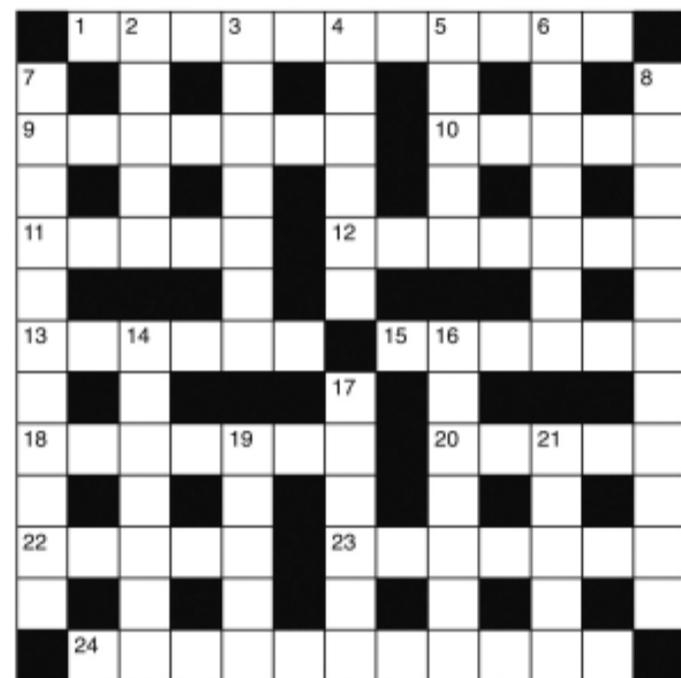
Sagittarius
November 23rd - December 21st
As Mercury moves into your domestic zone, get clarity by decluttering and getting your place in order. You'll feel more energized. This weekend you'll be ready to seize fresh opportunities.

Capricorn
December 22nd - January 20th
This is a creative time as far as communicating is concerned, whether this involves writing a novel, learning a new skill or teaching others what you know. This phase looks set to continue.

THE SEVEN DIFFERENCES



CRYPTIC CROSSWORD N° 11452



Across

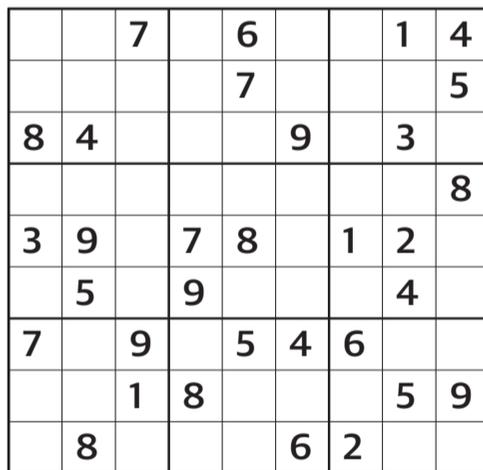
- 1 A fine hand needed to make metal tableware (11)
- 9 What shall we do with 'is body for the meantime? (7)
- 10 This sort of land is associated with one's living (5)
- 11 Connections made by one with keen sight, we hear (5)
- 12 No unfinished letter could make a short message (7)
- 13 One who produces notes using a whole range of keys (6)
- 15 What is thrown from aircraft in the morning (6)
- 18 A chaser showing less refinement, we hear (7)
- 20 Start operating a receiver (5)
- 22 Select a piece of prose literature (5)
- 23 Firefighting force ordered to put the equipment inside (7)
- 24 Put the show on again, as the agent did (11)

Down

- 2 Describing a kind of meal at one, maybe (5)
- 3 For slogans, there's a catch attached to these (7)
- 4 Manors rebuilt by early invaders (6)
- 5 The kind of ship carrying no cargo? (5)
- 6 Provides three times as many young choristers (7)
- 7 Account by a persevering type who's in the advertising business (11)
- 8 Small measures somehow interest me after the start of calculation (11)
- 14 The girl describing most of the epistles (7)
- 16 I'm one to get upset by mental agitation (7)
- 17 Desert dweller is producing a rock plant (6)
- 19 It's almost vertical - make a deviation (5)
- 21 Post a bet (5)

SUDOKU BY HANZO

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



THE WORDPUZZLER

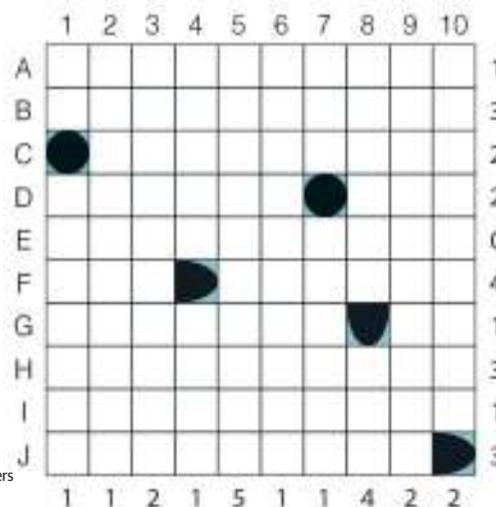
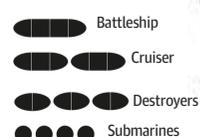


Can you identify the words missing from the common Latin phrases listed below?

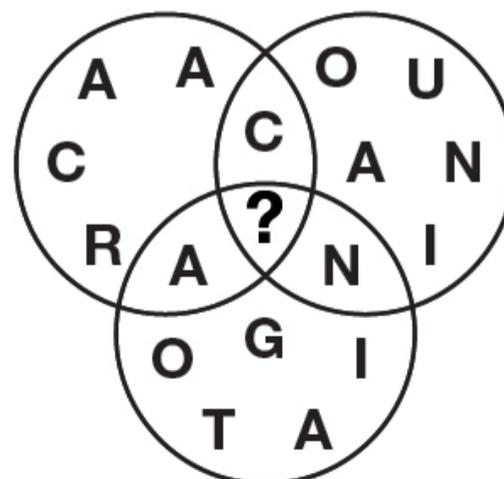
- 1. --- sequitur
- 2. Nota ---
- 3. Curriculum ---
- 4. Habeas ---
- 5. --- pro quo
- 6. --- culpa
- 7. Tempus ---
- 8. --- vires
- 9. --- erat demonstrandum
- 10. Sic transit gloria ---

BATTLESHIPS

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



CIRCLEGRAM



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

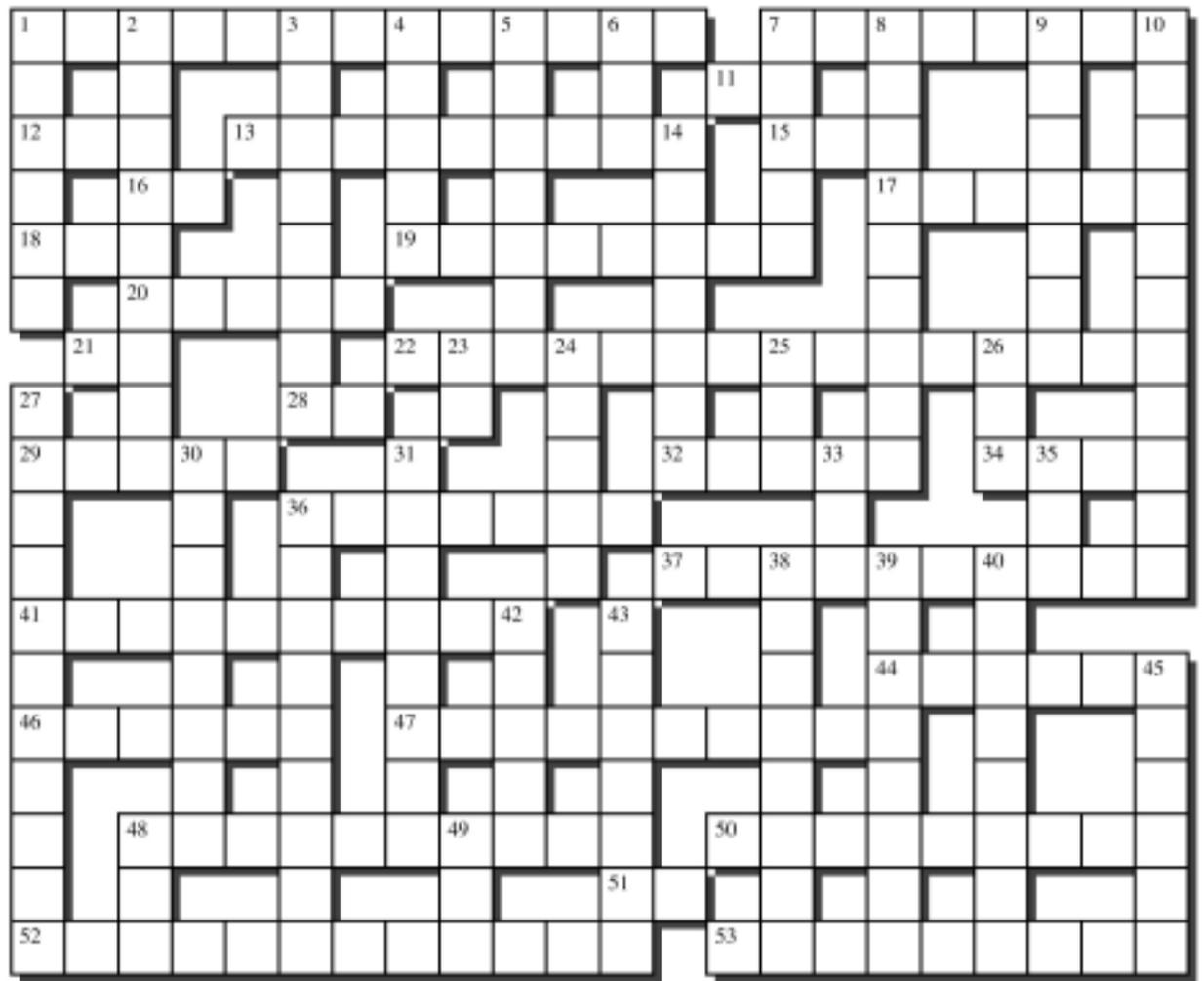
LANGUAGE CROSSWORD FILL IN THE SPANISH WORD

Across

- 1) Death (13)
- 7) Emergency (8)
- 11) In (2)
- 12) That (f) (3)
- 13) Investment (9)
- 15) Aunt (3)
- 16) My (2)
- 17) Doctor (6)
- 18) Estuary (3)
- 19) Offerings (8)
- 20) Characteristic (5)
- 21) If (2)
- 22) Responsibility (15)
- 28) You (pl) (2)
- 29) Never (5)
- 32) Olive tree (5)
- 34) Avalanche (4)
- 36) Diarrhoea (7)
- 37) Nursery schools (10)
- 41) Illness (10)
- 44) To save (6)
- 46) Dirty (m.pl) (6)
- 47) Face mask (10)
- 48) Shop window (10)
- 50) Patients (9)
- 51) Ace (2)
- 52) To diagnose (12)
- 53) Tiredness (9)

Down

- 1) Fever (6)
- 2) They would call (9)
- 3) Infection (8)
- 4) Fear (5)
- 5) Belongings (7)
- 6) Uncle (3)
- 7) You spread (5)
- 8) Grammarian (m) (9)
- 9) Quality (7)
- 10) Authorities (11)
- 14) Swimming (7)
- 23) The (m) (2)
- 24) Wall (5)
- 25) Like that (3)
- 26) He'll go (3)
- 27) University (11)
- 30) Schools (8)
- 31) Pandemic (8)
- 33) To see (3)
- 35) I read (3)
- 36) Too much (9)
- 38) Hazelnut (8)
- 39) Challenges (8)
- 40) They fill in (8)
- 42) She wishes (5)
- 43) To plan (7)
- 45) Risk (6)
- 48) It was (3)
- 49) I laughed (3)



ANSWERS

Quiz answers

Answer: Meat Loaf.
Of interest: Marvin Lee Aday, (born September 27, 1947), better known as Meat Loaf, is an American singer and actor. He formed his first band, Meat Loaf Soul, after a nickname coined by his football coach because of his weight.

Answer: Cambridge
Of interest: Girton College is one of the 31 constituent colleges of the University of Cambridge. The college was established in 1869 by Emily Davies and Barbara Bodichon as the first women's college in Cambridge.

Language Crossword



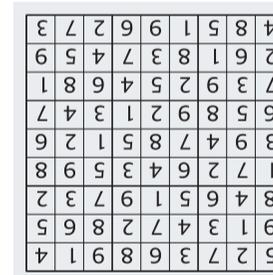
Cryptic Crossword

Solutions: Across: 1. Copperplate; 9. Inherent; 10. Globe; 11. Links; 12. Noodle; 13. Typist; 15. Asylum; 18. Counsel; 20. Cheat; 22. Ethic; 23. Engage; 24. Rejuvenated; Down: 2. Calmer; 3. Prisoner; 4. Romanus; 5. Light; 6. Theories; 7. Billed; 8. Condemned; 14. Pauline; 16. Emotion; 17. Anarchy; 19. Exhaust; 21. Stake.

Wordpuzzler solution



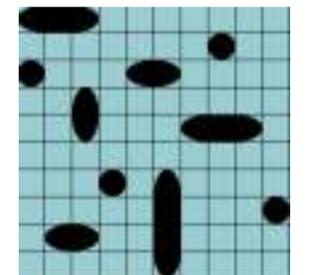
Sudoku solution



Circlegram

The letter represented by the question mark is S. Caracas, Asuncion, Santiago, all South American capitals.

Battleships



WHERE IS THIS?



Last week:
Villanueva de Tapia

A statue of a goat adorns this roundabout at the entrance to the town of Villanueva de Tapia.



CORONAVIRUS ADVICE

To notify symptoms of coronavirus

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Hola!



A tribute to the unsung heroes in the background

Villanueva del Rosario.
Two huge murals now recognise the work of women from the village's past

▲ The photos now on display in Avenida Juan Molina.

◀ Young people from the village took part in this project.

CRISTINA PINTO



Since last week, just about everybody in Villanueva del Rosario has paused as they walked down Avenida Juan Molina, to see part of the history of this village in Malaga province portrayed in the form of two murals, each measuring 10 metres wide by four metres high. Their reactions as they have looked at the photos have ranged from 'Oh look, there's my mother!' to "Could that

be my great-great-grandmother?" Where did these murals come from, and what is this all about? They are designed as a tribute to all the women of the past who worked so hard for the village and for themselves, forging out a future in this world which was treating them so unjustly.

This project is called 'Saucedeñas' (people from Villanueva del Rosario are known as 'saucedenos')

and it has been organised by the RARA art residence, which is run by Verónica Ruth Frias y Cyro García, and the local council, thanks to the funds from the State Pact against Gender Violence.

It has been produced by artists Ana Becerra and Selector Marx in conjunction with someone who is very special to the people of this village.

That someone is a man who is

always called upon for help when there is a desire to find something out about the history of Villanueva del Rosario. His name is Paco Álvarez Curiel and he has spent more than 30 of his 76 years collecting photos, archaeological items and just about anything relating to the history of this village.

"All the women deserve this tribute. Life was very hard for everyone, but especially so for them. Al-

though it has taken so long, the time has come to recognise their work," he says.

Since 2012 he has been publishing a blog called 'Murre, tanrre, querre', featuring over 5,000 photos which are accompanied by stories of village life and people's work in the past.

These photos in the 'Saucedeñas' exhibition were taken in the 1960s, and specifically at the 'chapel-schools' which had been founded by Cardinal Ángel Herrera Oria. Paco Álvarez Curiel remembers it well: "Most of the women there were teachers, and one of them was Ana María Matute. I went to her house to do a report for the local TV station and she showed me several photos; two of them have been used for this project. You can see her with the women that she used to help and teach," he recalls.

History and street art

Ana Becerra (from Ronda) and Selector Marx (Madrid), who had been staying for a week in the artists' residence RARA, became involved in this project. They both work in photography and street art, in Spain and internationally, and they were very excited about the idea of this exhibition.

"We are both fanatics of traditions and the people who have so much to tell. In the moments in history they have had to live through, they have perhaps been more in the background than they should have been," says Marx.

"This project has linked several generations, not just the people in the photos. We wanted to give a voice to stories that have been forgotten with the passage of time," says Becerra.

This project has made a strong impact in the village, because although its content was already in people's memories, it is now clearly visible to everyone who passes by. Pupils at the Pintor José Hernández secondary school also paid tribute to these women from the village, to keep in mind the way previous generations used to live.

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