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UK FOREIGN SECRETARY IN GIB FOR EU TREATY TALKS

Dominic Raab met Chief
Minister Picardo to agree a
combined approach to
upcoming negotiations on
the Gib-EU relationship P12



SALVADOR SALAS

No processions, but music on high this Holy Week

This rooftop band concert, photographed from Malaga Cathedral, is one of the many alternative events that replace the usual crowd-drawing Semana Santa celebrations. P14

Two held over fatal shooting of DJ at Marbella house party

The victim was hit in the neck after a weapon was fired in an adjoining room and a stray bullet went through a plaster wall

Two German nationals, 30 and 28, were arrested on Tuesday in connection with the death of a 41-year-old DJ at an illegal party in Marbella on Sunday night. The first is thought to have fired the shot that sent a bullet through a plasterboard wall, hitting the victim in the neck. The latter is ac-

cused of covering up for the suspect. Both were about to leave Spain when they were detained in Malaga.

The emergency services were called to the luxury villa on the Guadalmina Alta development in the early hours of Monday morning. While there were evident signs that a party had taken place, no one was found on the premises apart from the victim, who could not be saved. Police are now working to identify other people who were at the party.

This was just one of numerous events in rented tourist properties reported for breaking Covid restrictions in Spain this week. P3&16

**Vaccination of the
65 to 80 age
group due to start
later this month** P4

**Vehicle tax: find
out why small
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Road tax can cost double depending on the municipality where a vehicle is registered

Only 31 villages charge the minimum rate, while Malaga, Alhaurín de la Torre and Ronda are closer to the maximum and charge on average 70 euros more

FRANCISCO JIMÉNEZ



MALAGA. How is it possible for a small village with barely 513 inhabitants, like Macharaviaya, to be the ‘home’ of 5,000 vehicles? And how has the number in Montejaque multiplied fivefold in recent years to 16,000, when only 1,000 people live there?

The answer is simple. It is all to do with the rate of vehicle tax (IVTM) charged by each council. Businesses with large fleets of vehicles, such as transport and car hire companies, can make considerable savings by registering them in these villages even though their wheels may never touch the tarmac of the municipality’s streets.

It is completely legal, and it makes sense when the amount of tax which has to be paid could be twice as much elsewhere.

In practice, the rate for a medium-priced vehicle could vary by as much as 71.94 euros a year. Why is there so much difference? Because the law regulating local taxes gives town halls a certain extent of flexibility when it comes to the rates they charge.

There are minimum rates which, in the case of the most common vehicle model categories - up to 11.99 CV and between 12 and 15.99 CV - range from 34.08 to 71.94 euros respectively. After that, the coun-

cils have a free rein to increase the tax rate by up to twice as much (to 68.16 and 143.88 euros). In Malaga province, only 31 of the 103 municipalities apply the minimum rate, and they are all small villages.

The majority of larger places take advantage of the flexibility and charge the maximum. The only exceptions among those with the largest populations and highest number of registered vehicles are Torremolinos (37.08 and 79.93) and Estepona (37.7 and 79.5). This is considerably less than the 65.8 to 138.9 euros a year that have to be paid for the same car in Malaga city.

On a similar level are Ronda (59.64 and 139.56), Alhaurín de la Torre (64.58 and 136.33), Nerja (58 and 130.9), Benalmádena (61.34 and 129.49), Fuengirola (60.32 and 127.34) and Antequera (53.1 and 127.25). A step below are Marbella (51.4 and 116.25), Vélez (53.57 and 113.09) and Mijas (51.12 and 107.93), according to figures from the provincial tax collection office, which manages the tax payments of 96 councils and the bylaws of the remainder: (Malaga, Fuengirola, Benalmádena, Mijas, Vélez, Alhaurín el Grande and Macharaviaya).

Income from vehicle tax

This disparity in tax rates leads to situations such as the amount of money raised in Alhaurín de la Torre and Estepona being similar (2.5 and 2.6 million euros), even though 21,000 more vehicles are registered in Estepona (51, 679 compared with 30,771).

Cortes de la Frontera is also interesting, as it is the only municipality to charge the maximum rate for IVTM (68.14 and 143.88 euros). This is because it had to approve the increase in 2017 in order to access a government liquidity fund to reduce its debt.

These differences affect residents and, to a lesser extent, people who have moved elsewhere but whose vehicle documentation still shows the old address.

However, some of the main beneficiaries are businesses with large fleets of vehicles, which find an easy way to reduce costs by registering them in a cheaper place. They only need a building in the village which can serve as their registered address.

This way, everyone wins. The companies make a considerable saving and the town halls receive a sizeable cash injection which helps them to maintain their services.

Vehicle tax rates for the most common models

Figures in euros
Source: Patronato de Recaudación Provincial and municipal bye-laws

Municipality	8 to 11.99 CV	12 to 15.99 CV
Alameda	48	101
Alcaucín	40.89	86.33
Alfarnate	37.49	79.13
Alfarnatejo	37.49	79.13
Algarrobo	54.53	115.1
Algatocín	34.08	71.94
Alhaurín de la Torre	64.58	136.33
Alhaurín el Grande	62	113
Almáchar	47.71	100.72
Almargen	47.71	100.72
Almogía	60.66	128.05
Álora	51.12	107.91
Alozaina	50.78	107.19
Alpandeire	34.08	75.37
Antequera	53.1	127.25
Árchez	44.3	93.52
Archidona	48.73	102.88
Ardales	43.58	91.65
Arenas	34.08	71.94
Arriate	58.96	124.5
Atajate	34.08	71.94
Benadalid	37.32	78.77
Benahavís	34.08	71.94
Benalauría	34.08	71.94
Benalmádena	61.34	129.49
Benamargosa	34.08	71.94
Benamocarra	62.02	130.92
Benaolán	37.49	79.14
Benarrabá	37.49	79.13
Borge (El)	45.67	96.4
Burgo (El)	34.08	71.94
Campillos	56.76	120.03
Canillas de Aceituno	51.12	107.91
Canillas de Albaida	51.12	107.91
Cañete la Real	34.08	71.94
Carratraca	34.08	71.94
Cartajima	34.08	71.94
Cártama	51.12	107.91
Casabermeja	34.08	71.94
Casarabonela	51.12	107.91
Casares	34.08	71.94
Coín	57.93	122.3
Colmenar	47.72	100.75
Comares	40.9	86.33
Cómpeta	51.12	107.91
Cortes de la Frontera	68.16	143.88
Cuevas Bajas	34.08	71.94
Cuevas de San Marcos	42.26	89.22
Cuevas del Becerro	42.5	89.5
Cútar	34.08	71.94
Estepona	37.7	79.5
Faraján	34.08	71.94

Municipality	8 to 11.99 CV	12 to 15.99 CV
Frigiliana	38.95	82.22
Fuengirola	60.33	127.34
Fuente de Piedra	54.87	115.82
Gaucín	38.95	82.22
Genalguacil	34.08	71.94
Guaro	37.49	79.14
Humilladero	51.89	109.66
Igualeja	34.08	71.94
Istán	34.08	71.94
Iznate	44.3	93.52
Jimera de Líbar	34.08	71.94
Jubrique	34.08	71.94
Júzcar	34.08	71.94
Macharaviaya	43.01	90.79
Malaga	65.8	138.9
Manilva	35.78	75.54
Marbella	51.4	116.25
Mijas	51.12	107.93
Moclinejo	52.82	111.5
Mollina	47.71	100.72
Monda	39.19	82.73
Montecorto	34.08	71.94
Montejaque	34.08	71.94
Nerja	58.55	130.93
Ojén	34.08	71.94
Parauta	34.08	71.94
Periana	34.08	71.94
Pizarra	52.82	111.51
Pujerra	34.08	71.94
Rincón de la Victoria	57.94	122.3
Riogordo	34.08	71.94
Ronda	59.64	139.56
Salares	34.08	71.94
Sayalonga	40.9	86.33
Sedella	34.08	71.94
Serrato	48.56	109.35
Sierra de Yeguas	39.97	84.39
Teba	44	93
Tolox	37.49	79.14
Torremolinos	37.08	79.93
Torrox	39.19	82.73
Totalán	47.36	100
Valle de Abdalajís	51.12	107.91
Vélez-Malaga	53.57	113.09
Villanueva de Algaidas	44.3	93.52
Villanueva de la Concepción	53.1	127.25
Villanueva de Tapia	44.3	93.52
Villanueva del Rosario	46	97.11
Villanueva del Trabuco	46	97.11
Viñuela	37.48	79.14
Yunquera	42.6	89.93

THE FIGURE

16,002

vehicles are registered in Montejaque, which has a population of 1,011. By keeping the rate of vehicle tax at the legal minimum, the village has become very attractive to transport and car hire companies.

“In a village with little income, it helps a great deal to have a hire car company register its vehicles here,” says the mayor of Macharaviaya, Antonio Campos, who also explains that, thanks to this extra money, “We have been able to freeze our other taxes, charges and other prices for years.”

Torremolinos are Estepona are the large towns in Malaga province with the lowest vehicle tax rates

In this village in La Axarquía the IVTM is between 43.01 and 90.79 euros for the most common types of car.

In the case of Montejaque, which charges the legal minimum, these 16,000 payments bring in 436,000 euros, which amounts to practically one quarter of the annual budget.

Two men arrested after DJ is killed by stray bullet at Marbella house party

The German nationals were held in Malaga city as they were about to flee the country

ÁLVARO FRÍAS / JUAN CANO

MALAGA. The National Police on Tuesday arrested the man they believe fired the shot that killed a DJ during an illegal party held in a Marbella villa in the early hours of Monday morning.

Police say the man who was arrested in Malaga city is a 30-year-old German. Another German national, aged 28, has also been arrested as an accessory. Officers believe they were preparing to flee the country in the following few hours. Police have linked the two men to the Hells Angels gang.

Forensic reports suggest that the death of the victim, named as José María Ares, was caused by a stray bullet after an argument broke out in an adjacent room to where the DJ was.

Apparently three shots were



Police outside the villa where the party took place and one of the suspects under arrest. JOSELE/SUR

fired, one of them going through a wall and hitting the man in the neck.

According to friends, the victim, who went by the stage name DJ JM Ares, was hoping to become a flight attendant and get out of the nighttime entertainment industry. This was especially the case after last December he was

playing at a party in a Benahavís mansion where two shots were fired and resulted in a Moroccan man being taken to hospital with gunshot wounds in the lower back.

A difficult task

It was not an easy task to find the man suspected to have fired

the shot, as when police arrived at the scene of the incident - a villa located in Guadalmina Alta, a luxury development in Marbella - there was no one in the property except for the body of the deceased.

Police immediately alerted paramedics but there was nothing they could do to save the life

of the 41-year-old Spaniard.

Although there was no one in the property, it was clear that an illegal party had been held there. Judicial and scientific police officers were deployed to the scene to inspect the house and collect samples in order to clarify what had happened.

According to sources, officers found that three shots had been fired in the house. Examining the trajectory of the bullets it became clear that the shots had been fired in a room next to the area of the house where the victim was.

It appears that a stray bullet from the firearm ricocheted off the ceiling and through a plasterboard wall before finally striking the victim's neck.

Several parties

The National Police's initial investigations quickly showed that neighbours had been complaining about several parties being held at the house in the previous days, with guests not wearing masks or respecting social distance while exceeding the number of people permitted to gather.

The owner of the property is a foreign national and she rented the house out apparently not realising that on this occasion it was being used to host illegal parties.

The investigation is still open and further arrests have not been ruled out.

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Under-65s in Andalucía start to receive AstraZeneca jabs

As they are not eligible for the British-backed formula, the Junta hopes to start vaccinating all those aged 66 to 79 from 15 April, once all over 80s have received their Moderna or Pfizer jabs

SUR

MALAGA. Andalucía continues to outline its vaccination plan and the regional government's spokesman, Elías Bendodo, announced this Tuesday (30 March) that the region wants to start vaccinating those over 65 years of age (and under 80) and high-risk patients from 15 April once the over 80s have received their doses.

The group of high-risk patients includes people with Down's syndrome, cancer patients and those receiving dialysis treatments - but the smooth delivery of the regional plan will be subject to the arrival of Pfizer and Moderna vaccines.

AstraZeneca for under 65s

The Junta de Andalucía has also started to vaccinate members of the general public aged between 65 and 55 years old with the AstraZeneca formula this week - starting with those born in 1956.



A man gets an AstraZeneca jab last week in the Atlético Madrid stadium. AFP

Appointments will be scheduled in the Andalusian provinces with AstraZeneca once the vaccination of essential workers ends. The British-backed vaccine is currently only approved for use up to 65 years.

Over 80s being finished

The regional health service is forecasting that by next week everyone over 80 will have had at least one dose of the vaccine. People over 80 who have not yet been vaccinated have been told to contact their nearest local

public health centre.

Bendodo confirmed the arrival this week of another 368,000 doses of vaccines in the region: "A significant figure, although it is not yet the half million that we demand," he said.

"At this rate it is going to be difficult to reach the summer with 70 per cent of the people vaccinated but if a fourth player - the Janssen vaccine - enters the field, the campaign can be accelerated throughout Spain. We are prepared to vaccinate seven days a week," he reiterated.

As people make the best of Easter rules, case rates grow again

Despite the limited Semana Santa mobility, evidence is growing that some regions could be already entering their fourth wave

SUR

For the second year in a row, people in Spain are facing up to a severely scaled back Easter weekend while average case numbers are rising, suggesting the start of a fourth wave.

While restrictions are not as severe as some other European countries (and even visiting Holy Week statues has been possible this year), by Tuesday this week the rolling 14-day case rate per 100,000 in Spain had risen in a week from 130 to 147.

The highest case rates were being seen in Madrid, with a case rate of 258, Catalonia (194), Navarra (282) and the Basque Country (232).

In Andalucía on Wednesday this week (31 March), the 14-day case rate was 139.8, up from 132.9 a week earlier.

On Wednesday there were 1,881 new recorded cases in Andalucía, the highest amount since 21 February.

In Malaga province, the rate was 88.2 on Wednesday, down



Mask-wearing diners on a terrace in Galicia this week. SUR

slightly on 92.4 a week earlier, but there were 264 new cases in the day, the highest daily number since 24 February.

Non-essential travel between Andalucía's provinces continues to be banned until at least 9 April and travel between Spain's regions as well.

Groups of six can meet outdoors or up to four indoors, but only people living together can meet at home, in a bid to prevent large family gatherings.

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

A rethink is coming on new, tougher mask rule

Wearing a face covering is now formally enshrined in law at last, upsetting some regions as even sitting on the beach without one is no longer allowed

SUR

MADRID. After a national parliamentary law came into force this week toughening up on the use of face masks in public, central government has indicated that it is open to reconsidering it after objections from some of Spain's regions. The rule change has led to uncertainty and confusion among the public.

The new law, approved by parliament and now in force, is similar to existing government decrees about mask wearing in public places, but crucially states that it is essential in almost all situa-

tions, eliminating the exemption when keeping a distance of more than 1.5 metres from others.

The change means that by law a mask must now be worn even when sunbathing. Exceptions are for practising individual sports or in unspecified situations where wearing one would be impossible for a particular activity. Those with relevant medical conditions are also exempt.

Ministers have said that this parliamentary law formalises a government decree from last year but because of the slowness of the parliamentary system it has only been approved by the Senate now.

The government has recognised that it might not be appropriate any more, amid resistance from regions such as the Balearics and Valencia, and is open to debate it.

However, for the time being, the new stricter law applies, including on the beaches over Easter.

Travellers entering Spain by road or rail from France now need negative tests

SUR IN ENGLISH

From 30 March, there are significant changes to entry requirements for anyone travelling by road or rail from France - which is on a Covid risk list - to Spain.

Even the British Embassy has taken to social media to remind travellers, "Anyone intending to travel from the UK to Spain should be aware that from 30 March, all overland travellers (excluding children under the age of six years old) who wish to enter Spain by road or rail from France, are required to present a negative PCR, TMA or LAMP test taken within 72 hours prior to entry."

The new order was published in Spain's BOE Official State Gazette last Friday.

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'I've been able to flag UK nationals' concerns to the Spanish government'

David Hunt **FCDO Head of Citizens' Rights and Mobility, Europe**

Safeguarding rights enshrined in the UK's EU Withdrawal Agreement is the challenge facing this official who paid a virtual visit to Spain last week

RACHEL HAYNES

MALAGA. As a former British Ambassador to Lithuania, among other posts, David Hunt is no stranger

to the European Union. Now, from the British government's Foreign and Commonwealth Development Office (FCDO) in London, he is working with EU member states to ensure that the conditions of the Withdrawal Agreement are being adhered to after Brexit. Last week he heard some of the concerns of residents in Spain, the EU's largest British expat community.

You took on the role of Head of Citizens' Rights in 2019 so you



David Hunt. **SUR**

knew you'd be dealing directly with the consequences of Brexit. Has it been as you expected?

I knew it was a challenge, but the architecture has been set: we have the TCA (Trade and Cooperation Agreement) and the Withdrawal

KEY WORDS

RESIDENCY

"The most important thing UK nationals can do is make sure they are registered as resident"

COVID-19

"The commitment from the Spanish government is that everyone in Spain, regardless of nationality, will be vaccinated"

Agreement so now I feel quite positive about the future.

Have the problems experienced by Brits in the EU varied from country to country?

Yes, there are differences. My job is to make sure that, by working with member states and the Commission, everyone fulfils their responsibilities as set out in the Withdrawal Agreement. It's really clear. Those who were resident before the end of the transition period should be able to live and work and spend their lives largely as they did beforehand.

You've been talking to groups involved in solving UK nationals' problems here.

The expatriate groups talked to me about varied challenges. There are regional variances in terms of applying for the TIE card and access to healthcare, concerns about driving licences - practical issues. The three organisations implementing the UK Nationals Support Fund were also able to talk to me about the cases they've had to deal with. It was good to have the conversations with these groups and then flag them with the Spanish government representatives later.

Did the specific issues put to you include residency application rejections due to the date on health policies in Andalucía?

I heard some cases of people having problems with documents. These are practical issues that we're very interested in hearing about, so all feedback like that is very welcome. When I was in discussion with the Spanish government I brought up regional variances in the outcomes people were getting.

What response did you get from the Spanish authorities?

I've been talking to senior officials within the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Migrations and had some very productive talks. They recognised there are challenges, and that across a large country like Spain with a regional devolved system there are variances. We said that we would continue to provide them with examples where we believed problems were happening and they said they would look into them. The key message was that they value the UK national community across Spain and want them to feel welcome and enjoy the rights set out in the Withdrawal Agreement.

Did you discuss Covid vaccines with the Spanish authorities and the concern of some British nationals about when they might get them?

The commitment from the Spanish government is that everyone within Spain, regardless of nationality, will be vaccinated. There was a very clear message on that. Those vaccines will happen. That programme will be rolled out.

Is there still a need to get a message across to Brits in Spain with regard to the situation after Brexit?

The most important thing UK nationals can do is to make sure they are registered as a resident so they can access healthcare and all of the other services that they require.

British Embassy reminds non-residents of 90-day stay deadline

SUR IN ENGLISH

MALAGA. The British Embassy in Madrid has reminded non-resident UK nationals in Spain that the 90-day post-Brexit deadline was at the end of March.

To comply with the new rules UK nationals can only spend 90 days out of every 180 within the Schengen area for tourism or other specific purposes, such as business meetings, without a visa. Any stays beyond the 90 days will be dependent on Spain's visa and immigration authorities.

"Any UK nationals who would

like to discuss extending their stay should contact their local 'extranjería' office or call 060," said the embassy in its statement.

The advice continued, "Therefore if you arrived in Spain before 1 January you must take steps to become resident if you consider your home to be here."

"Otherwise, you should be arranging to return to the UK. If you are trying to become resident and are in the process of registering or appealing against your application having been rejected, the 90-day rule does not apply to you," the embassy continued.

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Mijas man fights on after losing part of his hand when a bomb exploded in the rubbish

The explosive device had allegedly been left in a container by cash machine robbers who were trying to get rid of evidence before police arrested them

FERNANDO TORRES

MIJAS. Antonio Manuel Serrato will never forget 18 May 2017. He was searching for scrap metal in a container on a Mijas industrial estate when he came across an explosive device that had allegedly been abandoned by a gang of bank robbers who were trying to get rid of the evidence before their imminent arrest by the police. The device was designed to blow up cash machines at banks without damaging the money.

"It exploded; then there is a moment when I don't remember anything and the next image I have in my head is that of two of my fingers lying on the ground."

"Now I am disabled, I have a recognised disability of 50 per cent," he says, resigned to the outcome. Before the explosion, Antonio was a bus driver and an aircraft refuelling technician. "I can't do either of those two jobs anymore," he says.

In addition to losing two fingers on his left hand, shrapnel cut through his leg a few inches from

the kneecap and the explosion burned his face. "It was a good thing I was wearing sunglasses, but I still lost my eyebrows and eyelashes."

He spent seven hours on the operating table, where surgeons had to rebuild almost all his tendons, nerves and his thumb. Now his left arm is shorter than his right and is almost useless.

But beyond the physical injuries, the bomb has left him with serious psychological problems,



Antonio, who lost two fingers, shows damage caused by the explosion. **SUR**

as well as completely changing his life. His mother suffered a stroke as a result of the stress caused by the situation.

Antonio explains how children stare at him, and that "hurts". He also suffers from post-traumatic

stress disorder according to the experts who have treated him, as he "relives the accident over and over again" in his head.

Compensation

He has decided to tell his story

as a result of the latest news that several of the bank robbers were convicted of crimes by the courts after they were arrested during the National Police's Operation Thunder.

However, Antonio says that his compensation case has not been settled yet. "This happened in 2017 and we still don't have a date for the trial," he says. "I need to move forward, and someone has to pay for what happened."

For Antonio, the journey towards the recovery of his life will never begin until he can close the chapter.

At the time when the gang of robbers was broken up by the National Police it was reported they had connected them to raids on a bank on the La Azucarera industrial estate in Antequera, two in Malaga city and another in Estepona as well as one in Cordoba that triggered the investigation.

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Six-year sentence for raping a British tourist in a Malaga nightclub toilet

JUAN CANO / ÁLVARO FRÍAS

MALAGA. A Malaga court has given out a six-year prison sentence to a 37-year-old man for raping a 19-year-old British tourist in a nightclub toilet in the city.

The court heard that the attack took place on 11 July 2017 when the victim met the man at the club and, despite language difficulties, they struck up a conversation. According to court documents the pair began to dance and kiss on the dancefloor.

At about 4am, the girl asked the defendant where the women's toilets were and he offered to accompany her. Once there, when the young woman entered one of the toilets, he followed behind her and closed the door. The man then grabbed her tightly, lifted her dress and raped her. The court papers say the man carried out the sexual assault while she "insistently" pleaded for him to stop, while crying inconsolably.

When police traced the man they found contradictions in his account. He acknowledged the sexual encounter, but maintained that it was consensual at all times.

The victim, who had eight finger-shaped bruises on the inner side of her left thigh, maintained her version of events at the trial, in which she testified by video-conference.

The man was found guilty of the sexual assault and sentenced to six years in prison, an order banning him from communicating with the victim for another 11 years and compensation of 15,000 euros for the injuries and emotional trauma suffered.

Seven-year-old girl dies after a metal structure falls on her in Estepona

The incident happened at a country property where several families were celebrating a birthday

J. CANO / Á. FRÍAS

MALAGA. A seven-year-old girl has died after a metal structure fell on her when she was playing with other children at a country property in the municipality of Estepona.

The accident happened just before 6pm on Saturday in the Padrón area of the town when the parents of the girl - of Colombian origin - were celebrating a birthday with several other

couples and their children.

Sources say the adults suddenly heard a loud noise and ran to see what had happened. They found the little girl had been hit by a large metal structure which, apparently, the children were playing on.

The adults rushed the child to a health centre in Estepona where the doctors tried to stabilise her condition while an ambulance was called. But their efforts were in vain and the child died at the health centre.

National Police officers in Estepona have taken over the investigation but sources close to the case say that the evidence points to an unfortunate accident.

112 REPORTS

RONDA

One injured after a car plunges off a bridge

SUR. One person was injured in an accident that occurred on Tuesday on the A-367 Ronda to Ardales road according to sources at the Malaga provincial fire brigade.

The vehicle was destroyed after plunging off the Puente de la Ventilla for reasons that



The site of the accident. **SUR**

are still being investigated.

Remarkably, firefighters did not have to rescue the driver, who was transferred to hospital by ambulance.

COÍN

Brit wanted for sexual abuse of minor arrested

E. P. The Guardia Civil in the La Rioja region last week arrested a 57-year-old British man, a resident of Coín, on a charge of the alleged sexual abuse of a minor.

He was identified when he went to police offices in Villamediana de Iregua (La Rioja) to make a complaint. When the officers consulted the police database, they found that there was a warrant for his arrest due to a report filed with Guardia Civil in Coín, in which the sexual abuse was alleged.

Three more accesses planned for Plaza Mayor and Ikea

Looking ahead to the future growth of the area, two new connections will be created with the old N-340 and part of the golf course road will have two lanes in each direction

FRANCISCO JIMÉNEZ

MALAGA. Are the present access roads to Plaza Mayor and Ikea going to be enough to support the extra traffic that will be generated by the opening of new stores and the expansion of existing ones in that area? The answer is no. Looking back at the problems that delayed the inauguration of the McArthur Glen Designer Outlet by four months, until two additional lanes had been added from the dual carriageway to the new service road, Malaga council is planning ahead and currently has three projects on the table in anticipation of the future expansion of the Plaza Mayor shopping centre and the luxury outlet.

These involve two new connections with the MA-21 (formerly the

N-340) to the north, and the widening of the road to the golf course, which will have two lanes in each direction between the bridge by the Bahía Malaga trade park and the roundabout at the entrance to Guadalmar. These changes will not cost the local authority anything, because the companies are responsible for carrying them out.

“Not one brick will be laid until these new connections are completed. On other occasions we have granted a works licence beforehand, but in this case the roads have to be sorted out first,” says councillor Raúl López.

Stages

Although the project to expand Plaza Mayor is still in the initial stages (the companies and city hall have just come to an agreement

The expansion works will not be able to start until the new accesses and road improvements have been carried out

over modifying the relevant parts of the Urban Plan), Malaga’s town planning department is very clear that traffic fluidity has to be ensured before the works are carried out. They are conditional upon the widening of the golf course road and Calle Rismky Korsakov (behind Porcelanosa) which runs parallel to the railway line and then forks north to the old N-340.

The most difficult part of that plan will be crossing the railway lines. The council’s initial idea was to build a bridge but the State Air Safety Agency (AESAs) believes it would be too high, bearing in mind its proximity to the runway, so a tunnel is being considered instead.

At Guadalmar, there will be increased use of the inner roads between Playa Mayor and the Porcelanosa area, so that traffic coming over the motorway bridge will enter and leave via a road with two lanes in each direction. Pavements will be added to the stretch between the bridge and the golf course, and possibly a cycle path.

There are also plans for a new exit from Bahía Malaga to the old N-340, near the Air Base.

New access roads to Plaza Mayor



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HERE AND THERE

MALAGA

Mallards are nesting on the Guadalmedina

IGNACIO LILLO. The first to spot them were members of Malaga city's Ecologistas en Acción environmental group: several pairs of mallards with dozens of chicks, can now be seen on the city's Guadalmedina river. Despite the lack of water, the noise and the contamination, these wild ducks have decided to nest in the area.

"It's lovely to see them, but it isn't actually that rare for them to come to urban areas," says Antonio Román Muñoz, an ornithologist and professor of Biology at Malaga university. There are still pools of water in the river and plenty of vegetation, which is what



Mallards in Malaga city. **SUR**

this species likes in order to protect its chicks. The ecologists are calling on the council to "renaturalise" the river. "Imagine what species would come here if it were flowing all year," they say.

MALAGA

Bathers attempt to save dolphin on city beach

SUR. Members of the public helped rescue a dolphin that was stranded at La Misericordia beach in Malaga on Wednesday morning. Sadly their efforts were in vain and the dolphin died after it was transferred to a marine species recovery centre. The centre's director said it was very thin for its age and was probably sick.



The dolphin on the beach. **SUR**

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INHOME SERVICES



“AT INHOME SERVICIOS WE SPECIALISE IN CARING FOR THE ELDERLY, ADAPTING TO THEIR SPECIFIC NEEDS AND REQUIREMENTS”

FUENGIROLA

SUR. Some families would rather not send their elderly relatives to live-in nursing homes and instead require people to look after them in the comfort of their own homes. With this in mind, there are companies that provide specialist staff to look after the elderly or people with disabilities. We have interviewed the head of one of these companies in Fuengirola, ?? (nombre de la persona) from InHome Services, to find out exactly what they do. **What domestic and home-help services do you offer?**

At InHome we're specialists in caring for the elderly, people with disabilities and children. We can also provide other services such as live-in or external housekeepers, cleaning of private and holiday homes, disinfection services and minor repairs (handyman).

What makes InHome stand out from the rest?

We stand out for our personalised attention and the selection of the best professionals, who adapt and meet our clients' specific needs.

What sort of clients do you look after?

At InHome Servicios we adapt to all sorts of clients, as we offer a very varied range of services, however we are specialised in looking

after elderly people. Due to our location, in Fuengirola, there is a high demand for services from foreign residents, so we have a lot of experience with this type of client.

What do people value the most when they ask for home-help?

More than anything else, they want qualified professional staff with experience and references. Moreover, it's very important for carers to be careful and attentive at all times and to inspire trust. At InHome we are aware of all this and we always seek the maximum wellbeing of our users, with safety and respect.

These are difficult times, what safety measures have you added to your services?

Our staff always work in their company uniforms, which they only wear while providing the service and then carefully wash and disinfect. They always wear their masks correctly, and gloves when necessary. We also offer disinfection services in compliance with the ECHA concerning biocidal active substances and in compliance with WHO recommendations.

MORE INFORMATION

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Many beach bars have decided not to open this season. JOSELE

Shutters stay down on majority of Costa beach bars this Easter

The absence of tourists has meant that 'between 20 and 25' of the 60 chiringuitos in Marbella have decided to delay their opening until later in the season

JOAQUINA DUEÑAS

MARBELLA. Every year, the Easter holiday period normally kicks off the tourist season on the Costa del Sol. However, more than a year after the first case of coronavirus was detected in Spain the situation is still critical with the threat of the fourth wave hovering. Many beach businesses, therefore, have decided to postpone their reopening until later in the year.

José Ravira Díaz, the Marbella representative of the Costa del Sol Beach Entrepreneurs Association estimates that of the slightly more than 60 beach bars in the town "there are between 20 and 25 open", only a third.

Ravira runs Pepes Bar, located in the heart of Marbella, on La Venus beach, an establishment that has been open since 1969. He explained: "I was thinking of open-

ing at Easter but seeing what there is, I have decided not to risk it because our products, mainly fish and vegetables, are perishable and what is not sold ends up being thrown away."

He added: "Yesterday I spoke with someone who has 17 employees and he served four meals so, if it continues like this, he will close again when the Easter holidays are over."

In his own case, Ravira has 11 employees and currently it is not financially viable to open with the entire workforce, so he has decided that "if it improves, I will open from the 15th with five or six staff".

National tourism

Ravira added that, in general, between 70 and 75 per cent of tourism at Easter is national: "During the rest of spring the figures stabilise until summer arrives and in June and July most tourists are foreigners. But now there are neither Spaniards nor foreigners."

"Years ago most of the beach bar owners had another profession. The season was much shorter, starting in June and ending at the end of September. Now, there are many who, until the pandemic, opened throughout the year, and have nothing else to fall back on."

HERE AND THERE

FUENGIROLA

Save the Salón campaign raises 27k

T. B. The Salón Varietés theatre in Fuengirola has announced that its Save the Salón campaign has raised 27,000 euros. The theatre, which was forced to close due to coronavirus restrictions, had hoped to raise 30,000 euros by the end of March to keep the building maintained. The expectation now is for the Salón to reopen its doors in the autumn.

A spokesperson said, "We wish to thank every donor and event organiser for coming out in support of the theatre."

FUENGIROLA

Lux Mundi shop now accepting donations

SUR. The Lux Mundi boutique in Fuengirola is now ready to start receiving donations of second-hand items to sell. The necessary disinfection procedures will be followed, the centre explained this week. The shop can be found in the Lux Mundi Centre, in Calle Nueva, number 7. The Lux Mundi office in Fuengirola is also in the same street, at number 3. More information is available at luxmundi@gmail.com or 952474840.

TORREMOLINOS

Court requested to evict hotel squatters

SUR. The mayor of Torremolinos, José Ortiz, has told local residents that an official request to order the eviction of squatter from the Califa hotel has been lodged with a court. The administrators responsible for the two buildings have called for their "immediate" eviction as the structure could pose "extreme danger" to property and people. Some weeks ago the council announced the start of a process to declare the buildings as officially in ruin.

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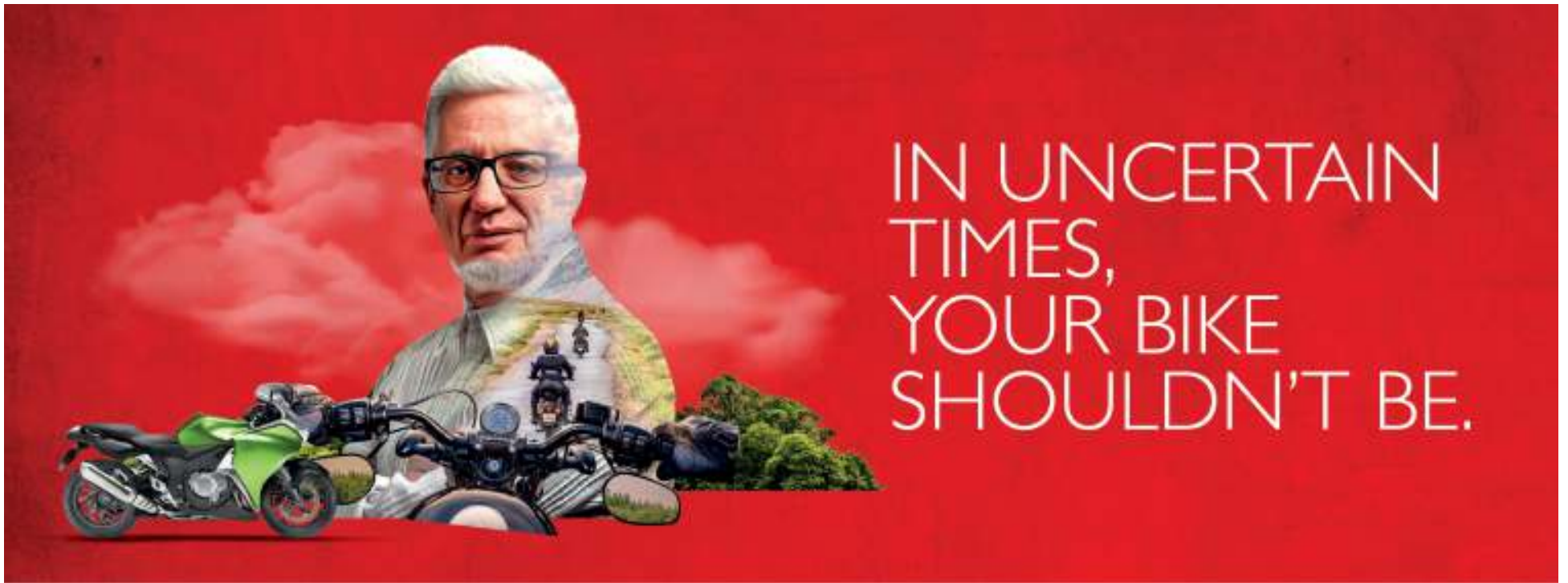
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Marbella youngsters DITS seek funding to release second album

MARBELLA

JOAQUINA DUEÑAS. Local youth band DITS (Devils in the Sky) have launched a campaign to help fund the release of their second album,

Rock in Progress. The group, founded in 2017 and made up of six youngsters aged between eleven and eighteen, are using crowd-funding site Verkami to raise money.



DITS: Blanca, Sara, Bruno, María, Sergio and Lluvia. **JOSELE**

One of the group's mentors, Rafael Reyes, praised them: "It's a very collaborative work and their evolution is clear from how they've brought their own ideas into it." Songs are mainly sung in Spanish and combine rock with flamenco, funk and rap.

However, the pandemic has created complications as the band members found it difficult to focus on their music. One member even chose to leave the group. Their bassist, Lluvia, commented: "It's been tough facing these challenges because we're like a family."

Although restrictions mean that the group have not been able to regularly meet up, their appearance on the TV show Tierra de Talento on CanalSur has provided a welcome boost of encouragement. Now, the band is more eager than ever to pursue their dreams.



A local councillor inspects one of the new roofed areas. **SUR**

Shelters built at local schools for year-round outdoor classes

MARBELLA

JOSÉ MARÍA MARTÍN. Marbella town hall has financed the installation of nearly 900 square metres of roofing panels at eight local schools to allow classes to take place outdoors.

The idea to create the shel-

tered areas came up as one of the measures to help guarantee social distancing due to the Covid pandemic.

The roofing, with thermal insulation, will provide shade from the sun during the spring and summer as well as shelter from the rain in the winter.

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Dominic Raab pays his first official visit to Gibraltar for discussions on EU treaty

The foreign secretary and chief minister agreed their joint approach to the upcoming negotiations with the European Union over Gibraltar's future relationship

DEBBIE BARTLETT



GIBRALTAR. The UK foreign secretary, Dominic Raab, paid his first official visit to Gibraltar on Monday, for a meeting of the joint ministerial council to agree their combined approach to the upcoming negotiations on a treaty between the EU and the UK in respect of Gibraltar.

This treaty, if it goes ahead, will include Gibraltar's potential access to the Schengen Area which formed part of the New Year's Eve agreement, the in-principle framework for a definitive agreement which will be enshrined in law. However, it will also cover other aspects of Gibraltar's future relationship with the EU. It will be signed on behalf of Gibraltar by the UK, as the UK is responsible for Gibraltar's external relations. However, as Dominic Raab has pointed out in the past, the negotiations have been and are being led by the Gibraltar government, with the UK alongside.

The foreign secretary's visit has reassured some who feared that the UK was planning to sell Gibraltar out. A statement released after the meeting said that "the Foreign Secretary reiterated the UK's longstanding commit-



The chief minister and foreign secretary held a press conference in the afternoon. SUR

ment that it will never enter into arrangements under which the people of Gibraltar would pass under the sovereignty of another state against their freely and democratically expressed wishes. Nor will it enter into a process of sovereignty negotiations with which Gibraltar is not content". This was in reference to the double-lock sovereignty commitment which forms part of the Gibraltar Constitution.

The statement went on to say that the aim of these negotiations is "to secure future prosperity for Gibraltar and the surrounding region. This will be delivered through a treaty which brings confidence, legal certainty and stability to the lives and livelihoods of the people of Gibraltar and neighbouring communities,

"Gibraltar's British identity, and the UK's sovereignty, must be preserved. The UK will stand fully behind Gibraltar in any scenario"

without prejudice to legal positions on sovereignty and jurisdiction. The treaty should ensure fluid and open movement of people and goods between Gibraltar and the EU (...) we are committed to work constructively and quickly with the objective of concluding a treaty in the coming months. That said, we repeat our position that a treaty must be on the right terms. Gibraltar's British identity, and the United King-

dom's sovereignty, must be preserved. We believe that with commitment and flexibility, a treaty can meet these requirements. However, if this does not prove to be the case, or the deal on offer is not the right one for the UK and Gibraltar, we are fully prepared to accept the implications. The UK will stand fully behind Gibraltar, its people and its economy in any scenario".

At a press conference later, a journalist said visits of this nature are sometimes followed by bad news, and asked if that was going to be the case. Not at all, said Raab; Gibraltar is part of the UK family and that is a constant and steadfast. "There's no lurking bad news for you at all," he said, adding pointedly, "Sorry to disappoint."

Masks off, no curfew and bars open till 2am as Gibraltar starts to get back to normal

DEBBIE BARTLETT

GIBRALTAR. Crossing the short distance from Spain over the border to Gibraltar is like entering a different world now, one where masks are only obligatory in certain places and the atmosphere is much more carefree and cheerful.

With all its adult population and many of its cross-border workers now having been offered the vaccine against Covid-19, combined with very low rates of the virus, the Gibraltar government has eased its social restrictions.

While in Andalucía people are confined to their provinces and masks are compulsory everywhere outside the home, including on the beach, the people of Gibraltar are enjoying their newfound freedom. They can also enjoy more of their homeland, as the lower reaches of the Upper Rock have just been reopened to traffic after being closed during the lockdown.

Some restrictions are still in place, however. Masks are no longer needed in Main Street and the nearby area of the town centre, but must still be worn in enclosed public places, shops and on public transport, and the ban on the consumption of alcohol in public places, in other words away from licensed premises, remains in force from 7pm to 8am every day. This does not apply to the outside area of a bar or restaurant as these areas are counted as being part of the licensed premises.



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A new Airbus A-320 simulator is helping the Axarquía Aviation Park to take off

VÉLEZ-MÁLAGA

The training centre, on the business park next to the local aerodrome, aims to be the most complete training centre for the industry in Europe

E. CABEZAS / J. SOTO

Despite the collapse of the aviation sector in the Covid-19 pandemic, the ambitious Axarquía Aviation Park project continues to take shape on the business estate next to the light-aircraft aerodrome just outside Vélez-Málaga.

The new facility aims to become the only aeronautics school in Europe that offers training for pilots, crew and maintenance technicians on the same site.

The complex, which covers around 62,000 square metres, will also have six aircraft hangars and a residence for its students. It is expected to have cost around ten million euros once finished.

The jewel in the crown of the new technology being used so



The new A-320 flight simulator adds to two others at the centre near Vélez-Málaga. FRANCIS SILVA

far is a Simloc A320 flight simulator, recently installed and certified by regulators. The training school acquired it last year for 1.5 million euros and it replicates the cockpit of a fully functioning Airbus A320 passenger plane.

The live view system has three

'Full HD' projectors and a three-metre-high semi-cylindrical screen, allowing a field of vision of 210 by 40 degrees for each pilot. It also includes an integrated control panel which lets instructors and students fully interact with the needs of the aircraft.

On a visit by SUR to try out the

simulator, it was easy to imagine that the half-spherical fibre-glass machine was really flying at 10,000 metres above sea level and not sitting on the ground in the Axarquía.

The sound of the passing air was reproduced perfectly as were the changes in the control

panels on board and the conversations with the imaginary control tower using advanced artificial intelligence software - just as if it were a real flight.

The flight model systems of the new A320 are based on the Airbus data package. "With which we can achieve a dynamic behaviour like with a real aeroplane," manager Juan Manuel Martín said.

Over 100 students

The A320 simulator will allow the school to increase its training offer and adds to two existing flight simulators.

The centre, on the Parque Tecnológico business park, already has 120 students this year, Martín explained. Most of them are from outside Spain.

On the nearby aerodrome runway the firm has a fleet of 15 planes and plans to build hangars to store them.

Also within the expanding training centre is an area with doors to simulate the entry and exit of different types of plane and an area to train people in the health and safety risks on board passenger jets, such as a fire in the galley.

"Although the situation of the aeronautics sector is difficult due to Covid-19, we are very excited and pleased with the Vélez-Málaga project," Martín concluded.

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Holy Week - no processions but still the same passion

Malaga. Images of Christ and Our Lady that are normally carried through crowded streets with devotion and ceremony have been put on public display this week for socially distanced visiting

SUR IN ENGLISH

For the second year running the streets of the city of Malaga and towns and villages around the region have been without their usual Semana Santa processions that attract crowds unthinkable in times of Covid.

The religious brotherhoods have been celebrating their important week, however, with various events, showing, as their president, Pablo Atencia said this week, that "living with the virus and enjoying Holy Week are compatible".

The images that would normally

be carried through the streets have been put on display by the brotherhoods, who limited numbers and took temperatures and other precautions as queues formed in the street.

The possibility of viewing the images meant a great deal to many devotees, especially as last Easter they were in lockdown and unable to leave their homes.

Concerts, including a marching band performance from a city rooftop, added to the atmosphere in Malaga city.



A devotee at the mass celebrated by Cautivo brotherhood. **ÑITO SALAS**



Visitors with a group of figures that form the Sentencia procession. **S. SALAS**



A marching band provides Holy Week atmosphere. **S. SALAS**



The empty bars along which the bearers line up in a procession. **Ñ. S.**

Rural tourism is proving popular for Easter despite the pandemic restrictions

SUR IN ENGLISH

MALAGA. There may be no Easter this year for tourism on the Costa del Sol or Malaga city, but rural areas are different. People want to escape from the routine of the pandemic and breathe fresh air and enjoy a sense of freedom. Despite everyone still being confined to their province, many hotels and self-catering accommodation in rural towns and villages are fully booked this week, apart from the largest houses which find themselves at a disadvantage because no more than six people are allowed to be together indoors.

Rural tourist attractions are also proving popular. For example, the Caminito del Rey reopened on 12 March and owners of places to stay nearby are reporting 90 per cent occupancy for this weekend and between 50 and 60 per cent so far this week. "We really didn't expect this. We are very happy indeed," says the manager of La Garganta, Fernando García.

Germán García, who runs the Molino Jabonero complex in Villanueva del Trabuco, says it is also full, but they have cut their capacity by half because of the pandemic. "Normally we would have around 14 guests and this year we have seven or eight, but we are just glad that we are able to open and that we have clients," he says.

Owners of large properties seem resigned to the lack of business, but are optimistic about future bookings. "It's not worth opening a house for 20 people if only six are allowed to come, so Easter is disappointing. However, we have groups booked in for two weekends in May, reservations for July and August and we have just had a booking for the summer of 2022," says María Córdoba of La Samiaja, en Archidona.

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National Police get in a twist over illegal parties in private homes

The controversy was fuelled this week after video emerged of officers breaking down the door of an alleged party in an upmarket part of Madrid

MATEO BALÍN

MADRID. There is confusion over to what extent National Police can and cannot intervene with force to stop growing cases of illegal parties in private homes.

The controversy and uncertainty was fuelled this week after video footage emerged of National Police breaking down the door of a tourist apartment in the upmarket Salamanca neighbourhood of Madrid after the occupants refused to let them in nor identify themselves, as the law requires. Nine people inside were arrested.



National Police in Madrid. EFE

Over the Easter period, National Police are under written instructions from their bosses to break up private parties where they can, supporting local and regional police colleagues in their work.

However forcing an entry is be-

ing criticised as some lawyers say illegal parties are a minor, administrative penalty offence and not a criminal offence, meaning the police are powerless to enter a private home without getting a judge's permission if entry is refused.

Although the Interior Ministry argues that it was a tourist rental property being used and not a home, recently a judge shelved a case against the owner of a property where an alleged party was being held, saying the owner did not commit a serious crime of disobedience.

Some lawyers say that, where entry is refused, officers should wait until the party has finished and stop people on leaving.

The Interior Ministry has denied that it had given orders to its National Police to enter illegal parties without a court order.

Some 70 per cent of Spain's motorhome rental fleet is out on the road this Easter

S.M.

MADRID. Despite mobility restrictions between regions - and even provinces and some towns as in the case of Andalucía - around 70 per cent of the motorhome rental fleet in Spain is booked up for Easter.

According to data from the Spanish caravanning industry association, Aseicar, about 3,800 vehicles out of the 5,500 available throughout Spain were already reserved at the start of this week.

The trade association says the ongoing coronavirus crisis has changed the booking behaviour of customers this Easter in terms of last minute reservations, with most concentrated in the last two weeks.

It says many are first-time customers who want to make small trips within their regions.

The average number of rental days varies by region with three to four days in Madrid, La Rioja and Navarra, and from five to eight days in Catalonia, Andalucía and the Valencia Region.

Since the pandemic began, demand for motorhome rentals has fallen by 60 per cent. The first state of alarm and subsequent lockdown led to the cancellation of all reservations, a situation that lasted until the end of May when the recovery began.

Last August, the anti-Covid security provided by caravaning saw the entire rental fleet of 5,500 vehicles booked up. But then, with the second wave leading to a tightening of restrictions in certain regions, a sharp decline began again.

Finally, mobility limitations between regions, provinces and even between municipalities practically brought the sector to a standstill for four months.

Barcelona stages Covid concert pilot without social distancing measures

CRISTIAN REINO

BARCELONA. A concert at the Palau Sant Jordi indoor arena in Barcelona last Sunday night was the first large-scale event in Spain since the start of the pandemic in which social distancing measures were not in force.

As before the Covid-19 restrictions, at this event, held as a clinical trial, people could stand, dance, jump and sing shoulder

to shoulder, as the Spanish band Love of Lesbian performed on stage.

All concertgoers, who had paid 25 euros for admission and had to take an antigen rapid test in the morning, wore a FFP2 mask that they were given by the organisers when they entered. Only those who tested negative for coronavirus were able to access the venue.

Five thousand people might seem like a lot but the Sant Jordi

arena has space for up to 18,000 spectators. The public were not allowed in the stands, but were separated into three groups on the floor level, each with its own bar area.

The clinical trial was carried out with each of the attendees signing a document authorising a follow-up via a phone app for the following fortnight to monitor how many people may have been infected.

"It was not a commercial concert," said Ventura Barba, representing the organisers. He added that it was "99.9 per cent safe". Of the 5,000 people who were tested hours before the concert, only half a dozen tested positive and consequently had to go home.



The audience wearing face masks at the venue before the start. EFE

THE EURO ZONE
MARK NAYLER

Rule by announcement



How is Spain's minority coalition government able to get anything done? It possesses only 155 of the 350 seats in congress, 21 fewer than the number required for a majority. Pablo Iglesias, the leader of its junior partner Podemos and formerly one of four deputy prime ministers, decided to step down a couple of weeks ago, which raises questions about the weight his party now has in the

partnership. Are the Socialists effectively running the show now? Surely not, because they sit on just 120 seats in congress, 56 short of a majority.

Compromises and deals have been a necessity in Spanish politics ever since December 2015, when an unprecedented general election split the national vote four ways, instead of just two. Since then, gamesmanship, corruption and an unwillingness to negotiate has

often stalled economic and political progress. As the Bank of Spain's governor Pablo Hernández de Cos said this week, "We are experiencing a ... fragmentation process that we are not familiar with, and it is important that ... it does not stop us from reaching agreements." Clearly, it's going to take longer than six years to undo the habits of four decades.

Lately, though, there haven't been many indications that Spain's coalition government is struggling with its technical lack of clout, or being held back by the country's new political complexity. Is it instead using its minority status, together with the carte blanche apparently given to governments everywhere by the pandemic, to do politics in a new,

completely unaccountable fashion?

Certainly, the minority leadership of Pedro Sánchez doesn't seem to be restrained in ways that one would expect or want. This week, for example, it announced a baffling addition to a pre-existing decree, which will make face masks mandatory in all public places, even when social distancing can be maintained. That's right - read the last part of that sentence again: the new rule enforces wearing those dreadful masks just for the hell of it, when there is absolutely no need to.

The content of this "law" is ridiculous in itself, but the manner in which it was passed is much more objectionable (I use quotes because it hasn't yet

gone through normal parliamentary procedures, so isn't really deserving of the label). There was no consultation with the regions prior to its announcement - something which has rightly angered Andalucía's deputy premier, Juan Marín - nor was there any debate about its necessity in national congress. Instead, it was just published in the Official State Gazette on Tuesday as a done deal.

One would expect and wish it to be much more difficult for Sánchez's minority force to pass even the most humdrum pieces of legislation, let alone those which mandate irrational behaviour on a daily basis. When a government gets used to ruling by announcement, everyone should be worried.



The British are still the top foreign property buyers on the Costa despite Covid-19 and Brexit

Although the overall number of sales dropped last year, surprisingly the percentage of overseas buyers in the province stayed the same

NURIA TRIGUERO

MÁLAGA. Last year foreigners bought 6,560 homes in Malaga province including the Costa del Sol, according to the national association of property sale registrars.

This figure was just over 28% of the total homes sold, despite the challenges of the coronavirus crisis and Brexit, and was almost exactly the same percentage of foreign demand seen in 2019.

Understandably, the total transactions carried out by foreigners fell compared to the previous year, but what is surprising is that the intensity of this drop is not greater than that experienced by home sales in general.

The decrease in total transac-



A new property development under construction in Marbella. **SUR**

tions between 2019 and 2020 was 21.9% in Malaga province, slightly higher than that of sales to foreigners (21.5%).

Malaga province continues to hold third place in Spain for foreign demand, beaten only by Alicante and the Balearics

Despite Brexit, Britain continues to lead foreign demand in the province. In 2020, 19% of transactions with a non-Spanish buyer in Malaga province were carried out by buyers from the UK, followed by the Swedish, on 13%, and Belgians, on 9%.

Malaga province continues to hold third place in Spain for foreign demand. Only Alicante (with 37.2% foreign buyers) and the Balearics (with 29.6%) beats it.

Junta to open period to apply for regional small business aid in early April

ANDALUCÍA

The amount of money available has been increased to allow for qualifying firms to get up to 3,000 euros

JUAN SOTO

The Andalusian government has approved changes to the size of payments from an existing pot of EU regional development funds that it will be giving to smaller companies in sectors affected by Covid-19 restrictions.

The amount of aid going to qualifying firms will now be tripled to up to 3,000 euros compared to the 1,000 originally planned. It is hoped that the grants can be applied for from 7 April, with the application period open for a month and the Junta de Andalucía giving its decision within two months.

This aid is aimed at smaller retail companies and artisan businesses, with a total of 79.2m

euros allocated, as well as restaurants, with 53.2m of funds. Tourist accommodation and travel agencies will have separate grant funds.

The measure for smaller firms comes on top of the 1,000 euros announced to the worst-hit 'autónomo' sole traders. Here the Junta has also clarified rules that made applying for that grant incompatible with separate central government aid.

Rules for small firms

For smaller firms to apply for the increased aid they will need to have fewer than 250 employees and annual turnover less than 50 million euros. In addition, they need to prove a drop in sales caused by the pandemic of at least 20 per cent and not to have been in financial difficulty before the pandemic.

The local hospitality industry remained skeptical this week however. Mahos, the industry association in Malaga, said that their sector "hasn't received a single euro" in direct aid since the start of the pandemic.

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LETTERS
TO THE EDITOR

The paseo in Marbella

I used to love walking the paseo - but not anymore. Pedestrians walk it at their peril. Bicycles, roller skates, electric scooters, you name it, they have taken over.

One literally needs eyes in the back of one's head, as the cyclists invariably are using bicycles that make no noise, hence no warning as they fly past - faster than any car. Many cycle with no hands, on mobile phones, weaving their way between terrified pedestrians.

Just take one small step sideways and one could be run over. I have seen so many close shaves especially with small children walking with their parents.

I am sure accidents must have happened. How long will it be before the 'powers that be' put a stop to this take over of our beautiful paseo?

I heard that Malaga has now forbidden these people from using the walkways and have designated special areas for them?

Hopefully Marbella will follow suit! Soon.

VICTORIA MURPHY

Uncaring visitors

Diario SUR's FinD supplement recently did a double page on Villanueva del Trabuco and the village was inundated with city dwellers that weekend.

Unfortunately the majority went to see the hundred pipes fountain and left their faeces, tissues, bits of food and pack-

aging, cigarettes and other debris at the beauty spot.

Some visited the cafes and bars in the village but not enough to make up for all the crap they left behind.

So it was great that the paper promoted our village but very sad that some of the people who came as a result were so ignorant and uncaring.

SANDRA NICHOLSON

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

Easter Eden

Not surprisingly, Holy Week has proved a somewhat subdued affair here in Malaga this year. Processions have been prohibited for obvious reasons and the vast crowds that would normally gather to witness what must surely be one of the most impressive traditions in Europe, have been reduced to a steady trickle of queues formed just to catch a fleeting glimpse of the 'tronos' that sit steadfastly behind closed doors.

The first time I witnessed Holy Week here in all its glory, back in the nineteen nineties, like most debutants, I was quite stunned by the whole thing, although not gifted with the stamina to watch for hours on end as so many do. No, twenty minutes or so at a stretch was ample, the rest of my time being gainfully employed munching contentedly on a fine selection of tapas while the soundtrack out on the street provided the perfect backdrop

to a newly discovered culture.

How very different from my recollections of Easter in the UK. To be honest, it was never my favourite holiday as a child, not least because it was focused on a Sunday which, as everyone knows, is the most uncomfortable day of the week, what with all that car-washing and lawn-mowing and homework and everything. Add Ben Hur to the mix and the nightmare was complete. Then there were the chocolate Easter eggs. Even as a nipper, I could sense that the effort/reward ratio was somewhat askew, as I grappled in vain with cardboard packaging roughly the size of a small Greek island, in order to salvage an egg apparently laid by a chocolate hummingbird, plus a few Smarties in cellophane bag as an afterthought.

Another scary thing about Easter Sunday was the ever-present shadow of a day trip to Blackpool or somewhere on the bank holiday Monday. This 'trip'

would inevitably culminate in lots of dads and uncles staring at overheated engines, rubbing their chins and shaking their heads while mums and aunties passed round boiled sweets in a neverending loop, ostensibly to stave off car motion sickness but the gesture having been rendered somewhat redundant by the fact that there weren't any cars actually in motion.

Also, we never did any exciting Easter egg hunts or anything like that in our house (I think that was a Southern Sofite thing) unless you count the Caramac egg that fell down the back of the couch one year during Ben Hur, some pieces of which I like to fantasise are still there.

No, like many other things, Easter is undoubtedly better experienced in Spain, so let's hope and pray that next year it will be fully restored to its former glory - to be witnessed in twenty-minute spurts, of course.

Happy Easter, everyone.

IDÍGORAS
BEN-HUR

Hurry Messala! We've got to get to the television like every year; only we can save Easter!



SUR in English

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THE BOTTOM LINE
DIEGO CARCEDO

The great confusion

We lacked experience of a great pandemic; but we knew that it could cause many deaths, much pain and incalculable financial disruption. But we didn't know that it would cause other problems. In Spain Covid-19 has created great confusion which, for more than a year now, has left us all uncertain and disorientated.

The authorities, from the central government down, have collaborated efficiently with the virus to leave us all in a

permanent state of bewilderment, not just about the future but also about the present situation.

It all started when the official spokesperson said that the wearing of protective face masks was a superfluous initiative. This was the prelude to an order declaring them obligatory.

Since then we've been walking around with our faces half-covered, barely recognising one another and with difficulty understanding and making ourselves un-

derstood. I have no objection. The face mask is now an essential item of clothing. Confusion grew and multiplied as the days went by with no practical solutions as politicians blindly adopted measures without listening to scientists and experts.

Things got even more complicated when the regional governments got involved, eager to display their power. The state government clearly started to weaken. The problem was exactly the same for all citizens, but the measures to solve it were decided differently, often contradictorily.

Hence the chaos we are struggling through now: areas were locked down, different timetables were fixed in each place and official propaganda stubbornly turned a shared problem into absurd comparisons with which each regional

government aimed to best satisfy its parishioners.

The closing time for restaurants, bars and taverns, for example. Some, I'm sure with good criteria, ordered the total closure; others established limits, thinking of the votes of the suffering business owners watching their livelihoods crumble.

Many of us now wake up wondering whether our turn for a vaccine will ever come or whether today restaurants can open and close one hour earlier or later.

Before we leave home we have to consult Google to find out if we are in lockdown, if we can go to the bar on the corner for breakfast, as our neighbour across the road does, and risk getting a fine, or whether it would be wise to stay in front of the computer thinking that, at least in this case, perhaps we would be better off with a single authority.

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IN THE FRAME

Documenting the live music scene on the Costa del Sol

James Yeadon. The 34-year-old photographer has the ability to tell the story of a musician's performance through the lens of his camera

TONY BRYANT



◀ **The other side of the lens.** James on an assignment during a concert. **SUR**

The spectacular photographs of James Yeadon will be familiar to many people associated with the music scene of the Costa del Sol. The 34-year-old photographer has established his reputation with his incredible ability to tell the story of a musician's performance with his camera.

Born in West Yorkshire in 1987, James came to live on the Costa del Sol at the age of ten after his family left their home in Harrogate and headed to Mijas in search of a more relaxed way of life. He received his first digital camera from his grandfather in 2003 and began taking photographs of anything that caught his eye.

James had long had an interest in photography, but it would be an invitation to snap Tom Jones at the Puente Romano Tennis Club in 2011 that would ignite a passion for

photographing live music concerts. He has since taken photographs of numerous well-known artists, including Brian Adams and Michael Bolton, but he claims that his most enjoyable gigs are those performed by the array of tribute bands that are active on the coast.

"There are many great musicians on the coast and I particularly like the tribute band scene. What I like about the local musicians is that you can form a relationship with them, which is important. It's one thing to take their picture, but it's important to get to know the person behind the music," James tells SUR in English.

His catalogue doesn't only include pop concerts, for James has snapped everything from opera and flamenco to drag queens and Celtic pipe bands.

He now lives in Benalmádena and over the last few years has established him-

self as the most sought-after live music photographer on the coast. It was at the Michael Bolton concert in 2013 that he would come into contact with local promoter Martyn Wood, and James has now become one of the promoter's official photographers.

"I am fortunate to have worked with Martyn on several occasions. I met him some years ago and we have since struck up a personal and professional relationship," he explains.

Varied musical taste

James' musical taste varies. He is a fan of rock music, but gained a secret passion for opera after working with Steven Lloyd Morgan, a Welsh singer known as 'Marbella's favourite tenor'. James also took part in a photographic course organised by the Cervantes Theatre in Malaga in 2016, which gave him his first (and only to date) exhibition.

"It's one thing to take their picture, but it's important to get to know the person behind the music"

"I like a varied mix of music, but my favourite is probably rock. I also have my moments for opera. I went on a course in Malaga and was invited to take photos at an opera in the theatre, which resulted in my first exhibition," he says.

However, it is with the local music scene that James has really made his mark. Concert photography is one of the most challenging fields in photography, because the photographer cannot direct the subject being photographed and does not have control over the lighting. It is all about timing, technique and creativity.

James has demonstrated these skills at events like the Celtic Festival in La Cala de Mijas, and at the annual Punkirola festival in Torremolinos. His dynamic photographs capture raw energy, vibe and emotion.

He is also called upon by organisers of charity concerts, in particular the Millennium event organised by local musician One Wish Steve.

The past twelve months have been particularly difficult for James as there have been virtually no concerts or festivals due to the pandemic. As a result he has had to revert to telemarketing, which he calls his "day job".

Dedicated Scout leader

Aside from his love of photography, James is also a Scout leader. His passion for the Scouts began in Harrogate, and it was something that would continue here on the coast.

"The Scouts is something that has been with me since I was five. When I first came to Spain, I joined the Fuengirola group and went through the sections: now I am one of the leaders, which is something I am truly grateful for," James concludes.

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Established British author and short story writer publishes latest novel

TONY BRYANT

ALHAURÍN EL GRANDE. Robert Dodds, a British writer with a passion for all things Spanish, has recently published his latest novel, *The Art School Murders*.

An Author of historic, crime and children's novels, his latest book is based on the bizarre murder of a professor at an art school, whose body is discovered with 75 paint brushes inserted into his flesh. The crime is investigated by Detective Superintendent Dennis 'the Menace' Scott who, along with his team of officers (who are also investigating the murder of a local disc jockey), set about solving the macabre crime. The story is spun around twisted egos, thwarted ambitions and despicable desires.

Robert was born in England in 1955 and grew up in Yorkshire and Kent. He went to Oxford University to study English, and then became a teacher and lecturer. In 2012, after several years working in Mexico, the USA and Edinburgh, Robert decided to spend the winter months in Spain, renting a house at Lauro Golf, near Alhaurín El Grande. He now divides his time between Edinburgh and Malaga.

Robert writes for both adults and children and has been widely published and broadcast. His short stories have been anthologised on BBC Radio 4. He has also written short films, as well as working in stage production.

Previous novels include *The Garden of Earthly Delights*, set amid the grip of sweeping plagues and religious inquisitions; and *Paradise Por Favor*, an amusing look at the strained relationships of British expats and Spanish residents living on the Costa del Sol.

His latest offering is available from Amazon.



Author Robert Dodds. **SUR**

Gibraltar runners put their hats on for brain tumour research

ASH BOLTON

GIBRALTAR. A Gibraltar running club is celebrating after raising £242 for the UK-based charity Brain Tumour Research last weekend.

Dozens of runners raised awareness and funds by donning colourful hats during a five-kilometre club race. The club then held a raffle with one lucky runner winning a breakfast for two at Corks Restaurant.

A spokesperson for Carpe Diem Running Club, the biggest running club in Gibraltar, said: "Our

members really pushed the boat out for the event this year - we saw some great hats including a swimming cap, a Fez and a cowboy hat.

"We looked ridiculous at 6.15am in the morning running along the streets, but it's all for a good cause and we raised a decent amount for a worthy charity."

Wear a Hat Day is one of the UK's biggest and best loved brain tumour research awareness and fundraising days. Since it began in 2010 the event has raised millions to help find a cure for brain tumours.



Some of the Carpe Diem runners in their varied headwear. **SUR**



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READERS' PHOTOS



Cercis siliquastrum

Patty Unwin sent in this photo of a Judas tree or Cercis siliquastrum. It is a small tree native to southern Europe and parts of Asia and is smothered in purple blooms at this time of year. The leaves start to appear near the end of flowering.



A coral tree

Erythrina lysistemon is stunning when it's in flower with bright orange / red blooms. This photo was sent in by reader Caroline Sellers who says, "What a delight to see these amazing tropical trees with their exotic flowers."

PHOTOS

Calling all gardeners

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

your photos to english@diariosures or send them to SUR in English, Avda Dr Marañón 48, 29009 Málaga, with a caption and a few words of explanation. Alternatively, you can send them to us via Facebook (surenglish) or Twitter (@SUR_English).

GARDENING

Pyrenean violet

This little plant is literally as old as the dinosaurs, a relic from the Tertiary period when the earth was covered by warm, humid forest before the Ice Age. It was a tropical plant back then but managed to adapt to the cold and ice and now can be found growing wild in locations on the Iberian Peninsula such as the Spanish Pyrenees. Its botanical name is Ramonda myconi but it is commonly called the Pyrenean violet, rosette mullein or in Spanish, oreja de oso (bear's ear).

In the wild it is protected and mustn't be 'collected' but it is also grown commercially as a garden plant, ideal for rockeries and containers and was given the RHS Award of Garden Merit. Ramonda myconi is a member of the Gesneriaceae family and related to the African

violet. It forms rosettes of dark-green, crinkled leaves which are covered in fine hairs. In late spring and early summer, small clusters of violet-blue flowers with yellow anthers appear on top of slender stems up to 10cm tall. There are also white (R. myconi Alba) and pink (R. myconii Rosea) varieties available. Leonardo da Vinci painted a Ramonda myconi (white as opposed to the more common blue to represent purity) in his painting The Virgin of the Rocks.

In its native environment it is often found growing in vertical cracks in rocky surfaces, in partial shade. To successfully grow it in a container or rockery, it is best planted slightly on its side. This is because the rosette can become waterlogged during watering or rainfall and will rot. The soil needs to have sand mixed in to help drainage and in the winter it is probably best to provide some sort of cover from the rain.

Ramonda myconi is cold and drought resistant. It is known as a resurrection plant because in severe drought the leaves will shrink and turn brown at the edges but with a few drops of water they will expand again. In frosts and snow, the cell structure prevents the leaves from freezing. It can withstand heat too but needs some shade especially on summer afternoons. Propagation is by seed or it can also be propagated from leaf cuttings. It is very long-lived and it is said that under perfect conditions it will survive for 200-250 years.



Ramonda myconi and R. myconi Alba. (inset). WIKIMEDIA



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WHAT HAPPENED TODAY?

2 APRIL 1940

Lorca's Poet in New York is first published

The Andalusian writer had written the collection of poems during his stay in the US ten years previously

DAVID BALMER

On 2 April 1940, Poet in New York by Andalusian poet Federico García Lorca, was first published. The work, written during Lorca's time in New York between 1929 and 1930, was not published in Spain at this time due to the Franco regime's censorship.

Lorca arrived in New York in 1929 to study English for the summer at Columbia University. A year earlier, he had won critical acclaim for his book of poetry, Gypsy Ballads, in which he conveyed the rich culture of Andalucía. However, his rela-

tionship with two of his long-term artistic companions, Salvador Dalí and Luis Buñuel, had recently soured after the pair made a surrealist film, An Andalusian Dog. Lorca saw this as an attack on himself, his background and on Andalucía as a whole.

Hoping to use his time in New York to start again, Lorca spent ten months in the United States. However, for someone raised in rural Granada province, the hustle and bustle of modernity in New York was overwhelming and he used poetry as a means of conveying his alienation.

During his stay, in October 1929, he witnessed the Wall Street Crash. His poem Dance of Death gives his first-hand account of its chaotic aftermath, becoming one of many in the collection lamenting the excesses of capitalism. Other themes explored include racism and environmental degradation.



Above, Federico García Lorca pictured on the sundial at Columbia University in New York in 1929. Right, the cover of the book.

SUR



In 1930, Lorca returned to Spain and enjoyed great success as a playwright. His works such as The House of Bernarda Alba displayed the good and the bad of rural Andalusian life. When the Spanish Civil War broke out in 1936, Lorca became a target for right-wing forces due to his socialist views and homosexuality. He went into hiding in Granada but was arrested by nationalists on 16 August. Three days later, somewhere near the town of Alfacar,

he was executed by firing squad.

Just a month before his death, Lorca had left the manuscript for Poet in New York with his editor José Bergamín in Madrid. Bergamín managed to flee Spain, taking the manuscript with him. It was eventu-

ally published in Mexico and the United States on 2 April 1940. American poet Rolfe Humphries translated the work into English.

Lorca's work remained highly censored throughout the Franco regime, which is believed to have been complicit in his death. Although the restoration of democracy has renewed Lorca's popularity in Spain, the exact whereabouts of his remains are still unknown.

Bilingual crossword inside back page

LANGUAGE FOOTNOTE

Universidad	University
Estudiante	Student
Viajar	To travel
Aprender	To learn
Escribir	To write
Censura	Censorship
Gitano	Gypsy
Película	Film
Testigo	Witness
Compañero	Companion
Poesía	Poetry
Manuscrito	Manuscript
Fusilar	Execute by firing squad
Traducir	To translate
Exceso	Excess
Éxito	Success

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TELLING TALES

PETER EDGERTON

The fiddler's elbow

The night shifts were the best at The Fiddler's Elbow; there was a lot more work to do so the time flew by and it could, on a good night, be a lot of fun. Unfortunately for Mandy, because of her family

circumstances - a single mother with two small children - she almost always worked the afternoons these days.

Oh God, the afternoons and their slow parade of local artists. These consisted principally - no, exclusively - of men

who would waltz in in their paint-speckled jeans or with their cameras slung around their necks or their notepads/guitars in hand. The conversations were as awkward as they were tedious.

"Hi Mandy, how are you?" (No pause for an answer) "I

was speaking to a really important bloke from the art world Amsterdam this morning. Looks like I'll be exhibiting there soon."

"That's great, Johnny. Good for you. When?"

"Oh, we've just got to finalise a few details. I'll let you know."

Johnny wouldn't let Mandy know, of course, because the details were never going to be finalized and no exhibition was ever going to happen. Nor were Brian's recording contracts/publishing deals or

Terry's poetry collections or, in fact, any of the pie-in-the-sky deals or projects that they delighted in talking about incessantly. It took Mandy a good two years of listening to this stuff to realise that, for these people, the end game wasn't actually a concrete deal or project; the end game was simply to talk about a concrete deal or project. In other words to appear to be something they weren't, even, maybe even mostly, to themselves - 'fantasmas' (ghosts) as her Spanish friend and work colleague, María, called them.

This particular afternoon, Brian bounced in, beaming.

"Hi Mandy. How are you? You know that song of mine City Lights? Looks like they're going to use it in a new Netflix series. I'll have the usual, please."

"Brilliant, Brian. Good for you. When? What's it called?"

"Well, I'm just waiting for confirmation from the producers. I'll let you know. Have one yourself."

It was never mentioned again. Neither was Paul's competition finalist photograph or the other Paul's detective novel. Mandy's replies always included "Good for you"; it was her favourite phrase in the circumstances since it seemed to offer a vague hint of incredulity hidden within the wings of bonhomie.

One icy December evening the following year, Johnny strode in, teeth chattering, his hands dappled in paint.

"Hi, Mand - oh, María. Thought it was Mandy's shift. How are you? Guess what. Looks like a Saudi Sheikh wants to buy some Andalusian Landscapes. Where's Mandy?"

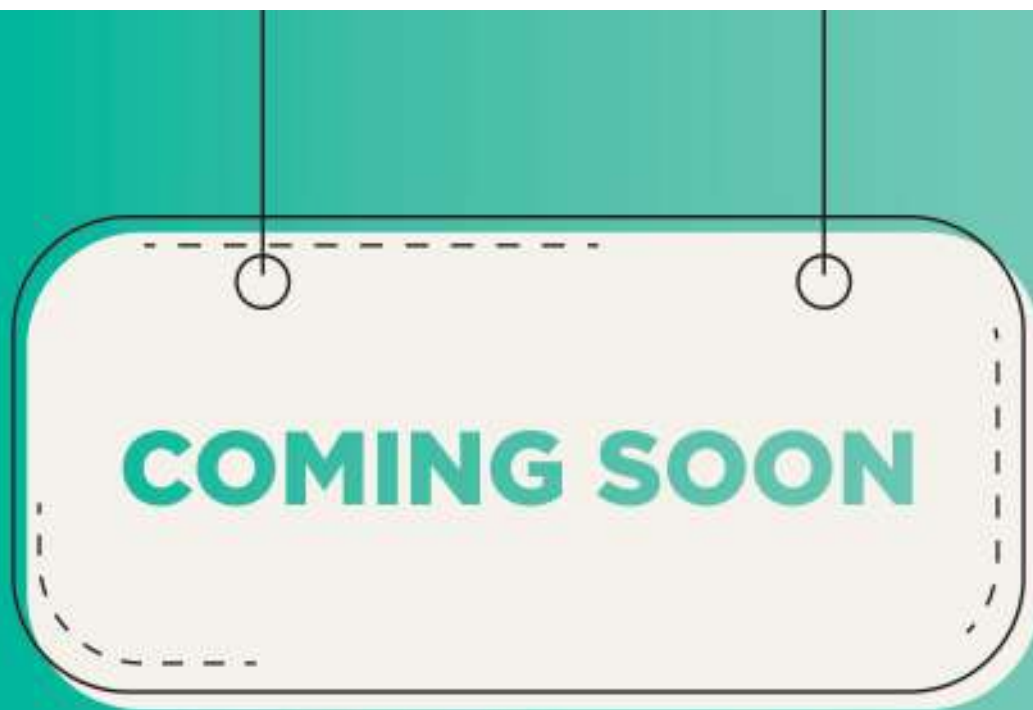
"She left yesterday, Johnny. Gone to London. Offered to work her notice but Dave said his sister could cover."

"Left? London? Really? What happened? Wh -"

"It's so exciting. You'll never guess. She just got a publishing deal with a big advance. Apparently, she'd been writing a novel, an hour a day for the last two years, after she put the children to bed. She didn't even tell me anything about it. Amazing, isn't it?"

"Er, God, yes, yes - it is. It's really amazing."

Johnny picked studiously at the paint under his finger nails and ordered a pint of the usual.



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EXHIBITIONS

Silvana Orcese

ESTEPONA. Until 11 April. Casa de Las Tejerinas, Plaza de las Flores. Resiliencia is the title of this exhibition which includes 15 works completed using various techniques.

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.)

Imon Boy

MARBELLA. Until 16 May. Galería Yusto/Giner. La Ermita industrial estate, C/Madera, 9. Cute But Cop is Imon Boy's first solo exhibition at the gallery. Born in 1992 Imon Boy has spent years in the world of graffiti, alternating between street art and other studio projects. He uses graffiti, videogames, internet, cinema, music, and travel to create stories. His works are full of bright and colourful detail. Viewing is by previous appointment only. galleria@yusto-giner.com / 951507053



Gallery Art Club, Fuengirola

Gallery Art Club

FUENGIROLA. Until 18 April. Calle Quemada. Monday, Wednesday, Friday, 11am - 2pm.

'Beat of love' comes to Torremolinos



Suzette Moncrief will perform in Torremolinos on Saturday. SUR

T. BRYANT

TORREMOLINOS. Lovers of rhythm and blues will enjoy a concert by Suzette and More at the Metro Black Velvet live music venue in Torremolinos tomorrow (Saturday). The band is fronted by Suzette Moncrief, one of Malaga's most versatile and established singers. Her energetic stage presence and exciting mixture of soul, gospel, funk and jazz has earned the singer a huge following on the coast.

A vocalist who performs with several well-known local bands,

Suzette has been described as a "transmitter of a brutal energy on stage", an image that this established singer certainly lives up to.

During the pandemic, Suzette, who describes her music as the "beat of love, to the rhythm of love", has taken her music to the streets, but she is eager to return to the stage with her live band now that the restrictions have been relaxed.

Tickets for the show, which begins at 4.30pm, cost ten euros and includes a beer, soft drink or water on arrival.

Capacity restrictions and Covid regulations will apply.

This year's first exhibition is of works by an international group of artists; Michele Uzac, Elizabeth Williams, Bodil Schöön, Magga Nancy, Daniel Huss, Ian Stephen and Lars Hedin.

Semana Santa photos

MIJAS. Until 5 April. Casa Museo de Mijas.

The exhibition of photographs covers the traditions and splendour of the Semana Santa processions in Mijas in previous years. The processions were not able to take place last year because of the pandemic and have been cancelled for this year too.

Entre Mujeres

TORREMOLINOS. Until 11 April. Casa de Los Navajas.

An exhibition of photographs including 93 images taken all over Spain to reflect femininity from a woman's point of view.

Semana Santa

TORREMOLINOS. Online.

At various points on the route that the Semana Santa procession has taken in previous years there is a post with information on the brotherhoods and a QR code that when scanned will show a video of the procession passing through. The information is given in Spanish and English. Find the posts near the Buen Consejo church, the Costa del Sol Unión Europea plazas, in the borough of El Calvario in C/Rafael Quintana Rosado, the Cristo Resucitado church and the Blas Infante and Chiriva plazas.

El Paso

BENALMÁDENA PUEBLO. Until 22 April. C/Real.

The town hall have organised a special exhibition of photographs of the Semana Santa processions taken in previous years. There are 24 panels displaying the photos as well as every poster announcing the Semana Santa celebrations since 2007.

Malaga Picasso Museum

MALAGA. Museo Picasso Málaga, Calle San Agustín.

It is possible to see works from the



Semana Santa, Torremolinos para

Meret Oppenheim exhibition in the museum on the website www.museopicassomalaga.org under 'exposiciones digitales'.

Picasso exchange. Until February 2022. The MPM has made an exchange with the Musée National Picasso-Paris and will be able to exhibit the wood and oil paint sculpture Copa, Periódico y Dado that Pablo Picasso created in 1914. The same year he created the sculpture The Absinthe Cup which is currently on loan to the museum in Paris. www.museopicasso-malaga.org.

Centro de Arte Contemporáneo - CAC Málaga

MALAGA. C/Alemania.

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

Melancolía Papel y Tinta

MALAGA. Until 30 April. Ateneo de Málaga, C/Compañía, 2. Free.

The museum is exhibiting a selection of prints by artists such as Matisse, Dalí, Miró, Tàpies and Goya.

Piggy

MALAGA. Until 6 April. Casa Amarilla, C/Santos.

The I Went To Mass exhibition by Piggy (AKA Ciarán McCoy) is on display until 6 April at the Casa Amarilla.

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

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LIVE CONCERTS AND MUSIC

OFM Chamber Music concerts

MALAGA. Auditorio del Museo Picasso de Málaga.

6 April, 8pm. La Spagna.

11 May, 8pm. Cuarteto con Fuoco and Tilman Mahrenholz.

1 June, 8pm. Trío Círculo.

Tickets: www.museopicasso-malaga.org

Malaga Philharmonic Orchestra

MALAGA. Auditorio Edgar Neville, Teatro Echegaray or Cervantes.

8, 9 April, 7pm. Music by Bohemian composer Bedrich Smetana. Conducted by Christoph König. Teatro Cervantes. Tickets: www.entradas.mientrada.net



Tina Turner tribute, Las Lagunas

Tina Turner and Eurythmics tribute

MIJAS. 3 April, 7pm. Teatro Las Lagunas.

A tribute concert to two musical greats. Tickets 15€ in advance, 20€ on the door two hours before the show. www.eventbrite.es

Travis Birds

MALAGA. 9 April, 6pm. La Cochera Cabaret, Avda de los Guindos.

Travis Birds launched her first single 'Coyotes' in 2019. Tickets: <https://lacocheraentradas.com/>.

The Antonio Andrade Dúo

MALAGA 10, 11, 17, 18 April, 7pm. Sala Joaquín Eléjar, C/San Juan Bosco, 79.

Flamenco guitarists Antonio Andrade and Miguel Sotelo play a selection of flamenco, fandangos and bulerías in this concert Memories of the Alcázar.

FLAMENCO

El Turry y Familia

ALMUÑECAR. 3 April, from 7pm. Casa de la Cultura. 10€.

A flamenco show that unites various generations of two gypsy families.

THEATRE AND DANCE

Inescalables Alpes (Work in Progress)

MALAGA. 10 April, 12pm. La Cochera Cabaret, Avda de los Guindos. A thirty minute dance show Tickets: <https://lacocheraentradas.com/>.

TALKS / LECTURES

The Arts Society

NERJA. Lectures online.



José Luis Valverde uses vegetation to address the passage of time . SUR

An artist seduced by dark themes and dark ideas that help him to paint

José Luis Valverde is exhibiting a powerful pictorial project about the passage of time at the Galería JM

ANTONIO JAVIER LÓPEZ

MALAGA. Jose Luis Valverde's grandfather, José Valverde Jiménez, made tombstones and painted because he was a mason and an artist. As the latter, he played a notable role in the Granada scene of the last century along with artistic comrades-in-arms such as José Guerrero and Gabriel Morcillo.

Jose Luis is also an artist, and is exhibiting his own work in Selva del Tiempo, a series of paintings created over the last

few years reflecting issues such as death, the passing of time and our fleeting existence, at the Galería JM in Malaga.

"From 2019 until now I think my work has followed a conceptual logic. I have always referred to the genres of painting to somehow pervert them or transform them into something else that is mine," explains José Luis.

If the grandfather was an 'amateur' painter in addition to a mason, it seems that his grandson has professionalised the former and recovered his fondness for tombstones...

"But, above all, for what may be under there, a whole world of possibilities that in the hands of the artist is made of oil paint and has an ironic aftertaste of disturbed earth, for the forgotten breath of the inhabitants of

a dark and fertile mud, anticipating the moment the bugs start to feast," says the text that accompanies the exhibition.

"I have always been seduced by dark themes. That tendency to refer to dark ideas, with a much more existentialist charge, helps me to paint," admits José Luis, who for this project has also made use of an influence from literature; specifically, from Victor Hugo's What the Talking Tables Say.

The protagonist of the tale organises séances to talk to the afterlife, which José Luis brings to a vigorous and fertile hereafter in each brushstroke: "I speak of death without moral intentionality. I like to go to places that are taboo. That is where I feel most comfortable," he adds.

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

6 April, 6pm. The Forgotten Genius of Anders Zorn. Lecturer Brian Healey.

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



Andrade Dúo, Malaga

CHARITY

Food Fairies charity quiz

FUENGIROLA. 15 April, 2.30pm. Shaggy's Bar, Fuengirola Port. 2€. A quiz for teams of four consisting of six rounds including two music rounds. Food available from the bar at 1pm. Whatsapp 610522605

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.

MORE IDEAS

Children's Easter workshops

MALAGA. 5-9 April, 9am-2pm. Museo Picasso Málaga. 125€ or 25€ per day. The workshops are aimed at teaching children between the ages of four and fifteen about the works of Picasso and of Miguel Barceló. The workshops include painting, ceramics and sculpture. Tickets: www.museopicassomalaga.org

Pop Art workshops

TORREMOLINOS. Centro Cultural Pablo Ruiz Picasso. Free. Workshops to learn pop art for children aged between 12 and 16 years. Reservations: 952385182 or email: bibliotecapicasso@torremolinos.es **16 April, 6.30 - 8pm.** Workshop for Comic art. **14 May, 6.30 - 8pm.** Workshop for Keith Haring drawing.

Photography workshops

MIJAS. Casa Museo de Mijas. Free. Learn how to take good photos. Register by email: cultura@mijas.es or call: 952590380. Free but each participant should donate 3kg of non-perishable food stuffs to the food bank at the start of the course. **Beginner's guide to photography.** 10 April. 10am-2pm, 4-8pm. With Alex Jaime.

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, that aims to take the audience direct to the Gran teatro Liceo de Barcelona . It starts with a twelve minute film accompanied by music by Beethoven, Mahler and Leonard Bernstein. A guided visit can be reserved, call: 900801137.



Picasso workshop, Malaga

Lux Mundi

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

Anglican Evangelical service. 2 April. Closed except from 2-3pm for the service 'The Hour Before The Cross'.

O. V. FILMS

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

Yelmo Cines, Plaza Mayor

MALAGA. Centro de Ocio, Plaza Mayor, Avda Alfonso Ponce León. Tel: 902902103. www.yelmocines.es. **Godzilla vs Kong:** 12.30, 14.30, 15.15 (Sun); 16.20 (Fri, Sat, Sun). **Minari:** 12.45 (Sunday); 17.40 (Tues). **Nomadland:** 12.50 (Sun); 20.10 (Tues). **The Unholy:** 20.25 (Tues).

Yelmo Cines, Rincón

RINCÓN DE LA VICTORIA. C/ Arroyo Totalán. Tel: 902220922. www.yelmocines.es. **Godzilla vs Kong:** 20.05 (Tues). **Minari:** 17.30 (Tues). **Nomadland:** 20.15 (Tues). **The Unholy:** 18.25 (Tues)

Yelmo Cines, Vialia

MALAGA. Centro Comercial Vialia. Tel: 902220922. **Godzilla vs Kong:** 17.50 (Tues). **The United States vs Billie Holiday:** 19.30 (Tues). **Minari:** 19.35 (Tues). **Nomadland:** 20.20 (Tues). **Relic:** 19.45 (Tues). **The Unholy:** 19.25 (Tues).

Cinesur Miramar

FUENGIROLA. Avda de la Encarnación. Tel: 952198600. Until 8 April. **Godzilla vs Kong:** 12.00, 17.10, 19.40. **Monster Hunter:** 12.15. .

Cine Albéniz

MALAGA. C/ Alcazaba, 4. Tel: 902360295. www.cinealbeniz.com. **Nomadland:** 11.45, 17.00, 19.45. **Raya and the Last Dragon (dubbed):** 12.00, 16.30, 19.15.

Electromagnetic hypersensitivity syndrome is a condition which some people suffer when they are exposed to electromagnetic fields. The most common symptoms are headaches, insomnia and nausea. It is sometimes known as microwave syndrome.

María C, who is a biologist, prefers not to reveal her identity, but she suffers from this condition. At present, she is undergoing a real ordeal because a mobile phone antenna has been installed on the roof of the building opposite, at the same height as her apartment in La Malagueta district of Malaga city.

"We saw they were putting a mast on the roof terrace opposite, at the end of October last year. In February they activated it, and that's when I started to have symptoms," she says.

When she is in her living room or bedroom, the areas of her apartment which are closest to the antenna, she has headaches, serious sleeping problems, itchy skin and a dry mouth.

"As soon as I walk in it is like someone hits me on the head, I can't even go out onto the terrace to water the plants," she says. But when she goes downstairs and into the street, she's fine. "I have had blood tests and there's nothing wrong with me. It's all because of the antenna".

Costly investment

After doing some investigation, María discovered that two repeaters had been installed for several companies, camouflaged behind white aluminium panels.

The family has written to the Town Planning department, asking them to check whether the installation is legal and to measure the electromagnetic field, and if there is any doubt then to close down the installation because of the serious effect it is having on her health. They are also creating a protest group among local residents, to try to have the antenna taken down.

In the meantime, they have been obliged to spend more than 2,000 euros to try to protect their home from the radiation. The windows at the entrance have had to be reinforced with aluminium and the walls have been painted with graphite and earthed. They have also put up special curtains of copper and silver wire.

"I feel like a prisoner in my own home. People can't be expected to live like this," says María.

Asked about the matter, the president of the College of Telecommunications Engineers, Antonio Rodas, explained that the General Law 9/2014 of Telecommunications provides the right to occupy private property when



A window covered with aluminium foil in the living room. SALVADOR SALAS

When 'out of range' would be preferable

La Malagueta. María C. suffers from electromagnetic hypersensitivity and has had to spend a lot of money to protect her home after a mobile phone antenna was installed opposite

IGNACIO LILLO



▲ Shielding materials to cover the walls and windows, which the family has had to buy as protection from the radiation.

SALVADOR SALAS

it is strictly necessary for the installation of a network, as long as there are no other technically or economically viable alternatives. "This can be done through compulsory expropriation or through enforceable right of passage," he said. However, such cases are unusual, and the operators must always try to find other solutions. This is often through agreements with communities of owners, in return for some type of compensation.

What the law says

With regard to the new 5G network, which requires more masts than previously, Rodas didn't know of any specific plans or details of where the operators wanted to install the equipment, but said the College understands that the idea is to use public property, which they have the right to do under the law.

"In one way or another the law covers the operators with regard to the use of private properties as it does with public ones, in the same way that they can use the front of buildings for high-speed Internet networks such as 5G," he says.

Lucila Gutiérrez is the former president of the parents' association at Los Guindos school, and they have been battling for several years to have telephone masts which are close to the school removed. She says it has involved a long legal battle.

"It's a difficult thing to do, very difficult, but not impossible," she says. She agrees with María: "People who end up living somewhere that these masts have been installed have been sold out, and apparently we have no rights and there is absolutely nothing we can do about it," she says.

The lack of psychologists in the health service is delaying help for bipolar patients

ÁNGEL ESCALERA

MALAGA. Between two and four per cent of the population suffers from bipolar disorder, a psychiatric illness in which people alternate between phases of euphoria and depression. One of the main problems for these patients is the lack of psychologists working in the health service in Andalucía, because it means they have to wait longer for help.

The president of the Association of Bipolar Sufferers in Eastern Andalucía, Myriam García Vera, is calling for more to be employed, to improve the care for these patients. 30 March was World Bipolar Disorder Day.

This problem has been accentuated with the pandemic, because there have been fewer appointments available. In addition, "some GPs won't refer patients to psychologists, because they have a pre-conceived idea that it isn't necessary, when we consider that psychotherapeutic treatment is strongly advisable," says Myriam García. She also stresses that many people can't afford to consult private psychologists. "The ones in the health service are doing the best they can, but are already overwhelmed. The consultations are very short and the list of patients is very long. These professionals are very good, but they can't work magic," she says. "Something needs to be done and more people need to be aware of this problem".

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Sticking to making wine

ANDREW J. LINN



The world of international investment banking has not been a feature in the normally serene world of Spanish wine - until recently. Indeed, we may not have heard about it but for official documents released by the Spanish and English courts, where this bizarre saga is being played out.

Perhaps the description predator is too generous to apply to the likes of Goldman Sachs (often referred to as Goldman Sucks) but its practice of identifying companies with clean balance sheets and unburdened assets in order to work its 'magic', is legendary. One promising objective appears to have been the wine

giant J García Carrión, the largest national producer, with installations all over the country and best known for its Don Simón and Pata Negra brands. The ploy involves persuading employees of whichever company fits the bill to use its assets to underwrite investments in fiendishly complicated financial instruments, (eg targeted accrual redemp-

Companies are persuaded to use their assets to underwrite investments

tion notes) that have already caused \$30 billion losses to companies worldwide, according to the IMF. Goldman Sachs is suing García Carrión for €3.4 million in repayments, while the wine group has countered with allegations of criminal misconduct and forgery of documents, including the signature of owner José García Carrión. At the heart of the matter is the behaviour of the financial director of the group at the time, who, wary that the transactions were irregular, hid them from the auditors. He and his son join Goldmans and a couple of participating banks in court to defend the strange goings-on.

WINE OF THE WEEK

Jesús Yllera 2016

The popular Yllera wines, at least the original ones, were not referred to as coming from Ribera del Duero as the bodega was a few kilometres outside the official boundary. Now however matters have been put to rights and this superb tempranillo and cabernet sauvignon blend beats all comers. Matured for a year in French oak. Around €24.



The Franciscan nuns who make Easter so sweet

The eight nuns sell the traditional Easter 'torrijas' as well as 'gañotes' and 'pestiños'

VANESSA MELGAR

RONDA. "They are totally handmade, they do not contain any preservatives or chemicals and, in short, they are delicious. The only thing is that they are fattening." This is how Nieves, as she prefers to be called, refers to the cakes made by the Franciscan Clarisas Order in Ronda, who have their convent in the San Francisco district of the town, which is why they are popularly known as the Franciscanas.

Nieves is the Mother Superior, the head of the order in Ronda which currently has just eight nuns. The oldest is 92 years old and the

youngest, 25. Some of them moved from Morón de la Frontera after the Ronda Franciscanas were left with only three sisters several years ago. "They came to help us," explained Sister Nieves and added that because of the lack of nuns they had to stop making the handmade cakes which they sold throughout the year and especially at Christmas and Easter. "We didn't make cakes for around fifteen years. Before we used to do everything by hand but nowadays we have utensils and machinery, however the recipes are faithful to tradition," she said. They were able to start selling cakes again a few years ago and the income has helped to offset their costs. At the moment they are working at full speed to sweeten this Easter's events which will not include any processions again this year because of the coronavirus



Sister Nieves, Natividad and María with some of the Easter treats. V. MELGAR

pandemic. But Covid-19 hasn't stopped them from making the traditional torrijas (slices of bread dipped in milk, coated with egg, sugar and cinnamon and deep-fried), gañotes (biscuit dough twisted into spirals and deep-fried) and pestañas (sweet dough folded in half and fried), as well as the borrachuelos (similar to pestiños but enriched with anis, and filled with angel's hair), batatines (made with sweet potato), empanadas (tiny pasties stuffed with angel's hair), milk puddings and cheesecakes. "We are making around 80

torrijas a day, in boxes of four. It's the cake that is most in demand at this time of the year, along with gañotes and pestiños." Cakes throughout the year The nuns also make cordials, cocadas (little coconut cakes), custards and marzipan. At Christmas the nuns produce the traditional polvorones, alfajores and roscos de vino and throughout the year: roscos de huevo, magdalenas and puddings, as well as borrachuelos, cocadas and gañotes. "Things have been very bad, we

haven't sold much because of the virus. Luckily we get help from the town which is always on hand if we need anything, if we have enough food etc. They are very good to us," said Sister Nieves who wanted to highlight the support given to them by the Hermandad del Santo Entierro, headed by Miguel Becerra, and a local shop 'Juanlu' which sells their cakes for them. The nuns have a Facebook page, Convento de las Franciscanas, with details of their products and how to order.

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Clinical Almeria condemn Malaga to heavy home defeat in Andalusian derby

The Blue and Whites' faint playoff hopes suffered a huge blow on Tuesday night as their four-match unbeaten run came crashing to an end

0-3

MALAGA-ALMERIA

Malaga: Dani Barrio; Alexander, Mejías (Lombán, 81'), Juande, Cristo; Ramón (Escassi, 46'); Joaquín, Benkhemassa (Jozabed, 72'), Luis Muñoz, Julio (Jairo, 46'), Caye Quintana (Scepovic, 72'). Unused substitutes: Soriano, Benítez, Ismael, Quintana, Cristian, Kevin, Loren.

Almeria: Makaridze; Balliu (Balliu, 72'), Maras, Ivanildo, Akieme; Robertone (De la Hoz, 46'), Samú Costa, Morlanes (Aketxe, 79'); Brian Rodríguez (Corpas, 59'), Sadiq, Lazo (Fran Villalba, 72'). Unused substitutes: Fernando, Chumi, Centelles, Petrovic, Joao Carvalho, Schiet-tine, Juan Villar.

Goals: 0-1 Robertone (11'), 0-2 Lazo (29'), 0-3 Sadiq (77').

Referee: Ávalos Barrera. Yellow cards for Mejías and Makaridze.

Venue: Estadio La Rosaleda.

DAVID BALMER

MALAGA. Malaga's faint playoff hopes suffered a huge blow on Tuesday evening after the Blue and Whites were defeated 3-0 at home to promotion-chasing Almeria. Their Andalusian rivals made the most of their opportunities to se-



Dani Barrio could do nothing to stop Lazo's wonderstrike. **ÑITO SALAS**

cure a comfortable win and bring Sergio Pellicer's side's four-match unbeaten run to an end.

The visitors took the lead in the 12th minute with the game's first clear-cut opportunity. Ramón gave away possession in the midfield and the ball was seized upon by José Carlos Lazo, who duly found Lucas Robertone in space. The Argentinian midfielder's shot found the bottom right-hand corner, beating Dani Barrio at his near post. Malaga initially responded well to falling behind and Caye Quintana did well to cut inside, although his subsequent effort was too high.

Even so, the next flashpoint oc-

curred at the Malaga end when Umar Sadiq was brought down by Juande in the 25th minute. The referee initially pointed to the spot and showed the Malaga defender a yellow card. However, having later gone to the pitchside monitor, the decision was overturned. Nevertheless, it wouldn't be long before Almeria doubled their advantage.

Once more, Lazo was able to pick up a slack Malaga ball but this time he launched a thunderbolt from well outside the box which gave the keeper no chance.

Ahead of the second half, boss Sergio Pellicer brought on Jairo Samperio and Alberto Escassi to

try to bring his side back into the game, and in the 53rd minute Malaga did have the ball in the back of the net through Caye but he was correctly ruled to have been off-side in the build-up.

This good spell of Malaga play eventually petered away and Almeria seemed content to see out the rest of the game. In the 77th minute, the visitors put the seal on their victory through Sadiq. The Nigerian striker, having initially taken the ball past Dani Barrio, who had come well out of his area, saw his shot cleared off the line. The clearance, however, came straight back and Sadiq, instinc-

Jozabed saves the day late on in Cartagena

DARYL FINCH

MALAGA. Tuesday's heavy defeat was the culmination of a busy week for Malaga who also faced an away trip to Cartagena on Saturday. The Blue and Whites snatched a point on the road in Cartagena on Saturday in the 81st minute when Julio's instinctive flick found Jozabed one-on-one with the keeper. The midfielder kept his composure to take the ball around Chichizola to slot home the equaliser.

This came after the hosts took advantage of a serious lapse in concentration by Alexander just 14 minutes in. The Venezuelan right-back not only left his man unmarked behind him at the far post, but pulled out of the interception to allow the pass across the face of goal to be tapped in easily by Berto Cayarga.

tively prodded the ball home from barely two yards out.

"When you make errors against quality players such as these, they punish you," concluded Pellicer following the game. "The result doesn't reflect how the game went overall."

Next up for Malaga is an away trip to Lugo on Sunday (kick-off 6.15pm).

Incredible comeback earns first point in relegation play-off phase

Malaga Femenino overturned a three-goal deficit with just ten minutes left on the clock

ALMASSORA **3**
MALAGA **3**

ADG

CASTELLÓN. Malaga's women's team put in a heroic performance to fight back from three goals down against Joventut Almassora in Castellón on Sunday, claiming a point in their second game of the play-off phase of the Reto Iberdola.

Nati Gutiérrez's side went a goal down inside 13 minutes after some good wing play resulted



The draw gives Malaga's chances of survival a major boost. **ADG**

in a tidy finish from Anabe which gave keeper Andrea Romero no chance.

Barring a volley from Claudia Jiménez which bounced back out off the woodwork, the hosts continued on the front foot into the

second half and looked to have sealed the win with a quickfire double with less than 15 minutes to go. Aida got Almassora's second after a fine individual run, quickly followed by Sarahi's finish in the 79th minute.

What the hosts weren't counting on at that stage, however, was a comeback. Just a minute later and substitute Míriam had pulled a goal back. With four minutes left, Claudia Jiménez also got herself on the scoresheet, setting up a nerve-wrecking finale for Almassora.

Ultimately, the pressure told. Malaga, with the wind in their sails, in the final moments of the game, were able to come up with the final goal. Gabi, another player introduced in the second half by the coach, produced the goods, with a tidy finish inside the area to seal her side's first point in their battle against the drop.

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A LOOK AT LA LIGA
ROB PALMER
Commentator, Sky Sports

The tinkermen

Only teams with a tried and tested game plan and a stable group of players can hope for victory at the Euros - so you can count Spain and England out



To win a major tournament, a manager must know his best team; that's why Joachim Löw has the advantage over his Spanish and English counterparts.

The German manager exclaimed that he is 'no longer at the will of club coaches' as he prepares his team for this summer's European Championships.

As Luis Enrique and Gareth Southgate played politics with major clubs and tried to find a balance, Löw gave diplomacy the boot as he selected his best side for the World Cup qualifiers.

I'm lucky to have commented on six games, involving eleven nations in the past week, and have somehow found time to spy on a couple of other countries. Expectations differ.

In Spain and England there's an apathetic mood, the Dutch

are uncertain, Scots lack confidence... others are just happy to be tagging along.

The key to success is preparation and that is why Belgium are currently the top-ranked team by FIFA, France are the reigning world champions and Portugal the kings of Europe.

England are apparently the bookies' favourites but that is just because the English are more prone to place a bet based on blind hope.

The bookies' eyes are wide open. Ignoring England, the shortest odds are on France, Belgium, Germany and Portugal. Having commented on each of those countries I can concur.

All those managers named a team in March which would start in June's finals. All have balance, a fixed formation and world-class talent. There may be the



Luis Enrique, right, leads Spain training this week. EFE

odd injury or illness, but they all have a plan and have started executing it in advance.

Luis Enrique is like Southgate - still tinkering, still experimenting. They both pander to the media by calling up the flavour of

the month. Both need to be single-minded and pick their best team based on players proven at international level. Like Zinedine Zidane at Real Madrid, he needs to go for the old guard.

Spain have three top goal-

keepers but David De Gea is by far the most accomplished. Sergio Ramos leads the team and should be flanked by Jesús Navas and Jordi Alba. He just needs to settle on a centre-back partner for his captain.

Sergi Busquets is his old self and could play alongside Manchester City's Rodri. I'm not sure it has to be an either/or decision. Koke is proven at international level and should be a certainty.

Álvaro Morata is another player who is proven at the highest level and deserves to lead the front line. It looks like wonderkid Ansu Fati will miss out because of a worrying knee injury but fellow Barcelona teenager Pedri is now established for club and country. Ferran Torres of Manchester City may complete the three attacking amigos.

It's going to be an exciting summer although I suspect a frustrating one for England and Spain fans. From what I've seen, the European champions should come from Group F which contains Portugal, France and Germany. Factor in Belgium too.

If you want a dark horse, keep an eye out for Turkey and Czech Republic. Both have a formation that suits the players and a coach who follows the Löw mantra of keeping club coaches out of the equation.

Abraham García, the new Marbella coach

The club's owners ignored the sporting director's criteria and chose a man they know well to replace José Manuel Aira

JULIO RODRÍGUEZ

MARBELLA. Marbella's new coach, Abraham García, led his first training session at La Dama de Noche last Friday morning after the club announced that he had been hired for the remaining eight games of the second half of the season with the sole aim of

avoiding a second relegation to the RFEF Tercera.

The 47-year-old from Madrid replaces José Manuel Aira in the hotseat after the side's relegation. He began his career in the youth ranks at Atlético Madrid two decades ago, continued at Real Madrid C where he coached Esteban Granero, and at the age of 33 returned to the club to coach their reserve team for two seasons in Segunda B.

In the third tier he also coached Montañeros in 2010, then tried his luck at Estepona replacing Rafa Gil in 2012 and continued

in the third division with Toledo.

García then embarked on an Asian adventure, teaming up with Best of You, the club's owners, in their projects in China. García coached Yinchuan Helanshan in 2013 and Kitchee Sports Club in Hong Kong two years later. In 2016 he returned to Spain with Gimnástica Segoviana, with whom he won promotion from Tercera to Segunda División B in 2017.

García joins alongside assistant coach Raúl Medina, fitness coach Pablo Rivas and analyst Fernando Calvo.

Víctor Moreno, the club's sporting director, failed to secure any of his top targets as coach so the club's owners decided to go for a man they trusted, leaving Moreno, who still has two more years on his contract, in an uncomfortable position.



REUTERS

No sparks for Haaland at La Rosaleda

Saturday was a day to forget for Erling Braut Haaland and the Norway national team as they fell to a surprise 3-0 defeat to Turkey at La Rosaleda stadium in Malaga. The two sides played out their World Cup qualifier on the Costa due to travel restrictions in Norway.

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Unicaja team facing uncertain future as bank foundation votes to slash funding

The Malaga-based basketball club's president has resigned with the board of directors complaining they weren't consulted over the decision

JUAN CALDERÓN

MALAGA. The Unicaja Foundation has announced that it will considerably reduce its funding of the basketball club of the same name based in Malaga. The group's president, Braulio Medel, said on Monday that the foundation's trustees had come to a unanimous decision to reduce its grant to the club to just over 600,000 euros a season - only enough to fund the academy's activities, leaving the first-team facing a bleak future.

This comes as a huge blow to the basketball team, even though the Unicaja bank itself will continue to provide 3.5 million euros for the team annually. This means that the club will now be more reliant on other sources of income, such as membership fees, ticket sales, advertising and television money. In essence, the decision puts the club's plans for the future in jeopardy and could create difficulties in fulfilling player contracts, many of which run for multiple seasons.

President offers resignation

The board of directors was only informed of the decision on Monday, with club president Eduardo García soon offering his resignation. Further departures could



Braulio Medel, president of the Unicaja Foundation. JOSELE

take place in the coming days.

For context, Fundación Unicaja is the majority shareholder of Unicaja bank. But due to the pandemic, the European Central Bank recommended that banks should not distribute dividends, meaning that the foundation did not receive money from the bank. This created problems during lockdown as the club struggled to pay its players' salaries. At that point, the bank took charge and funded the entirety of this season's budget of 9.5 million euros.

Despite taking into account the sporting and social role the Unicaja club plays in the city, the decision to end financial support was unanimous. This

has created discontent among some club employees, who say they were unaware of the impact the decision would have. One member of the board of trustees was critical that "such an important decision had been taken without any debate being held".

A spokesperson for the foundation said that, in these challenging times, difficult decisions had to be made on where the group could invest money.

All of this creates a very uncertain future for the Malaga club, who have already made significant budget cuts. During the 2006-07 season, in which they reached the EuroLeague semi-finals, their budget had been 18.5 million euros.

IN BRIEF

CYCLING

Tour de France to start in Bilbao in 2023

SUR. The Tour de France will depart from the Basque city of Bilbao in 2023, it has been confirmed.

The French grand tour returns to the area 31 years after the epic race during which Spanish rider Miguel Indurain showed the world that he was at the top of his game.

The arrival of the Tour is the result of long negotiations between the public institutions and ASO, the organising company, and an investment of more than ten million euros to host three stages.

WOMEN'S FOOTBALL

Spanish national team to play in Marbella

SUR. The Spanish women's national football team will host Mexico in a friendly match at the Antonio Lorenzo Cuevas municipal stadium in Marbella on Tuesday 13 April.

The game, which will kick off at 7pm, comes just four days after another friendly against the Netherlands.

The team coached by Jorge Vilda, which has just qualified for the 2022 European Championship in England, will also use the facilities in Marbella for their training camp.



Quintero, champion of Spain

Damián Quintero, from Torremolinos, won his tenth Spanish senior title last Friday in Leganés, in his final national competition before the Tokyo Olympic Games. He beat Sergio Galán with a score of 28.54.

Rincón Fertilidad within touching distance of a European final

Keeper Merche Castellanos put in a phenomenal performance which puts her side in a good position ahead of the EHF Cup semi-final second leg in Malaga this Saturday

ADG

A GUARDA (PONTEVEDRA). Rincón

Fertilidad Málaga chose the best possible time to break their record of never having won in A Sangriña and are now dreaming about getting to their first ever European Final.

The Malaga handball side go into their EHF Cup semi-final second leg this Saturday with a five-goal cushion after beating Guardés 18-23 on Sunday.

The Malaga side, without international Sole López due to a



The Rincón Fertilidad players celebrate their victory in Pontevedra. ADG

sore knee, came into the game with a six-strong defence that facilitated the first of keeper Merche Castellanos' many saves.

Almudena Gutiérrez and Espe López put the team ahead and it stayed that way from start to finish, despite more than a few

bumps in the road.

The lead was a slender 10-13 at half-time and Guardés, with a new formation, were able to reduce the deficit to just the one goal. However, goals from Laura Sánchez, Arderius and Espe López successfully restored a three-goal advantage.

With consecutive sin bins for Rocío Rojas and Laura Sánchez, and Rincón's attacking prowess seemingly drying up, coach Prades called a time out in the 43rd minute when he saw that control of the game was slipping away.

The break made little difference but luckily for Rincón, Guardés were forgiving in attack and yet again Castellanos came to the rescue to help get her team over the line and seal the victory.

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YOUNG man (18/30 years old) required for work in a private house on the Costa Mijas. We are looking for someone who must be well presented, of cheerful demeanour, prepared to carry out a variety of tasks, be hardworking and very flexible. We are a small team, and the successful applicant will need to be ready to work as part of the team, helping to look after the owner, guests and be involved in the day to day running of the house. We require someone who is willing to learn and do whatever is required. The work can involve: Preparing the table and serving meals. Helping in the house, which could include, assisting in the kitchen, making beds and cleaning. Working in the garden. This is an excellent opportunity to improve your skills and work within an established team. Please send your CV to info@villamomana.com.

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Medical	061
Fire	080
Guardia Civil	062
Sea Rescue	900202202
Crime report	902102112

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Samaritans in Spain	900525100
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Salud Responde (Doctors' appointments and advice)	955545060
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Bus Station	955038665
Taxi Service	952802900
Tourist Office	952802002
Town Hall	952801100
Foreign Residents Dept.	952809031

FUENGIROLA

Bus Station	952475066
Taxi Service	952471000
Tourist Office	952467625
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Bus Station	952350061
Railway Station	902240202
Taxi Service	952345693
Tourist Office	951926020

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Bus Station	955038665
Taxi Service	952774488
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Town Hall	952761100
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MIJAS

Town Hall	952485900
Town Hall Las Lagunas	952473125
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NERJA

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Town Hall	952379400
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Bus Station	902450550
Taxi Service	952441545
Tourist Office	952442494
Town Hall	952374231
Foreign Residents Dept.	952442494

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Town Hall	952559100
Tourist Office	952541104

GIBRALTAR

General emergency	199/112(mobiles)
Fire/ambulance (emergency)	190
Tourist Office	(00350) 20074950
Taxi	(00350) 20070027

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



APP Salud Responde: take the Coronavirus symptoms test



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

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

900 400 061

Coronavirus information

955 545 060

Other emergencies

061 / 112

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

THE STARS




Aquarius
January 21st - February 19th
Taking care of your health and financial business is crucial this week. A conversation midweek leads you to change your diet and exercise style.




Pisces
February 20th - March 20th
Staying healthy should be your priority now. Balance your working life to give yourself some 'chill' time. Recharging your batteries is more important.



Aries
March 21st - April 20th
Living in the moment means not struggling with thoughts of what has or may happen. Just taking each day as it comes suits you right now.



Taurus
April 21st - May 21st
Being able to see someone special midweek gives an air of excitement. Maybe you feel like a change of style or approach.



Gemini
May 22nd - June 21st
You really make progress on a personal matter by being open and honest. Not being the most aggressive person, this could make you uncomfortable. It will be a relief to get it sorted.



Cancer
June 22nd - July 23rd
What has gone before in a particular relationship needs some tweaking. Put on your tactful hat and let your kindness be clear. A sweet moment spurs you on to expect more of the same.



Leo
July 24th - August 23rd
Remember that not answering the phone or emails is not a crime and can be quite refreshing. Getting some business done midweek means a fresh start come the New Moon.



Virgo
August 24th - September 23rd
In a week of details and sorting out paperwork, the task may seem boring and best avoided. Please don't. You will feel much more positive when it is dealt with.



Libra
September 24th - October 23rd
Feeling restless but lacking energy? A few tweaks to your diet and exercise plan could help. So, you may have been busy helping others but do care for yourself also!



Scorpio
October 24th - November 22nd
Talents that you have may have been unused of late due to the situation. Build on those now by reading or online as they will soon be needed again.

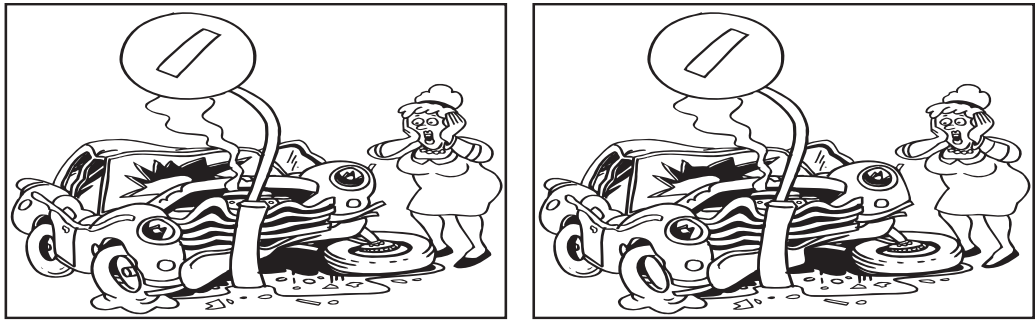


Sagittarius
November 23rd - December 21st
The need to get ahead is strong this week but opportunities are likely to be slow coming. Midweek, however, the light returns to your working life and promises are made.

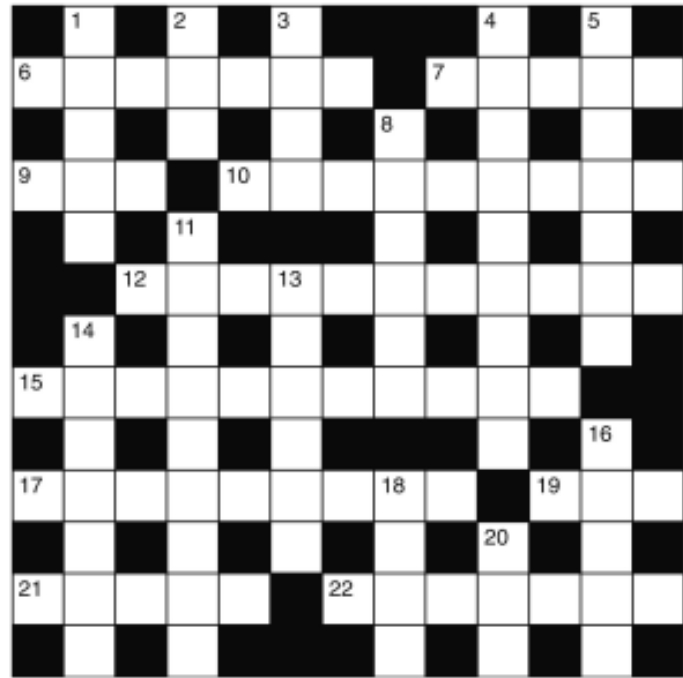


Capricorn
December 22nd - January 20th
People who take a negative attitude really annoy you. Want to avoid the doom and gloom? Set your own path for the week by taking on a task that you have not tried before.

THE SEVEN DIFFERENCES



CRYPTIC CROSSWORD N° 11455



Across

- 6 Brave enough to apply a tourniquet (7)
- 7 & 9 Ac In the final analysis, it could be real flat (5,3)
- 9 See 7 Across
- 10 & 1 Down Seat near the bandstand (9,5)
- 12 Tremendously keen to go! (5-6)
- 15 A role Irene's adapted in Africa (6,5)
- 17 Make an allotment or just a part, we hear (9)
- 19 No noise from the stable is heard (3)
- 21 A certain amount of time with one nymph (5)
- 22 Clothes container installed in the car (4,3)

Down

- 1 See 10 Across
- 2 Parent saying nothing (3)
- 3 Mark a precipitous place on the hill (4)
- 4 Children going away before summer (9)
- 5 Name the man providing hoisting equipment (7)
- 8 Virtuous acts he arranged (6)
- 11 Southern sailor to go on the ship - that's right (9)
- 13 Works hard, as the nurseryman does (6)
- 14 A stout support of mine (3,4)
- 16 Stick no flap the wrong way (5)
- 18 One hears a piece of poetry was outstanding (4)
- 20 Quantity of work supplied from a power generator (3)

SUDOKU BY HANZO

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

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

THE WORDPUZZLER

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

- Can you identify the places one may go for recreation from the anagrams listed below?
- 1. Karp
 - 2. Rifa
 - 3. Ruslcc
 - 4. Ozo
 - 5. Thereat
 - 6. Myg
 - 7. Iceman
 - 8. Storer
 - 9. Bpu
 - 10. Briarly

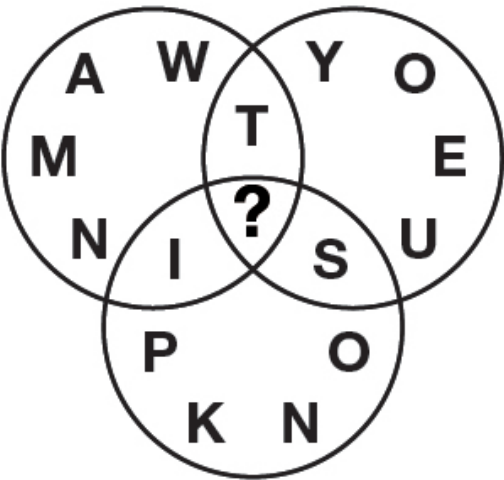
BATTLESHIPS

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

- Battleship
- Cruiser
- Destroyers
- Submarines

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

CIRCLEGRAM



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

LANGUAGE CROSSWORD FILL IN THE SPANISH WORD

- Across
- Down
- 1) Capitalism (11)

6) Playwright (10)

11) Excess (6)

12) Trophy (6)

15) To shout (6)

16) I tie (3)

18) University (11)

19) Exhausted (m) (7)

20) It is (2)

21) To travel (6)

24) Earth (6)

26) Attacked (m) (7)

28) Gypsy (6)

29) To the (2)

30) You (pl) (2)

31) Island (4)

34) To contemplate (10)

37) To fall (4)

38) Person (7)

39) I (2)

40) Unemployment (9)

43) You edit (6)

44) I fell (3)

45) Exact (m.pl) (7)

46) Racism (7)

47) Such (3)

48) Fabric (4)

49) I gave (2)

50) Surreal (11)

51) Manuscript (10)
- 1) Censorship (7)

2) Province (9)

3) To learn (8)

4) Iberian (f) (5)

5) A lot (m) (5)

7) Dual carriageway (7)

8) Ring (3)

9) Forgotten (m) (8)

10) Student (10)

13) Executed by firing squad (m) (8)

14) Bylaw (9)

17) Witness (7)

22) Hal (2)

23) Grated (m) (7)

25) You replied (11)

27) Companions (m) (10)

32) Artistic (m) (9)

33) To translate (8)

35) Tremendous (f) (8)

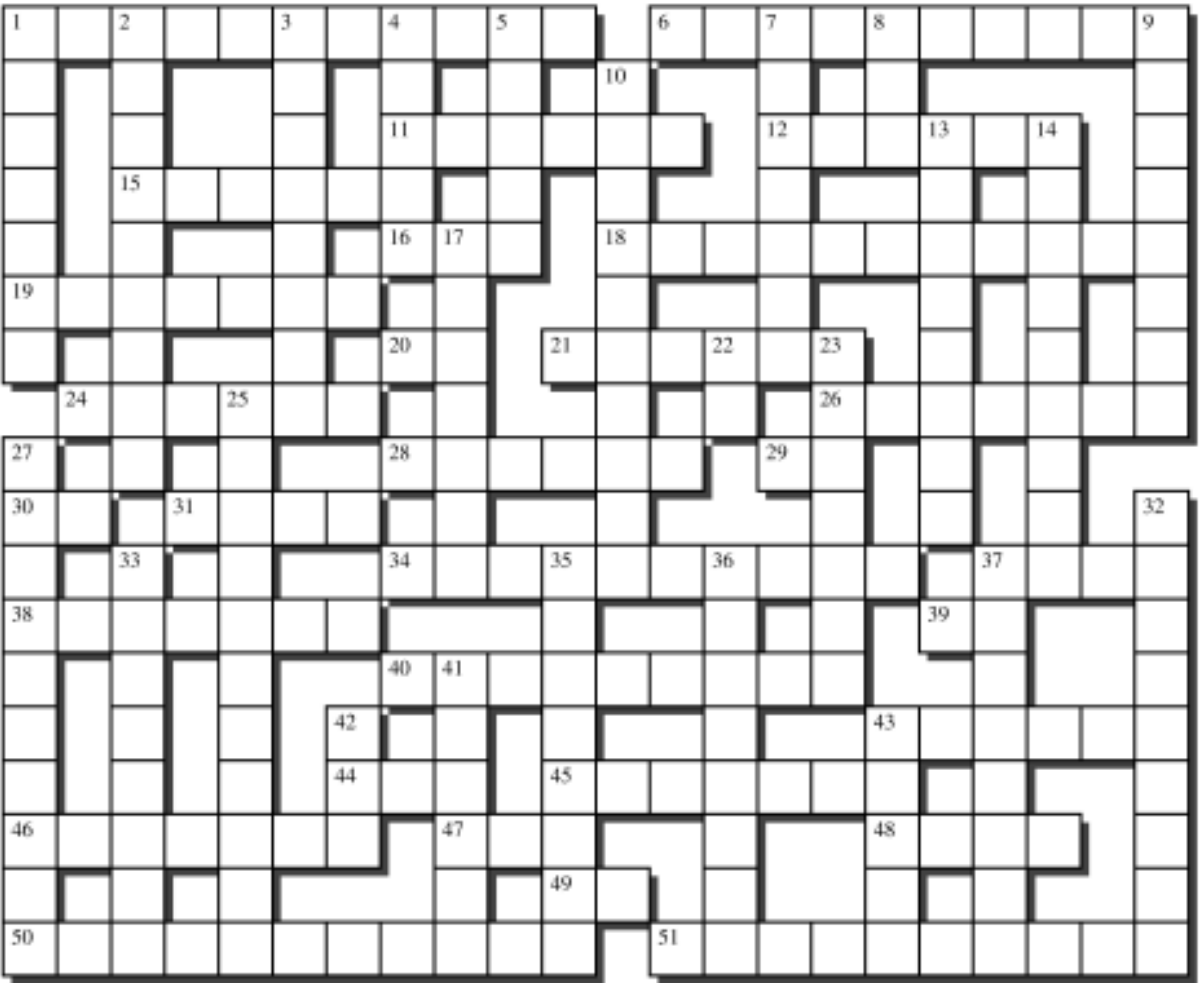
36) Film (8)

37) Cauliflower (8)

41) Successes (6)

42) Echo (3)

43) These (f) (5)



ANSWERS

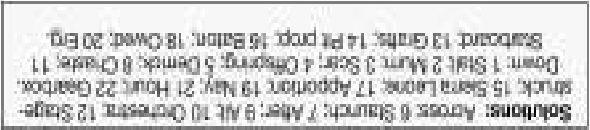
Quiz answers

the 1964 film Goldfinger.
following his use of a DB5 model in
associated with James Bond
and grand tours. It became
manufacturer of luxury sports cars
Global Holdings plc is a British
Of interest: Aston Martin Lagonda
Answer: Aston Martin
smelling salts and cognac.
experience were revived by the
customers unnerved by the
continuous leather belt. Apparently
had 224 steps powered by a
London opened the first escalator. It
Of interest: On 16 November,
Answer: Harrods

Language Crossword



Cryptic Crossword



Wordpuzzler solution

1. Park	U	P	L	E	S	T	O	R	A
2. Fair	S	L	A	H	G	P	U	B	A
3. Circus	C	I	N	E	M	A	T	W	O
4. Zoo	E	B	I	A	N	R	O	A	M
5. Theatre	L	R	S	T	I	K	W	R	O
6. Gym	F	A	I	R	K	I	N	E	B
7. Cinema	O	R	B	E	L	N	I	S	O
8. Resort	G	Y	M	E	Z	A	Z	O	O
9. Pub	I	E	A	F	A	R	E	R	T
10. Library	A	X	F	O	N	T	B	I	A

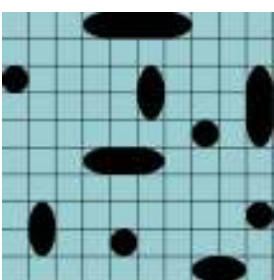
Sudoku solution

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

Circlegram

The letter represented by the
question mark is H. Whitman,
Southey, Hopkins, all poets.

Battleships



WHERE IS THIS?



Bronze statues of grape pickers

Last week:
Villanueva de la
Concepción

This tranquil oasis with fountain and
flowers can be found on Calle García
Caparrós in Villanueva del Concepción.



THE SUR IN ENGLISH CORNER

A different sort of Easter

Now that the clocks have gone
forward and we are officially in
spring time, things are looking
brighter, with warmer weather
at least for a few days and gar-
dens and patios in full bloom.
We would love to see the pho-
tos of the flowers that might be
appearing in your garden, patio
or in the countryside so send
them to english@diariosur.es.

Although most Semana Santa
celebrations have had to be can-
celled in Andalucía for another
year because of the pandemic,

you can still enjoy the experience
by watching previous years' pro-
cessions on various websites;
some town halls have arranged
special Easter exhibitions. In Tor-
remolinos you can scan a QR
code at various points in the town
and watch a video of the proces-
sion from a previous year.

If you have any news or pho-
tos you would like to share with
us, send them by email: suri-
nenglish.su@diariosur.es or
simply Tweet them to us
@SUR_English

With Covid engraved on their skin

Coronavirus. Nurses, masks, bats and memories of relatives who died, a new trend among those who love tattoos, as a reminder of what they have been through

IGNACIO LILLO



A toilet roll, the most coveted item early in the pandemic. **SUR. MCCOY**



◀ **The world in a mask.**
This icon and other versions of it have become a symbol of the pandemic in tattoos.



On his arm he has a tattoo of a bat carrying planet Earth in a cage, and on his foot a label with the Covid-19 symbol and a date: 7 March 2020. "That's the day my wife became very ill," says Sergio Pineda, the owner of a roast chicken business in Puerto de la Torre. Maribel García was one of the first cases in Málaga. "She was really bad, but she wasn't admitted to hospital". Maribel, a dental hygienist, had heard that people were on ventilators in hospital and she was very scared. "We went through that together and wanted to record it for posterity," says Sergio. He learned later that he and their daughter had had the virus but were asymptomatic.

Maribel also has another tat-

too, of her face in a mask, another bat and the same date. "They are our Covid tattoos," Sergio says.

His is very visible and has an impact. Customers often refer to it, with differing opinions. "Some ask how I could do this, with what we are still going through. It's a reminder to myself of how bad things were, but it's also a tribute to all the families who have suffered because of the coronavirus," he explains.

Their creativity has not ended yet. Maribel has already been vaccinated because of her profession, and to close the circle the couple are planning to have another tattoo, maybe a syringe with a bottle of the vaccines, the brand and the date of each jab.

Their tattoos have been done

by McCoy, founder of Tattoo Stone, the oldest studio in Málaga, which opened in 1994. He has been receiving numerous requests for something pandemic-related. Bats, Covid symbols, masks and phrases referring to survival and the year 2020 are among the most popular. One nurse has a tattoo of herself wearing a mask and in an old-style military uniform. "It's because they have been on the front line," McCoy explains.

Marked by the virus

"A lot of people who ask for these tattoos have experience of the virus, either because they have been very ill with it themselves or their relatives have, and they want a reminder of what they have been through and how they

got over it," says McCoy.

In many cases people choose motivating phrases, but some want a portrait of a family member who died from Covid. This is not just a local trend. The veteran tattoo artist says that in Madrid, where the incidence of the virus is especially high, it is more common than here.

Davilock Medina, who owns Trece Tattoo in Torremolinos, agrees that demand is high. He has recently done 15 Covid-related tattoos including plasters over a broken heart and the globe

in a mask. He says many of his clients work in the medical profession. Irene Jorquera, of Varekai Tattoo in Málaga, says many of her clients want motivating phrases, especially those who have been ill or whose relatives have had the illness. Couples sometimes ask for matching ones. She has also been asked to do several portraits of loved ones who have died from the virus.

It will be a long time before anybody can forget what has happened with the Covid pandemic in 2020 and 2021, but those who have recorded it with tattoo art on their skin will have a reminder that stays with them for the rest of their lives.

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