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April 9th to 15th 2021
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News	2
Comment	18
Lifestyle	19
What to do	23
Health&Beauty	26
Food&Drink	29
Sport	30

FEELING TIRED THIS SPRING?
KEEP MOVING, SAY EXPERTS

Fatigue, headaches and weakness often take people to their doctor's surgery at this time of year **P26**



Historic feat for local handballers

Rincón Fertilidad become only the fourth team from Malaga in any sport to reach a European final

The Palacio de los Deportes looks set to host the first leg of the showpiece in May **P32**

The team celebrate their place in the EHF European Cup final where they will face Lokomotiva Zagreb. **SALVADOR SALAS**

Spain limits AstraZeneca vaccines to the 60 to 69 age group after latest rethink

The regional health service has now set up a process for people with private cover to register for Covid jobs

Earlier this week PM Pedro Sánchez promised vaccination for half of Spain by July. However the government has since stopped giving the Oxford-backed first vaccines to younger people amid ongoing blood clot concerns. **P2**

El Corte Inglés to close up a large part of its Mijas Costa store **P6**

Over 2m flights are on sale to the Costa del Sol for May to July **P4**



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BONO BEACH

10 APRIL

Spain decides to limit AstraZeneca vaccine doses to people aged between 60 and 69

The Ministry of Health still believes the benefits outweigh the risks, especially in the elderly, the most vulnerable to coronavirus

ALBERTO GÓMEZ

MALAGA. Spain's vaccination strategy was turned upside down in a matter of hours on Wednesday this week following a meeting between the Ministry of Health and the regions.

The outcome of the debate was that Spain decided to reserve doses of the AstraZeneca vaccine for people aged between 60 and 65. This upper age limit was subsequently extended on Thursday afternoon to 69 after a further rethink.

This is a radical change; until a few weeks ago, the administration of the Oxford vaccine was limited to people under 56 years of age. It was later expanded to people aged between 56 and 65.

Now, after a new investigation into dozens of cases of blood clots among those vaccinated with the British vaccine, Spain's regional and national Health bosses have agreed that only those over 60 will receive this vaccine.

It is not yet known what will happen to those under 60 who have already received the first dose of AstraZeneca, although the usual protocol is to keep the second dose scheduled if no side effects have been detected after the first.

The Ministry of Health still



Uncertainty over the jab continued making headlines this week. EFE

believes that the benefits of the AstraZeneca vaccine outweigh the risks, especially among the elderly, the most vulnerable to coronavirus.

The debate came after the EU reaffirmed its support for AstraZeneca but recognised blood clots as "very rare" side effects. Despite the fact that several

European countries, including Spain, have documented up to 228 episodes of thrombi (169 brain and 59 abdominal), the European Medicines Agency conclusion remains the same: the benefits of the vaccine far outweigh any possible risk and urged governments to continue its use.

The EMA's ruling came just hours after the United Kingdom advised against its use among people under thirty years of age. Trials of the Oxford vaccine on children in the UK have also been suspended on a precautionary basis.

On Wednesday the Castilla y León region temporarily stopped vaccinations with the AstraZeneca formula as a "precaution" before knowing the conclusions of the EMA.

Procedure announced for those with private health cover to register for their vaccinations

The Andalusian health service has published a link to a form that those without public health cover can take to their nearest health centre

DARYL FINCH / SUR

MALAGA. The Junta de Andalucía has asked residents with private health cover - and who do not use the public health service - to register in order to be included in the vaccination programme.

The authority has also renewed calls for those who are over 80 years old and have not yet received a Covid-19 vaccination to get in contact with their local health centre.

In the case of those with private health cover and not registered with the Andalusian health service - the majority of them foreign nationals - the Junta is keen to ensure that no one misses out on a vaccine.

The announcement came as a relief to many expat residents who were unsure how they would get vaccinated despite Spain's reassurance that everyone is entitled to a jab.

"People who are not already on the public health database must register in order to be included in the vaccination process," the Junta has said. "These are usually foreigners who have never been treated in the Andalusian



A Coín resident receives one of his jabs against the coronavirus. SUR

Public Health System and who use private healthcare providers."

In order to complete registration, private health users should fill in the form (Formulario simplificado para solicitud de alta) available on the health service's website and take it to a public health centre.

Registering on the health service's user database (or BDU) for vaccination purposes "does not imply a right to the rest of the public health services," stresses the authority.

As the Andalusian government moved its vaccination campaign to residents in the 76 to 79 age group this week, it still renewed calls for anyone over the age of

The announcement came as a relief to many expat residents who were unsure how they would get vaccinated

80 who has not been offered a jab for whatever reason to contact their health centre.

Earlier this week the authority said that its aim was that by this weekend all over-80s in the region will have been called to receive at least their first dose of the vaccine.

Hard to reach some over-80s

Speaking on Monday, regional president Juanma Moreno said, "There are still eight per cent of those over 80 to vaccinate, but it's not easy to locate them as many of them don't have a mobile phone or they live in isolated areas and it's difficult to contact their relatives. But we are doing everything we can to find them."

Special phone numbers have been set up in two health districts. Those in the Malaga and Guadalhorce health district who are over 80 and are yet to be invited for their jabs, are urged to call 669 833 050. In the Axarquía health district, the number is 660 592 549. The lines are open from 8am to 3pm, but text messages can be sent to the numbers and the health service will return the call.

In the case of other health districts, users are urged to call their health centres directly.

Link to form: Visit <http://www.surinenglish.com/local/202104/07/private-health-patients-over-20210407153321.html>

PM promises vaccines for half of Spain by July

M. SÁIZ-PARDO

MADRID. Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez said on Tuesday that the promise of reaching herd immunity with 70 per cent of the population vaccinated against Covid-19 by the end of August was still in place.

He went even further, saying that more than half of the 47 million people living in the country will have received complete doses of the vaccine by the middle of July, that is, 25 million people.

Sánchez made it clear Spain was ahead among the biggest EU countries and that the situation was going to improve greatly. However his statement came before the decision to limit the age range further for AstraZeneca.

According to the new vaccination calendar revealed on Tuesday, by next week the number of people in Spain with the vaccine will be greater than the official number of people diagnosed with the virus (3.3 million).

By the week of 3 May there will be five million inhabitants with the full vaccination; by the first week of June there will be 10 million; by mid June the figure will have increased to 15 million; and one month later, the week of 19 July, 25 million people will have received a full course of a Covid-19 vaccine.

Andalucía keeps restrictions and questions PM's plan to end state of alarm in May

Regional president Juanma Moreno has said that the national law is a powerful tool in the face of case rates rising again

SUR

MALAGA. Measures aimed at containing the spread of Covid-19 in Andalucía have not been changed today, Friday 9 April. Today was the date set to review current regional restrictions but the regional government announced its no-change decision on Wednesday.

The restrictions are expected to be reviewed again before 23 April, when the new period is due to end. Regional Health Minister Jesús Aguirre said that according to the experts' assessment of the current situation and "considering the slight upward trend in the infection rate, it has been decided not to modify the vast majority of the measures adopted 15 days ago."

The experts have taken into account the slower-than-expected rate of vaccination of the



Juanma Moreno (r) this week. EP

65 to 79s, the age group of the majority of patients currently being treated for Covid-19.

Restrictions that remain, therefore, include the ban on travel in and out of the region of Andalucía and on travel between the eight Andalusian provinces.

The night curfew remains at 11pm to 6am and gatherings are

limited to six people outdoors and four inside bars and restaurants.

The same restrictions on movement will also apply if the case rate of each city, town or village reaches certain limits: when there are more than 500 cases per 100,000 inhabitants over 14 days, non-essential travel across the municipal boundary will be banned; and when the figure rises above 1,000, all non-essential businesses in that municipality must close.

In villages with fewer than 1,500 inhabitants, a specific risk assessment will be carried out by the corresponding provincial health committee when the rates reach those levels.

Plan to end state of alarm

The Junta de Andalucía's decision comes after Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez said this week that his intention is not to extend the national state of alarm beyond its 9 May end date.

The current nationwide legislation, which permits centralised measures such as imposing a night curfew, came into

force on 25 October.

"We want 9 May to be the end of the state of alarm," said Sánchez. He was confident, he said, that the drop in infections thanks to vaccination and measures taken by the devolved regional authorities will be sufficient to control the pandemic.

Regions will keep their powers

The government has pointed out that while the special conditions afforded by a state of alarm are required to impose a curfew without legal challenges, the regional authorities will be able to continue restricting movement within their territories.

The president of the Junta de Andalucía, Juanma Moreno, said that he was in favour of extending the state of alarm for another month if the figures did not improve in May.

"We will lose powerful tools in the form of the curfew and mobility limitations that can help stop the spread of the disease," he said. "I think it was a hasty decision, not mature enough and not taken in dialogue with the regions."

Case figures per 100,000 rise as effect of Easter holiday starts to be felt

SUR IN ENGLISH

MALAGA. Case rates in almost all of Spain's regions continued to rise this week, with some regions tightening restrictions once again.

The average 14-day case rate per 100,000 nationally was 175 on Thursday. Worst affected areas included Madrid, the Basque Country and Navarra.

In Andalucía, the rolling case rate was 180.60 on Thursday, up from 140 on the previous week's comparable data. Granada was the worst affected province on 265. Andalucía saw 2,590 new cases on Thursday, the worst since 13 February.

In Malaga province, including the Costa del Sol, the effects of the Easter holiday were also being felt, with a rise in 14-day case rates to 105.9.

Five villages in the province are facing closed borders until 15 April: Arenas, Almargen, Sierra de Yeguas, Casabermeja and Pujerra.

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Airlines have almost 2.3 million seats on sale to Malaga Airport for May to July

The UK tops the table with 615,000 seats from 15 airports, followed by France and the Netherlands

PILAR MARTÍNEZ

MALAGA. The Costa del Sol tourist board (Turismo Costa del Sol) has revealed that airlines are offering almost 2.3 million seats on scheduled flights to Malaga Airport during the months of May, June and July this year.

Of those, 1.86 million seats are for international flights, which the tourist board says shows "the reactivation of tourism is beginning to become a reality".

All eyes are focused on the main market for the Costa del Sol, the United Kingdom. The British Government has already postponed the start of travel abroad for holidays until at least 17 May, if the coronavirus situation allows it, within its new restriction-easing programme.

The date is key because the

UK is the country where the travel companies have planned major advertising. Of the 1.86 million seats from international destinations, 615,000 are aimed at the British market.

The Costa del Sol tourism board says that one out of every four plane seats to Malaga airport will originate in the UK. Subject to international travel being allowed unhindered, the airport will be connected with direct flights to London, Manchester, Birmingham, Bristol, Belfast, Liverpool, Glasgow, Nottingham, Leeds, Newcastle, Cardiff, Edinburgh, Doncaster, Bournemouth and Aberdeen.

In a more detailed breakdown, Turismo Costa del Sol says that

the air corridor with London will offer 251,000 seats, followed by Manchester, with 58,700 seats, and Birmingham, with 37,600 seats.

In order of international seats offered to Malaga, France is in second spot, displacing Germany, which has slipped to fourth as the Netherlands takes the third place.

Airlines

Ryanair, the airline that currently leads the table for volume of passengers at Malaga Airport, will

strengthen its position. Turismo Costa del Sol said, "From foreign markets, the majority of passengers, specifically one in four visitors, will come with Ryanair, which is offering more than 475,000 seats to Malaga."

The tourist board report indicates that easyJet will be the airline with the second-largest offer of seats to fly to the Costa del Sol, with 269,259 tickets on sale, followed by Spanish airline Vueling, with 134,816 seats, and British airline Jet2.com, with scheduled 103,056 seats.

New rule forcing face mask wearing while sunbathing will be changed

MELCHOR SÁIZ PARDO

MADRID. Spain's Ministry of Health will amend the controversial rule making the wearing of face masks mandatory "at all times and in all public places" - including beaches and swimming pools - even if a safe distance from other people can be maintained.

At Wednesday's joint meeting of the regional departments of Health, the Ministry of Health presented the text of an exemption to the new law that allows the removal of face masks at "moments of rest" (the expression "sunbathing" is not used, but it is implied) and as long as a safe distance of 1.5 metres can be kept from people who do not live together.

The draft, which now has the blessing of the regions, nevertheless maintains the obligation to wear nose and mouth coverings if people are on the move. In other words - the Ministry of Health explained - masks will continue to be mandatory during walks along the beach.

Practising sport will continue to be exempt and people who carry out activities that are considered "incompatible" with the use of face masks, such as lifeguards, are excluded from wearing a mask. A mask can also be briefly removed when eating or drinking.

Last week a parliamentary law enforcing the wearing of masks in all public places was severely criticised, especially by regions which rely on beach tourism.



International arrivals at Malaga Airport in summer 2020. SALVADOR SALAS

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Cruise ships to return to the Costa del Sol 'in the second half of the year'

EUROPA PRESS

MALAGA. The Malaga Port Authority is forecasting that cruise ships will return to the Costa del Sol in the second half of this year.

The authority's president, Carlos Rubio, said some cruise companies have already scheduled the arrival of ships, although he added that some may do trial runs beforehand.

"Stopovers on scheduled routes are expected for the second semester," Rubio told Europa Press, while clarifying that they will not be like those prior

to the pandemic since cruise ships will operate with a reduced capacity.

The ban on cruise ships docking a little over a year ago due to the Covid-19 pandemic restrictions was "a hard blow" for port activity "but also unavoidable".

The process of returning the ships to the port "is speeding up now thanks to the increase in the number of people vaccinated," Rubio said. He pointed out that some cruise companies may "only accept passengers that have been vaccinated".

"I have no doubt that when

vaccination has advanced more in neighbouring countries, more cruise ships will arrive," he explained. "The cruise terminal has achieved Covid security approval. It is perfectly prepared so that when the cruises resume, it can be done safely."

Rubio acknowledged the "significant blow" of losing the cruise ship business for more than a year: "This activity accounts for 25 per cent of all the income of the port. It is like any other company - if income falls by 25 per cent it has a big impact."

However he stressed that freight transport has produced "acceptably good results" in 2020 and this year "has started really well".

"In some segments, such as container shipping, it is better than before the pandemic last year," he added.



Why it's time to 'think local' for your financial planning

By Steven Langford, Partner, Blevins Franks

In these times of restrictions and lockdowns, our worlds have become a lot smaller. Whether this will have a long-term effect on your travel, lifestyle and shopping habits will be a personal matter. But with Brexit now here, UK nationals living in Spain have good reason to permanently 'think local' when it comes to financial arrangements.

Just as UK citizens lost automatic EU freedom of movement on 1 January, many UK financial businesses lost the right to provide banking and investment services within the EU. If you are Spanish resident and use a UK bank account, financial products or UK-based financial adviser, make sure you check where you – and your money – stand.

UK financial services and Brexit

Before Brexit, UK firms could legally provide financial services to Britons living in the EU through 'passporting', which included a commitment to meet EU minimum standards and consumer protections. Now that the UK is free to make its own rules – and the EU has no assurance that UK firms will continue meeting their requirements – those passporting rights have been

withdrawn. As a result, some UK banks, insurance companies, investment providers and financial advisers could be breaking the law by working with EU residents.

Does this affect all UK financial firms?

This depends on various factors, including how a company is structured and where it is based. Those with headquarters in an EU country, for example, can retain their passporting licence and continue operating as before.

However, wholly UK-based firms who want to support EU-resident clients will likely need to restructure and form agreements with the financial regulators for each EU/EEA country. This is a complex, expensive and time-consuming process, so not attractive for all.

Negotiations on financial services are ongoing, so it is possible the UK and EU may still reach an agreement. Some companies may be holding out for this before going through the expense of restructuring. Others have already withdrawn from EU markets.

Some major UK banks have

informed EU-based clients that they cannot provide services for them post-Brexit and closed accounts. Other providers have kept accounts/policies open but suspended activity, or are allowing them to run until the end of their term.

How might this affect you?

If you hold a British bank account, insurance policy, investment or other financial product and your provider has not contacted you about limited services, ask them what arrangements they have in place for Spain.

If your account hasn't been closed, has it been frozen? In some cases, while you may be able to retain existing accounts and make withdrawals as an EU resident, you may be restricted from adding or moving funds or renewing policies. You may be unable to apply for new services, such as term deposits, bonds, foreign currency management, loans and credit cards.

If you use a UK-based financial adviser, check they have the authority to continue supporting you as a Spanish resident. Besides the legal implications – and whether you are

protected if things go wrong – some financial institutions have stopped accepting instructions from UK-based (unregulated) providers. If you hold EU-based investments, your planning options may be significantly limited with a UK adviser.

Post-Brexit financial planning for Spain

Even if the financial services issue does not affect you, there are other key benefits to thinking more local for your finances.

Still holding on to UK savings and investments? Now that UK assets are no longer EU/EEA assets, they could attract a higher tax bill within the EU. Own UK property? Remember: EU residents are still in the firing line for UK stamp duty and capital gains tax. Meanwhile, Spanish residents have access to opportunities that can offer better tax-efficiency and other potential benefits, so review your options.

What about UK pensions? You may be better off leaving them in the UK and drawing income as needed here. However, while Brexit does not affect the ability to receive UK

pension income into an EU account, it is paid in sterling and the value could be adversely affected by exchange rates and conversion costs. Explore whether you may benefit more from transferring funds out of the UK into a tax-efficient structure for Spain. Doing so could also unlock currency flexibility and estate planning benefits, but take specialist, regulated advice to do what's right for you.

With Brexit bringing such a seismic shift in the landscape, it has never been more important to ensure your financial arrangements are compliant and suitable for your life in Spain. A specialist, locally-based adviser is best placed to help you take advantage of suitable opportunities here and secure financial peace of mind.

Blevins Franks accepts no liability for any loss resulting from any action or inaction or omission as a result of reading this article, which is general in nature and not specific to your circumstances.

Retired to Spain? Still using your UK-based financial adviser?

UK-based advisers generally do not have the deep understanding of the Spanish regime necessary to provide the most tax-efficient wealth management solutions. And UK banks, advisers and other financial providers may no longer be able to legally service EU residents now that Brexit has dissolved automatic 'passporting' rights for UK financial services in the EU.

Your adviser needs to live here to be up to date and react fast to changes. Blevins Franks has been established in Spain for over 30 years and has unique insight into the needs of British expatriates. We are regulated to provide advice in Spain into 2021 and beyond.

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A large part of the El Corte Inglés store in Las Lagunas is to close

The retail giant plans on closing Hipercor and other floor space, as well as reducing the number of staff, which currently stands at 460

JUAN SOTO

MIJAS. El Corte Inglés will reduce its presence on the Costa del Sol with the complete restructuring of its Costa Mijas shopping centre in Las Lagunas.

The retail giant anticipates a drastic reduction in the commercial space and the number of employees, which currently stands at 460.

SUR has learned that it will be a partial closure of the store although specific details of departments affected have not yet been



El Corte Inglés opened its Costa Mijas centre in March 2016. SUR

released.

External firms, such as Correos (the post office), could continue to operate in the building as could El Corte Inglés' own companies

such as the opticians and the travel agency.

The Hipercor hypermarket is set to close, however, according to sources.

The action in Mijas Costa is part of the restructuring process initiated by the company nationally to alleviate the effects of Covid-19 and face the recent significant drop in sales.

At the moment, the exact date on which the changes will take place has not been confirmed although it is anticipated that it will be in early summer.

Some 460 people currently work at the so-called Costa Mijas centre and there will be "significant" job losses, although the company has said it will endeavour to relocate as many staff as possible to other stores.

El Corte Inglés opened Costa Mijas in March 2006 after investing 130 million euros in the store. The centre occupies an area of 135,000 square metres in the heart of Las Lagunas. It has a commercial area of 35,500 square metres and two floors of underground parking with capacity for 1,775 vehicles.

The chain currently has five large stores in Malaga province: two in the city, two in Marbella and the one in Mijas Costa.

Phased opening of Estepona hospital continues with start of outpatient appointments

JOSÉ MARÍA MARTÍN

ESTEPONA. The phased opening of the Estepona local Hospital took another step forward this week with the opening on Monday of outpatient clinics for Rehabilitation and Obstetrics, Gynaecology, Urology, Otorhinolaryngology and Internal Medicine.

From next Tuesday, 13 April, the Pneumology, Cardiology and Functional Tests (echocardiograms, stress tests and holter) departments will also open.

This scheduled, staggered opening now aims to respond to the demand for these specialities in the Manilva, Casares and Estepona areas.

HERE AND THERE

ESTEPONA

Council requests funding to replenish sand on storm-damaged beaches

J. M. MARÍN. Estepona council has asked central government to provide funds for the regeneration of six beaches in the municipality (El Cristo, Menara Beach, Benamara-Paraíso Barronal, Atalaya-Isdabe, El Padrón and El Ángel). These six, but especially the latter two, have been badly affected by the storms which occurred in autumn and winter, especially Storm Filomena which caused a large amount of the sand to disappear.

Susana Aragón, the councillor for Beaches, explained that it will



A previous beach operation. J. M. M.

be down to the central Ministry of Ecological Transition and Demographic Challenge to set and allocate the necessary budget for the works which will be carried out, she hopes, as soon as possible by council experts.

The last time such an action was necessary was in 2018 when 80,000 cubic metres had to be replenished.

ESTEPONA

11 streets incorporated into Garden project

J. M. M. Eleven new streets (Belén, Cristo de Perdón, San Juan, Valladolid, Barcelona, Goya, Granada, Isaac Albéniz, Castañuela, Félix Rodríguez de la Fuente and Lope de Vega) have now been incorporated into the Estepona, Garden of the Costa del Sol project, with the complete renovation of an area of more than 10,000 square metres. The paving, sewage and drainage networks and street furniture have been replaced for the sum of 1,513,301 euros, 80 per cent of which was financed by the EU.

MARBELLA

Temporary premises found for Triple A

J. M. M. Marbella town hall and Triple A have agreed on the temporary relocation of the shelter to a nearby plot of 7,000 square metres during the comprehensive refurbishment of the current facilities. The new, provisional plot is 3,000 square metres larger than the current location.

The councillor for Public Works, Diego López, said that the refurbishment of the current facilities "will be a reality in the coming months", with administrative procedures "very advanced".

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Neglected dogs and cats rescued from 'deplorable' conditions in Colmenar

Thirteen dogs and two cats were retrieved and are now in the care of a Mijas shelter while new homes are sought

FERNANDO TORRES

MALAGA. A neighbour realised that something was wrong in a home near to hers when she saw the dogs that lived there. From the road she could see three or four animals, always tied up and showing signs of malnutrition.

Her tip-off has now led to action by the animal protection association Ladram and the Seprona animal welfare wing of the Guardia Civil, who have rescued thirteen dogs and two cats that were found in a "deplorable" situation in Colmenar.

After several months of work by Ladram, the Seprona action took place last Saturday.

A spokesperson for the association explained to SUR that they felt that four complaints to the town council were not sufficiently acted on and when the Colmenar Local Police did pay the owner a home visit the woman showed them four of the animals that were in a better condition but they didn't see inside the property.

However, according to SUR sources, when the Guardia Civil and Ladram took action they found the hygienic conditions in the house were "deplorable and very poor" for both human life and that of pets, since animal waste had accumulated both outside and indoors.

Vets said they saw clear signs of neglect in most of the animals,



One of the rescued dogs with its five puppies. SUR

which suffered from infection, dehydration and other issues. Virtually all of the dogs had external and internal tick and flea infections. Others had a fever over 39 degrees, diarrhoea, leishmania and multiple diseases associated with lack of care.

The ACE/SHIN (Animal Care España) association, in Mijas, has taken charge of caring for the animals while they recover and new homes are found.

Ladram said, "If the neighbour had not contacted us, those dogs could be dead," while praising the intervention of Seprona that made it possible to detect a complex case in which Social Services had to intervene to support the owner of the animals.

14-month-old baby dies after falling from a fifth-floor window

The little girl, who was in her mother's arms, fell after the security bars of the flat's kitchen window 'gave way'

JUAN CANO / ÁLVARO FRÍAS

MALAGA. A 14-month-old baby has died after she fell from the fifth-floor window of a building in the Carlos Haya area of Malaga city last Friday.

Sources have told SUR that, ap-

parently, the little girl fell after the security bars of the kitchen window of the flat "gave way" and her mother was unable to hold onto her.

The incident happened at around 10.20pm when several calls alerted the 112 emergency control centre that a child had fallen. Emergency responders rushed to the scene but when they arrived the little girl was no longer there. After the fall, the mother – who lived alone with the child – picked the infant up and carried



The building where the incident happened. NITO SALAS

her, accompanied by friends, to nearby police offices. There, officers rushed them to the Emergency department of the nearby Regional Hospital.

SUR sources say that the little girl was admitted in a very serious condition. Later she was transferred to the Materno Infan-

til Hospital, where she remained in critical condition until she died on Saturday morning (3 April).

National Police have opened an investigation to clarify the circumstances surrounding the incident but, according to initial investigations, everything points to it being an accident.

112 REPORTS

MARBELLA

Burglars caught after returning to house to demand ransom

E. P. Police in Marbella have arrested a Spaniard, 18, and a Dominican, 19, charged with robbery with force, after they allegedly returned to demand money to return items (several electronic devices) they had stolen from a property that they had broken into using a false key while the owners were out.

The thieves evaded capture when the returning owners spotted them inside but they were eventually caught when police were called a second time when the teenagers returned to the house demanding money.

MALAGA

Taxi driver brutally attacked for refusing drinking passengers

F. JIMÉNEZ. Two men were arrested in Malaga last Saturday night after they allegedly beat up a taxi driver when he told them they couldn't get into his vehicle carrying drinks.

The pair threatened to kill the Nigerian driver, who has Spanish nationality, if he didn't take them, littering the threat with racial insults.

The words turned into a physical attack and the driver suffered kicks and punches all over his body and an ear injury.

The taxi driver was taken by a colleague to a health centre and an ambulance transferred him to the Clínico Hospital, where he was treated but without having to be admitted.

MALAGA

Man suffers serious head injury in massive street brawl

F. T. / J. C. A man was left seriously injured on Monday night after a massive fight involving gangs of young men in Malaga city centre.

After the emergency services stabilised the unconscious victim he was rushed to hospital with a serious head injury.

The brawl involved several groups of young men who clashed in the middle of the street near Plaza Mitjana just after 10pm and involved "mainly foreign nationals", according to SUR sources.

National Police are investigating the exact circumstances in which the man suffered the injuries but one theory is that he hit his head against a wall.

HERE AND THERE

COÍN

Coín registers highest ever number of residents on the padrón

A. JIMÉNEZ. The latest data from the National Statistics Institute (INE) has shown that Coín has a record number of inhabitants on its census (padrón), with 23,375 inhabitants on 1 January 2021,

702 more than last year - an increase of 3.1 per cent.

This increase in population also reflects an increase in the number of foreign residents registered, especially British citizens. "We are working hard to regularise the situation of many foreigners in Coín so that we are eligible for more municipal income on a monthly and quarterly basis," said mayor Francisco Santos.



An aerial view of Coín. **SUR**

FUENGIROLA

Carvajal sports centre works advancing well

I. GELIBTER. Works on the future Carvajal sports centre in Fuengirola - which has already reached 50 per cent completion - will be finished by the end of the summer, mayor Ana Mula has announced. The 2.77-million-euro complex will have two basketball courts, a stand, two changing rooms and an open-plan multi-purpose room.

ALHAURÍN DE LA TORRE

New free car park now open to the public

A. J. Alhaurín de la Torre town hall has created a new free outdoor car park near the El Pinar housing estate. It is a 1,500-square-metre plot of municipal property, located next to the BP service station on Avenida Reyes Católicos. The car park is already in operation and has several dozen spaces.

British artist captures the essence and tempo of Andalucía with new mural

Using blocks of pastel colours, the artist portrays a perfect representation of street life in a traditional pueblo blanco

TONY BRYANT

ALHAURÍN EL GRANDE. A British artist who has lived in Malaga for more than 30 years unveiled her latest work in Alhaurín El Grande last week. A former newspaper cartoonist and architect, Chandy Haggett is probably one of the most innovative artists living on the Costa del Sol today, and her characteristic work has now been recognised by Alhaurín El Grande town hall. The 49-year-old Londoner was commissioned to paint an eleven-metre mural on a wall in Calle de la Cruz as part of the council's latest cultural project, which was supported by the El Arsenal art project in Malaga.

Chandy's work captures the colours, aromas and tempo of life in southern Spain. Her bold paintings depict beautiful landscapes and scenes of rural life, capturing



Carmen Peña and Chandy Haggett (r) in front of the eleven-metre mural in Alhaurín El Grande last week. **SUR**

ing the ferias and fiestas and scenes of traditional street life.

Using blocks of pastel colours, her latest work portrays a scene in a typical Andalusian village.

Chandy worked entirely from imagination, never using photography or real life for reference.

She completed the mural in just one week and it has already attracted much attention in the town. She will soon start on phase two of the project, which will be painted on an adjoining street.

The unveiling was attended by Carmen Peña, coordinator of El

Artsenal, who said "Chandy's spectacular work offers the true essence of Andalucía."

Chandy told SUR in English, "It has been an absolute honour to work on this project. I hope people like it because it is painted from the heart."

Ruta del Rock set to return to Torremolinos over two weekends in May

T. BRYANT

TORREMOLINOS. Torremolinos town hall has announced that this year's edition of the Ruta del Rock is scheduled to take place over two weekends in May. With the coronavirus regulations in mind, the Culture department has invited bars and restaurants that have terraces and outside areas to apply for a permit to participate in the festival. Establishments and musicians wishing to take part must register at the Culture office in the town hall, or online (www.torremolinos.es), before Friday 16 April.

The town hall will set up small stages outside participating establishments and will also supply T-shirts to promote the events.

The concerts will be staged from Friday 14 until Sunday 16, and from Friday 21 until Sunday 23 May, although concert times will be subject to the restrictions set by the health authorities.

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A plume of smoke rising from the Maro cliffs area, near Nerja, where the fire broke out. **E. C.**

Green campaigners blame authorities' lack of attention for Nerja wildfire

NERJA

A Swedish woman was arrested on Monday over the blaze which destroyed four hectares of protected land

EUGENIO CABEZAS

NERJA. Green campaigners and residents' associations have pointed the finger of blame at Nerja town hall and local landowners for damage caused to flora and fauna during last week's fire near the Maro watchtower and cliffs.

GENA-Ecologistas en Acción criticised lax law enforcement and failure to pay proper attention to the protected area, while residents' group Otro Maro es Posible (another Maro is possible) said that they were "not surprised" that a fire broke out as they say the area

has been incorrectly used for holiday rentals, instead of agricultural land, for some time.

Woman arrested

GENA said that a "large amount of woodland" had been destroyed, which "cannot be simply replaced by a reforestation programme".

While the environmentalists recognised that the fire was "an accident caused by negligence" they have called on Nerja town hall and the owners of the land, the Larios group, to fully check on the "dangers" and "illegal activity" that have been allowed to happen in the area.

On Monday this week, Guardia Civil officers arrested a Swedish woman for allegedly being responsible for the wildfire which started last Thursday (1 April).

More than 60 specialist Infoca forest firefighters tackled the blaze that destroyed four hectares of

pinos and scrubland.

Local Police, Guardia Civil and Civil Protection volunteers also responded to the incident as well as regular firefighters.

The woman, who lives in a small rural house in the area, confessed to the police at the scene that she was burning the remains of some pruning on her land and that the flames spread "by accident".

As a result of the fire, at least five people had to be evacuated. Another group of five - including a child under 12 years old and a dog - had to be rescued by sea when they found themselves surrounded by flames in Carrizal cove. A Guardia Civil patrol boat, with the support of a Nerja Civil Protection jet ski, took them to safety.

Infoca has warned the public via its social media pages that "small bonfires, even in low risk periods, can have terrible consequences".

Authorities investigate cause of gastroenteritis outbreak in Axarquía village

PERIANA

E. C. The regional government and Periana council are investigating an outbreak of gastroenteritis that has affected over 80 people in the village this week. In most cases the symptoms, which include fever, vomiting, diarrhoea and dizziness, have lasted between 24 and 72 hours. A possible cause is the public water supply, although initial tests results have shown that chlorine levels are correct. A contagious bacteria or virus is not being ruled out.



The algae in Maro. **GENA**

Fears over invasive species of algae found in protected Maro-Cerro Gordo cliffs

NERJA

E. C. Local environmentalists have warned of the appearance of the *Rugulopteryx okamurae* algae in the Maro-Cerro Gordo protected cliff area.

Divers investigating the arrival of the species, which has invasive behaviour, say that it could have "disastrous consequences" for marine life in the area.

GENA - Ecologistas en Acción have warned that the algae reproduces rapidly in warm temperatures and can suffocate native species of algae. It can also affect the fishing industry as well as tourism when it washes up on beaches.

The algae was first identified in the Strait of Gibraltar in 2015 and has gradually spread along the Andalusian coast as far as Almería.

Research is being carried out to identify the algae's weaknesses as a possible way to control the invasion.

Union calls for temporary closure of parcel delivery service amid Covid-19 outbreak

VÉLEZ-MÁLAGA

E. C. Spain's UGT trade union has called on Correos to temporarily close Vélez-Málaga's parcel delivery office in the wake of what it described as a "possible outbreak" of Covid-19 among staff.

Three workers tested positive for the virus on 31 March. The UGT said that a "lack of personnel" meant that staff have been forced to take on extra work. The Union also said that post office staff are "very exposed" to Covid-19 and should be a priority for the vaccine.

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Seven million euros needed to fix Malaga Cathedral's leaky roof

The Diocese has handed over the draft for a project it hopes can solve the long-running problem for good

JESÚS HINOJOSA

MALAGA. The Diocese of Malaga estimates that it will cost seven million euros to secure the cathedral's roof and prevent it from leaking in the long term.

Last week the Diocese handed over its detailed plan to the Regional Ministry of Culture, the body that will decide whether or not to undertake it. It proposes the construction of a gable roof which was included in original plans drawn up by architect Ventura Rodríguez in 1764 but never constructed.

The new design is made up of a structure of laminated wood and steel that can be visited inside and out, and which will be



The cracks on the roof continue to get bigger. F. HINOJOSA

covered with glazed ceramic tiles in two colours, honey and cream, to resemble the roofs of both El Sagrario church and the Episcopal palace.

The current 'Catalan style' solution to the leakage problem, formed by a skin of lead sheeting covered with bricks installed in 2009 has not had the desired result and enormous cracks have

opened up, a result of a rapid deterioration of the vaults, both inside and out.

Architects Juan Manuel Sánchez La Chica and Adolfo de la Torre Prieto say that the new roof, which will be supported by the main structure of the building and not the existing roof (which will remain in place), will barely be noticeable from ground level.



NITO SALAS

Malaga, leading potholing destination

Provincial Diputación vice-president Juan Carlos Maldonado (right) was in Ardales on Tuesday trying his luck at potholing during the presentation for the 11th Open Andaluz in this sport which takes place this weekend. The former mayor of Mijas, who managed to climb five metres in a minute on the climbing wall which is part of the facilities, was keen to point out that Malaga was the leading province in Spain for the practice of the sport, with 1,232 registered caves.

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The pandemic and a route change slash migrant boat arrivals

The number of illegal migrants who come via the Alboran Sea has dropped by 56.3 per cent, from 2,150 in 2019 to 941 last year

MATÍAS STUBER

MALAGA. The number of illegal migrants arriving on the Malaga coastline in 2020 has dropped by more than half when compared to those who were intercepted or landed in 2019, the year before the outbreak of the worldwide coronavirus pandemic.

Compared to the 79 boats dis-

covered in 2019, 49 were registered in 2020. As a direct result, the number of migrants arriving via the Alboran Sea (the part of the Mediterranean sea opposite the Costa del Sol) has decreased, from 2,150 in 2019 to 941 in 2020 - some 56.3 per cent fewer.

During the first wave of the pandemic, the spread of fear also reached the African continent and stopped the departure of boats from Morocco.

"The pandemic acted as a brake at the beginning," explains the spokesperson for the Moroccan Association for the Integration of Immigrants in Malaga, Irene Quirante.



Migrants arrive at Malaga Port. N. S.

But the pandemic is not the only reason. There is another that, in recent months, has acquired a special relevance. It has to do with a change in the routes used to reach European soil.

According to Quirante, the tightening of controls by the Moroccan authorities on the route through the Alboran Sea, which is the one that leads to Malaga, has caused

the gangs that try to smuggle migrants to use the so-called Canary route.

The Atlantic crossing is now the route most frequented by the boats - but it is also the most dangerous. The starting point is Western Sahara and the distances covered, often in fragile craft, can exceed 500 kilometres. If a boat starts from Senegal, the distance increases to 1,000 kilometres. And the trip turns into a lottery.

"Actually, right now there is no other possible route other than the Canary Islands. The Libya route is even more dangerous, the Turkish one is blocked and the Mediterranean route, which was the one that brought migrants to Malaga, as we have already said, has decreased due to the aforementioned Moroccan controls of Morocco," Quirante said.

She adds that the closure of the border between Morocco and Spain in Ceuta and Melilla has also contributed to the pressure being transferred to the Canary Islands.

Plaza Mayor outlet village welcomes three new designer stores

JUAN SOTO

MALAGA. The McArthurGlen Designer Outlet village next to Plaza Mayor continues to grow with the addition this week of three new stores.

The first is Zegna, a luxury men's fashion brand which combines sportswear and tailoring, which opens its second store in the province (the other is in El Corte Inglés in Puerto Banús).

The second, Philipp Plein brings men's and women's products with a rocker aesthetic; and the third, Façonnable, is a high-end men's and women's clothing brand founded in Nice.

COMMUNITY SPIRIT

Age Concern organise memorial walk for co-founder

SAN PEDRO

Stephen Brooksbank, who died last year, was instrumental in setting up the Marbella and San Pedro branch

TONY BRYANT

Age Concern Marbella and San Pedro are hosting a memorial walk to celebrate the life of Stephen Brooksbank on Saturday 17 April. Stephen, who died last year, was a co-founder of the Marbella and San Pedro branch, and members of the charity have organised the event to pay homage to his tireless efforts to help those in need on the Costa del Sol.

Stephen arrived on the coast with his life partner to start a business in San Pedro and he soon became an active member of the foreign community. Being a religious man, he quickly became involved in the local Evangelical Church. Through the church, Stephen came into contact with both expatriates and the local residents, and he became well-known and admired among the Spanish community of San Pedro.

On retiring, Stephen dedicated most of his time to helping others. He began working with the Red Cross, and also with Caritas, a Spanish Catholic Church charity which helps



Stephen Brooksbank. **SUR**

Stephen, who was described as “modest and kind-hearted”, dedicated his time to helping the needy

poor and homeless people. He also helped run a food bank at the El Rocío Church in San Pedro. Aside from this, Stephen, who was described by colleagues as “modest and kind-hearted”, organised free language classes (both Spanish and English) for foreigners living in the Marbella area.

However, Stephen’s charitable nature did not stop there, for he realised there was a need to help the elderly and those who lived alone. He was instru-

mental in the setting up of the Age Concern branch that covers Marbella and San Pedro. The branch opened in 2016 and Stephen helped organise many of the charity’s services. He also secured the support of Marbella town hall, who supplied the organisation with an office and store room in the centre of San Pedro.

“Throughout his life he did many kind things for so many less fortunate people in our community and never sought recognition or thanks. Without Stephen, Age Concern Marbella and San Pedro would not have happened,” committee member Lynda Woodin said.

The walk, which is expected to take around 90 minutes, will begin at 11am at the La Pesquera Restaurant on the Paseo Marítimo in San Pedro Alcántara.

A remembrance speech will be given after the walk to celebrate Stephen’s life and work on the Costa del Sol.

Registration for the walk can be made on www.ageconcern-marbella.com

“This walk is to celebrate the life of Stephen and to allow his many friends to express their love and share memories of this remarkable man.

“Stephen shared the simple belief of love thy neighbour. He is deeply missed by many and remembered with great love and affection,” Lynda explained



The bar owners and customers display the cheque. **SUR**

Charity bingo raises 1,200 euros for the Cudeca cancer care foundation

TORREMOLINOS

T. BRYANT. Brown’s Bar in Torremolinos has boosted the Cudeca Sunflower Appeal campaign with a donation of

1,200 euros raised during a series of bingo sessions that began last December.

The cheque was handed to the charity last week by the establishment’s owners, Anne and Jon Kindner.

A Cudeca spokesperson said that the pandemic crisis has dealt a “severe blow” to the charity’s finances, in particular with its shops and fund-raising events.

Proprietor Ann said, “We are very happy to know that these funds will help many people in need in our area.”



Rotarians help with the plastic clean-up campaign in Mijas. **SUR**

Rotary Club Marbella-Guadalmína out in force

MARBELLA

T.B. The Rotary Club Marbella-Guadalmína helped MiMona and their divers with a beach clean-up in Mijas Costa, when they collected around 300 kgs of plastic bottles, face masks and wet wipes. The divers also retrieved three abandoned lobster traps, which were potentially deadly for marine life.

MiMona is an ocean loving organisation whose mission is to inspire others to take action for plastic free beaches, oceans and rivers. Its main goal is to educate children about the issues caused by plastic pollution.

Meanwhile, members from the same Rotary branch have delivered more than 800 euros worth of food to help feed around 2,500 people in the



Food for the needy. **SUR**

care of Asociación Lagunillas Cruz Verde. The association helps to feed people in a part of Malaga city disproportionately affected by the pandemic.

Rotarians coordinated the initiative to ensure that everybody received a range of healthy and useful items.



Rohan Kenneth Jnr.

Rohan Kenneth Jnr. (Enniskerry, County Wicklow) died 30th March 2021 in Mexico. Adored by his two sons, Alexander and Christopher, and dearly beloved by his mother Brenda and father Ken, sister Ali, brother Jamie, sister-in-law Lucy and brother-in-law Liam. He will be greatly missed by all his family, the mother of his children Brooke and his wide circle of friends.

In accordance with government directives, a private Funeral Service will take place. Kenneth’s family would like to thank you for your understanding at this most difficult time.

‘Hanging Coffee’ initiative arrives in Benalmádena

BENALMÁDENA

T.B. The Ten Ten Lounge in Benalmádena has taken up the Hanging Coffee initiative to help locals who are struggling because of the effects of the pandemic.

Hanging, or suspended, coffee is an initiative which allows people in need to have a free hot drink which has been purchased by other members of the community.

The British-run bar has introduced the initiative, which began in Naples, to help students, the elderly, single parents and the homeless.

Age Concern Fuengirola appeal for volunteers

FUENGIROLA

T.B. Age Concern Fuengirola/Mijas/Benalmádena is appealing for new volunteers to help kick-start its summer campaign to help the elderly and the housebound. The charity needs drivers to undertake shopping trips and to take clients to medical appointments. The organisation also needs people to work in its second-hand shop in Los Boliches.

Those wishing to offer their services can call the new volunteer line - 711019711.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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Canaries facing extra boat migrant pressure with twice the arrivals seen in 2020

MADRID

The longer sea route has taken over from the shorter route to Malaga and police have had to calm tension inside camps on the islands

SUR

The Canary Islands have been facing double the number of irregular migrants arriving by boat from North Africa compared to a year ago, proving a headache for the Interior ministry amid tensions in the immigrant holding camps.

After a surge late last year, the figures are still high. More than half the immigrants that have arrived in Spain without the correct paperwork in the first three months of this year have come in via the Canary Islands, according to government data.

Compared to January to March 2020, 95 boats arrived on the islands, up from 54 - a total of 3,436

people, up from 1,582.

Spain overall saw 6,496 migrants without proper paperwork entering by land or sea in the first quarter of this year.

Disturbances

Tensions are growing in the centres used to accommodate the migrants while they are being processed by the authorities. On Tuesday this week, National Police fired rubber bullets in the Las Raíces camp on Tenerife after disturbances started. Media reported that the cause was complaints over a lack of food. Eight people were arrested and several injured.

Meanwhile, data has shown the number of migrants arriving by boat on the coast of Malaga province fell in 2020 overall compared to 2019, with 49 boats intercepted compared to 79.

This has been put down not just to Covid-19 but also stricter controls by Moroccan coastal authorities, forcing the smuggling gangs to focus on the longer and more dangerous Canaries sea route.



Anti-fascist demonstrators confronted by police in Vallecas. EFE

Violence at Vox rally sees left and right blaming each other

MADRID

SUR. The campaign for regional elections in Madrid on 4 May is seeing strong ideological campaigning by the more extreme right-wing and left-wing parties as expected.

On Wednesday this week, the launch of the election campaign of hard-right Vox in the working-class district of Vallecas turned violent. Media showed confrontations between attendees, police and protesters supported by left-wing parties.

According to most sources, a group of anti-fascist demonstrators had gathered ahead of the launch and began throwing stones and objects at Vox members. Leaders of anti-capitalist party Podemos hit back, blaming Vox for having provoked the tension in order to win votes in more supportive areas of the city.

An official opinion poll this week showed that parties on the left and on the right, including the more moderate ones, would each win half the seats based on their current support.

IN BRIEF

BARCELONA

No deal reached yet on Catalan government

SUR. Negotiations between pro-independence parties in Catalonia over forming a government are still going back and forth. Regional elections were held in February and the deadline is 26 May or new elections will be held. Left-wing ERC overtook more conservative Junts as biggest separatist party and neither party can agree how to share power. The role of radical CUP could still be decisive.

MADRID

Time window opens for 2020 tax returns

SUR. The annual process of completing tax returns for last year started on Wednesday. For the moment, those who need to complete a form can do so online and handing in forms in person starts on 2 June. The deadline is 30 June. Due to furlough payments not being taxed at source, more people than usual still need to pay in tax for 2020.

THE EURO ZONE MARK NAYLER

Crowd funding



Spain's former king Juan Carlos paid 4.4 million euros in back taxes in February, in a second attempt to regularise his murky finances. But according to on-line newspaper El Confidencial, he made that payment with individual loans of up to 250,000 euros from friends and associates, rather than from his own fortune. Spain's former head of state has effectively crowd-funded his back

tax, and now owes the money to his mates, not the Spanish authorities. To use another analogy, it's as if he's transferred the debt from one massive credit card to several smaller cards - and ones that won't send the bailiffs around to collect repayments.

Four million euros is a huge sum of money to you and me, but it's about a quid for the planet's ninth richest royal, who's reputed to possess a

personal fortune of around \$2 billion. Even so, Juan Carlos is said to have approached more than fifty wealthy friends last autumn asking for financial support, around twenty of whom eventually pitched in to help with the February settlement. It remains unclear whether this was to provide a sum that Juan Carlos couldn't pay himself - meaning that estimates of his personal wealth are wildly off the mark, or that he wasn't planning to ever make back payments - or whether it was an arrangement that was advantageous in some other way for the former King and/or his creditors.

The payment they funded was related to eight million euros' worth of private flights, taken between 2006 and 2018,

both during and after his reign (Juan Carlos abdicated in 2014). They were paid for at the time by a distant cousin of the former king named Alvaro de Orleans, who used funds from Zagatka, a foundation registered in Liechtenstein - which just happens to be one of the world's top tax havens.

De Orleans' testimony in the ongoing investigation, given to Madrid-based prosecutors via videolink from Monaco last month, portrayed a royal enjoying the good life with funds distributed through offshore entities.

The revelation of the loans compounds the reputational blow dealt to Juan Carlos by his cousin's evidence and casts doubt on the legitimacy of the February payment it-

self. It will also heighten curiosity, both judicial and public, about the state of the ex-monarch's finances, and cause Spain's royal family further embarrassment.

A group of regional parties are demanding that the Spanish government make public all the details of February's settlement, including the terms on which it was made, what expenditure it was meant to cover and where exactly the four million euros came from.

They're right to do so, because as it stands, the Juan Carlos affair - which already features allegations of money laundering, death threats and espionage - becomes more dodgy and opaque by the week.



Antonio Gutiérrez Limones (right) with Picardo, García and Llamas. SUR

Spanish senator makes courtesy visit to Gibraltar

GIBRALTAR

The visit is a reflection of the increasingly positive relationship while trying to build an area of shared prosperity post-Brexit

DEBBIE BARTLETT

GIBRALTAR. The Chair of the Foreign Relations Committee of the Spanish Senate, Antonio Gutiérrez Limones, came to Gibraltar

to pay a courtesy call to the chief minister of Gibraltar, Fabian Picardo, on Tuesday. The two men held a meeting which was also attended by deputy chief minister Dr Joseph García and the attorney general, Michael Llamas.

A statement issued by the Gibraltar government afterwards said the discussion had centred on matters of common interest to Gibraltar and the Campo de Gibraltar, which is the nearest area of Spain.

After the visit, the chief minister said: "I am very pleased to have received Antonio and to have had a chance to have a discussion about the issues that are relevant to the reality of the day to day lives of Gibraltarians and people in the region around us".

This visit by Gutiérrez Limones, who was on a tour of the Campo de Gibraltar area, was a reflection of the positive relationship between Spain and Gibraltar with a view to building an area of shared prosperity both sides of the border post-Brexit.

In interviews with Spanish media, he described the New Year's Pre-Agreement regarding Gibraltar's future relationship with the EU, which it is hoped will include Schengen access for Gibraltar, as a "rainbow of opportunities" following the "tempest of Brexit", which would benefit not only the Rock but the whole nearby area of Spain.

"This is a unique opportunity with endless possibilities," he said but, as Gibraltar's chief minister has also stressed in the past, the negotiations to transform the points on which both sides are in agreement into a legally binding treaty "will not be easy".

However, he was optimistic that it will become a reality within a few months and that "the last frontier in Europe" would come down.

The Rock's resident population is now Covid-free

GIBRALTAR

D.B. On Thursday afternoon the chief minister of Gibraltar announced that the resident population is now Covid-free, for the first time in nine months. There are currently two cases in non-residents, who are self-isolating in Spain, and two visitors who are in isolation in Gibraltar.

Some restrictions are now being lifted: there will be no restrictions on the numbers of persons who can gather in pub-

lic after 16 April, although public health measures may still be applied at large events.

There will be no limit to the number of people at a restaurant table, and masks will only be necessary in shops and on public transport. Catering staff will be allowed to wear one mask, instead of having to double-mask as at present.

The situation will be closely monitored, and the chief minister stressed that Covid cases are surging again elsewhere.

Airport to have a new connection with London City

GIBRALTAR

D.B. There has been bad news and good news recently in terms of flights to and from Gibraltar.

After the excitement of the announcement that Volotea would be starting a connection between Gibraltar and Bilbao, ticket sales were suspended when it became known that the airline had not

yet obtained the necessary permits and consents from the Spanish authorities. It is hoped that this route will become a reality at some time, but the government stresses that Gibraltar's main source market for tourism continues to be the UK.

So, very welcome news came with the announcement on Thursday that British Airways is to start two flights a week from London City Airport to Gibraltar, initially for the summer season. These flights will be on Mondays and Fridays, beginning 25 June, with fares starting at £43 one way.

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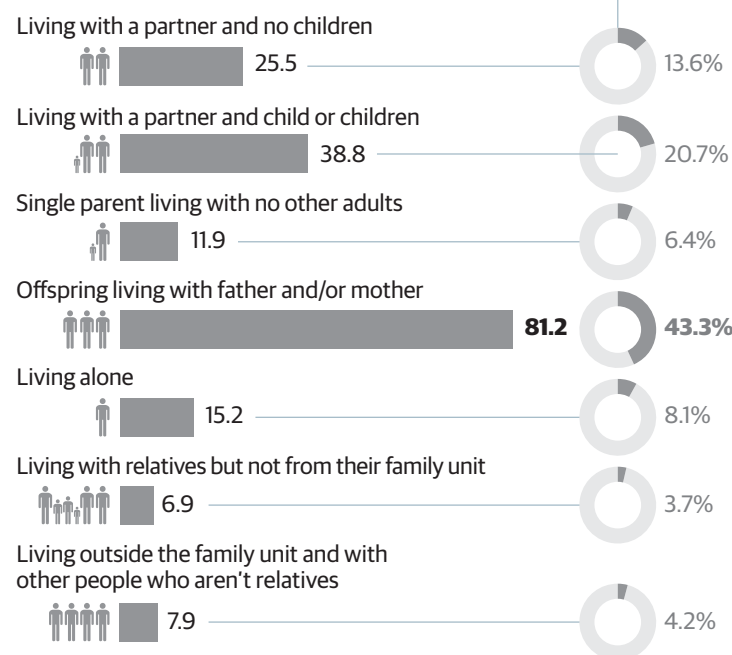
Household types in Malaga province, 2020

LIVING SITUATION OF YOUNG PEOPLE (AGED 25 TO 34)

(Thousands of people)

Percentage of the total

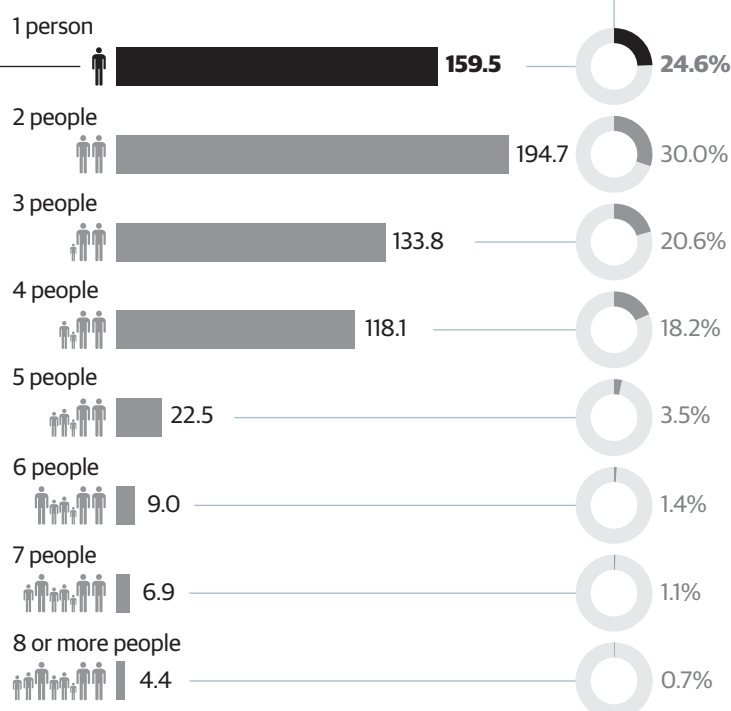
Total: **187.5**



SIZE OF HOUSEHOLDS

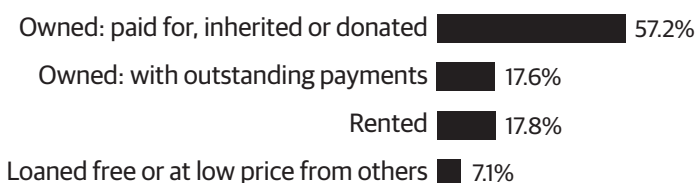
(Thousands of households)

Percentage of the total



DISTRIBUTION OF SINGLE-PERSON HOUSEHOLDS

BY TENURE STATUS



BY AGE



BY SEX



Source: National Institute of Statistics

GRAPHS: E. HINOJOSA

Over 43% of 25 to 34-year-olds still live with their parents in Malaga province

STATISTICS

In five years, there has been a six per cent rise in young people who have not flown the family nest and only 27% in this age group have children

NURIA TRIGUERO



MALAGA. An increasing number of young people are being trapped in a type of endless adolescence, unable to take on the challenges of adult life. Finding work, becoming independent and forming a family are things which the new generations are having to put off for longer, not because they don't want the responsibility but because they don't have the necessary resources.

The increase in youth unemployment (over 50 per cent in Andalucía) and the cost of renting (which is particularly high in Malaga province) have a great deal to do with the delay in the age of

emancipation shown in the latest Encuesta Continua de Hogares carried out by the INE. This survey into households shows that last year 43.3% of people aged 25 to 34 in Malaga were living with their parents. In the past five years this percentage has risen by six points (it was under 37% in 2015) and is higher than the national and Andalusian averages.

Remaining in the family nest is more common in the 25-34 age range. The INE survey shows that only 27% of these young people in Malaga have children and that another 13.6% live with a partner but have no children, 8.1% live alone, 4.2% live with people who are not their partners and 3.7% with relatives who are not their parents or their children.

Even in the next age range up, from 35 to 44, more than ten per cent of people in Malaga are still living with their parents.

More people living alone

The other major conclusion from this survey is that family sizes are becoming increasingly smaller, in line with the increase in people living alone.

In 2020 in Malaga province

1,674,400 people were living in 649,000 homes (the survey does not include those in residential homes, convents, barracks and other collective accommodation). The average size of family units is dropping year by year, although Malaga is still slightly above the national average of 2.50, with a

Over 70,000 elderly people in the province live alone

Nearly half of the 160,000 people who live alone in Malaga province are over the age of 65. Specifically, the number is 70,700, and it has increased by nearly 10,000 people in just one year (almost 16%).

The majority of pensioners who have gone through the pandemic on their own are women: there are 47,000 women aged over 65 in this situation in Malaga province (most of them widows), compared with 24,000 men.

figure for the province of 2.58 people per household.

Although the most common type of household in Malaga is still the nuclear family (a couple with one or more children), as this is one in every three homes, little by little the number of single-person households is growing. In the past five years the number of people who live alone has risen by 6,100 and now accounts for 24.6% of the total number of households.

On the other hand, there are now 9,100 fewer nuclear families than there were five years ago. The number of single-parent homes has also reduced (from 78,000 to 70,000) and there are more couples without children (from 124,000 to nearly 129,000). The ageing population and fall in the birth rate are the trends underlying these changes in the map of households.

The INE survey also looks at type of occupancy and shows that renting is still a minority in Malaga: only 17% of households are in rented apartments. However, the incidence is gradually rising: from 2019 to 2020 the number of families who were renting their homes rose from 107,000 to 112,000.

Extra UK funds signed off for groups helping Brexit residency applications

BREXIT

SUR IN ENGLISH. The British government has allocated a further one million euros for eight organisations across Europe who have been helping Britons with residency applications made under the terms of the Withdrawal Agreement from the EU.

In Andalucía, IOM is working for the British government as part of the UK Nationals Support Fund to help more vulnerable residents apply for residency status. Age in Spain, and Babelia also cover different parts of Spain.

The news of extended funding came as data was published showing that on 31 December 2020 Spain had recorded 381,448 Britons as officially resident, up 15,000 on the last published data from June 2020.

Despite the increased numbers, there are believed to be many people living in Spain who still do not have resident status and who are entitled to register under the more favourable pre-Brexit conditions.

SUR in English to host live webinar with finance and investment experts from the Costa

FINANCE

SUR IN ENGLISH. Whatever the age, nationality or profession, finance is an issue that affects everyone. It's also one that can be hard to understand, making it all the more important to listen to what the experts have to say.

To coincide with next week's special Finance, Insurance & Investment supplement, SUR in English is hosting a live webinar next Tuesday, 13 April, at 9.30am, when finance experts working with expats in Spain will come together - virtually - to share their knowledge with readers and online viewers.

A full report on this discussion on how to make investments work in the most tax-efficient way, especially in these uncertain times of pandemic, will be published in the special supplement in next week's edition. Anyone interested in watching the webinar live is invited to register online (<https://eventos.diariosures/sie/>).

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LETTERS
TO THE EDITORDirty brown spring
pollution

I have yearly contacted the local Ayuntamiento and provided photo evidence of the issue of the nasty brown liquid airborne pollution near Vélez-Málaga.

Not only is it killing the bees and polluting the air we breathe, but it is producing a stain on laundry hung outside to dry, on the cars and on patios.

It happens every spring-time and we dread the inconvenience.

I have brought this to the attention of the editor in the hope that others in numbers can add their strong support to stop this annual ritual from ruining our lifestyle.

I suspect it may be insecticide spray airborne on turbulence. I see it as far as the Aglo Service Station on MA3116 and north to Benamocarra.

The local airport has been approached but they cannot help.

ELISE BROUGHTON

When 'out of range'
would be preferable

While I found the above mentioned article (SUR in English, April 2nd) interesting, and in no way challenge that the subject of the article is suffering from the complaints mentioned, I do think it would have been more responsible reporting to mention the fact that "electromagnetic hypersensitivity syndrome" is not a medically recognised condition anywhere in the world.

In fact, all reputable scientific research and tests to try to find a connection between exposure to electromagnetic radiation and the so called EHS have failed (so far).

Unfortunately, the failure to state any facts about EHS make this article just hearsay and equivalent to a random post on social media instead of actual journalism.

Hoping for more balanced and factual information next time.

TIPPI WESTON BARUCH

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

Message parlour

The word 'celebrity' is an extremely odd one because it frequently applies to people that aren't really celebrated at all, rather gawped at by an incredulous public with nothing much better to do.

Here in Spain, the covers of gossip magazines are splattered with faces of people that you vaguely recognise although you're not quite sure what they do (if anything) but who are very well known in circles where reading gossip magazines is quite the thing.

These chaps are constantly getting married or divorced or addicted or something. Seldom are they to be seen investigating the infinite intricacies of the genome or proffering a hitherto unconsidered insight into the Greek tragedies and their role in the modern world. Still, there they all are, staring out at us from the newsstands with their little celebrity faces and all.

All of this stuff is generally rather tiresome but lately I find myself looking on admiringly at many well-known people who have found a way to adapt to our current, none-too-pleasant, circumstances. Instead of sitting around bemoaning the fact that, for once, people have more to worry about than what somebody famous might have had for breakfast, the cheeky monkeys are making personalised video messages for members of the general public.

It works like this. You log on to one of a number of sites made for this purpose, look for somebody you'd forgotten existed but your sister liked when she was eight and get him/her to record a message to send to your unsuspecting sibling who may or may not be pleased about it.

Just imagine. You want an aging Vanilla Ice to mumble "Ice, Ice Baby" at you between mugs of Horlicks? He's yours for un-

der 300 euros. Englebert Humperdinck seems a snip at less than 250 euros - just don't ask him to sing Please Release Me to your wife, she might not like it. A similar financial outlay will bring you Alice Cooper (if he can put his golf clubs down for long enough) or David Hasselhoff presumably saying something like "Don't Hassle The Hoff! And a very happy golden wedding anniversary to Bernard and Doris in Coín."

Apparently, this stuff has been going on for a while now but current circumstances have taken a heavy toll on celebrity culture and more and more of the poor things have had to show a bit of imagination and - dare we say? - humility and adapt to the situation. All power to them. I think it's simultaneously hilarious and very positive.

Now then, I wonder if Keith Richards is available? Maybe he could fall out of a tree for my brother-in-law.

IDÍGORAS



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THE BOTTOM LINE
RACHEL HAYNES

A sporting lesson

Readers will by now have noticed the image of a jubilant sports team on the cover of this edition of SUR in English. Some may understandably have questioned the choice of front page photo-story: a team celebrating a win in a handball competition.

The choice also confused me to begin with; handball is certainly not a sport the majority of our readers are familiar with. It's barely heard-of in the UK - unless there's been a trend I've missed - but it is

popular in Scandinavian countries, I believe. From my personal experience of watching a top division handball game in a packed stadium, I can recommend it as a spectator sport (when packed stadiums are allowed again), especially if you find football slow and boring.

Handball is fast, the scoreboard tends to get into double figures and the players get up quickly when they fall over. The goal-scoring is powerful and the keepers, dressed in tracksuits that resemble pyja-

mas, throw themselves madly from side to side at a rate your average football goalie couldn't keep up with.

But I confess I hadn't realised the importance of this particular result. The front page spot is not just in appreciation for a minority sport; the team in question, complicatedly named Rincón Fertilidad (after their sponsors), have become only the fourth team in Malaga in any sport to reach a European Cup final - ever. The fourth team from Malaga as a whole, that is, and the first women's team to achieve that level.

I can't help wondering whether they would have been noticed more, whether more people would have heard of their success, if it had been the men's team. I hope I'm wrong.

A lot has been done in recent years to bring women's sport just a little bit closer to men's, in terms of media attention, spon-

sorships and salaries.

The women's football league games and players are getting coverage, although any personal stories tend to be about juggling their jobs, families and training, rather than being accused of sending their multimillion-euro incomes to tax havens.

One small step towards equality in sport was made in Spain's Copa del Rey game last weekend when, for the first time in a final, one of the linesmen was a woman.

Back in Malaga, Rincón Fertilidad are making history, and their success in Europe is not a one-off. This season they have also won the sport's Copa de la Reina (Queen's Cup) and the Spanish Supercup.

They face Croatian side Lokomotiv Zagreb in the two-legged final next month.

This newspaper reserves the right to put their picture on the front page again when they win.

A space for creative expression in a former olive mill

Members and volunteers started preparing La Fábrica after the first lockdown and the inaugural exhibition opened on 5 March

JENNIE RHODES



LANJARÓN. The Alpujarra Artists' Network has opened a new creative space in the town of Lanjarón in the Alpujarra area of Granada province.

President of the network, Gareth Lister, is the person behind the idea, which he says he had during the first lockdown in spring 2020. "I talked about the idea of finding a space for us but everything seemed impossible," he explains.

While he admits he had the original idea, he "soon had a lot

of support" from other members of the association.

In summer last year Gareth heard of a former olive mill which had been unused since being abandoned in 2008 by the children of the original owners who were uninterested in carrying on the family business.

"When we went to see the building it looked like someone had just walked out and locked the door. There were half drunk bottles of wine lying around, rats, pigeons and 13 years of accumulated filth."

Inauguration

Gareth, along with other members of the association and volunteers, started to clean up the space and they were still working when the second lockdown came in autumn. The artist admits that "inertia had set in by that point" and that everyone involved was "less motivated" than in the first lockdown.

However, a boost came when in December the network became



La Fábrica in Lanjarón after the renovation. G. L.

a formal association, which galvanised them into action and the space, known as La Fábrica (the factory) officially opened on 5 March this year.

They are onto the second monthly exhibition and they have started with a limited number of concerts.

Members of the public can visit by arrangement. At the moment only Granada-based residents can use the space, but Gareth is

hoping that it will attract people from further afield once travel restrictions are lifted.

"We want to attract more members because that is how we are planning to fund the space and the work that we need to do it," he told SUR in English.

Anyone can become a member and membership is just 30

euros a year, or visitors can pay a day membership rate of 2.50 euros.

At the moment they have around 90 members from a range of different countries including Spain and the UK. "The focus is on integration. We want it to be a real cultural melting point," Gareth points out. He adds, "We want to attract people from all types of creative backgrounds, from painters to filmmakers, dancers and performance artists."

So far work has been focused on the main entrance area to the former mill, which houses a garden-like area with plants and trees as well as a bar area and exhibition space.

Phase two, Gareth says, will involve opening up what would have been the main part of the mill; a four-storey space which will hopefully become a performance and concert venue as well as more exhibition space.

The plan is to have that area ready by June, when the association, along with everyone else, hopes travel restrictions will have lifted.



Gareth Lister.

Further information: Email: lafabrilanjaron@gmail.com
Web: www.artistsnetworkalpujarra.com

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DENISE BUSH

GARDENING

Wild rosemary

Commonly called wild rosemary, this low growing aromatic bush is not related to culinary rosemary at all. Its botanical name is *Eriocephalus africanus*, sometimes called the Cape snow bush, and is native to southern Africa.

The genus has around 35 species in the Asteraceae family and like most genera in that family it has daisy-like flowers

with white (sometimes pink-tinged) petals and purple or brown florets in the centre.

In spring and often in autumn too, the bunches of white flowers completely smother the bush and are an important source of nectar and pollen for bees, butterflies and other pollinating insects.

When flowering is over,

the pretty, daisy-like blooms are replaced by fluffy, cotton wool, seed heads which earn the plant the vernacular name of kapok-bossie.

Eriocephalus africanus is fast growing and will reach about one metre tall by the same spread. It grows best in poor, well drained soils, in full sun.

The aromatic leaves are felted, silvery-green and help the plant to survive extreme heat and drought. However, until it develops the long tap root it needs to survive dry conditions, it will need watering regularly during the hottest months.

To keep *Eriocephalus africanus* bushy, it can be lightly pruned every year to encourage branching, and heavily pruned every third year to rejuvenate growth. It does not need fertiliser.

The leaves contain essential oils which are harvested for medicinal use and in perfumes. They are also used in cooking, for making a refreshing tea and in pot-pourris. Medicinally, extracts are used to treat coughs and colds, flatulence and colic, and as a diuretic.

Propagation is by tip or heel cuttings taken in spring or autumn. It can also be grown from seed but germination is erratic.

Eriocephalus africanus will withstand some short periods of frost and is resistant to pollution and coastal winds making it ideal for dry Mediterranean gardens where it can be used as an accent plant in a pot, to create an aromatic, low hedge, or in rockeries.



Eriocephalus africanus and seed heads. (inset). WIKIMEDIA

READERS' PHOTOS



MARIA HILLEN

Yellow roses

Reader Maria Hillen sent in this photo of a beautiful yellow rose she has growing on her patio. Roses on the whole seem to love the Mediterranean climate and this one looks very healthy with dark glossy leaves.



ANTOINETTE THUNNISSEN

Wonderful wisteria

SUR in English is receiving from readers a lot of photos of wisterias in full bloom. The photo above was sent in by Antoinette Thunissen, who spotted this specimen in Nerja. This beautiful, twining vine is native to China, Korea and Japan.

PHOTOS

Calling all gardeners

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

your photos to english@diariosures.es or send them to SUR in English, Avda Dr Marañón 48, 29009 Málaga, with a caption and a few words of explanation. Alternatively, you can send them to us via Facebook ([@surenglish](https://www.facebook.com/surenglish)) or Twitter ([@SUR_English](https://twitter.com/SUR_English)).

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WHAT HAPPENED TODAY?

9 APRIL 1904

The death of Isabella II, one of Spain's most controversial rulers

The daughter of Ferdinand VII inherited the throne before she was three; as an adult she ruled until 1870 when she was exiled to Paris in the Glorious Revolution

Isabella was born in Madrid in 1830, to the fourth wife of King Ferdinand VII, Maria Christina. As the king had fathered only two daughters, he decided to eliminate the Salic Law, which prevented women from reigning. This meant that his oldest daughter, Isabella, instead of his brother, Don Carlos, would inherit the throne. On the death of her father, three-year-old Isabella was proclaimed sovereign, but until 1840

she ruled under the regency of her mother. That period was marked by palace intrigues and religious fanaticism. Authoritarianism was maintained through the support of the army. Isabella's scandalous private life created lots of speculation. She had been expected to marry a relative of Prince Albert of England. However, in 1846, under pressure from the Moderate Party, the queen married her double-first cousin from the Bourbon family - Francisco de Asís, Duke of Cadiz. Her marriage contravened earlier Anglo-French agreements about the choice of husbands for Spanish princesses, and this aroused the anger of England. Additionally, it caused a temporary severance of the entente between England and France.



A portrait by F. de Medrazo c. 1850, and an image taken later in life. **SUR**

It appears that a year after the wedding, Isabella publicly displayed her love for Spanish General Serrano and declared her willingness to divorce her husband, but it never came to fruition, despite him being allegedly impotent or even homosexual. Regardless, twelve children were born of the official marriage but only five reached adulthood, including the future king Alfonso XII. It is doubtful that Francisco de Asís was the bio-

logical father of any of them. It was rumoured Isabella often sought refuge from her unhappy marriage in relationships with various admirers, primarily from the reactionary side of the political spectrum. Queen Isabella was toppled in the Glorious Revolution, and in 1870 was forced to abdicate in favour of her eldest surviving son. She and her husband settled in Paris, where she died from influenza complications on 9

April 1904. The couple were buried in the Pantheon of Kings at the Monasterio de El Escorial near Madrid. Apparently because of her amorous and unhappy lifestyle, Isabella II came to be historically known as the Queen of Sad Misfortune (La de los Tristes Destinos), among other names.

Bilingual crossword inside back page

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REVIEW
HELEN O'LEARY

A photographic memory

Vivienne Whiffen's eyes are those of the professional photographer who captures a moment in time and preserves it for posterity. Sometimes funny, often touching and always beautiful, her photographs are found in private houses as well as galleries and small hotels all along

the Costa del Sol, while one of her limited editions - of a wrecked old Chevy with a gaping radiator - faces a dentist's chair in Gibraltar. Not many photographers will climb a windy sand dune for an image of grass blowing under the clouds, or wait for just the right moment for two old ladies to erupt into laughter, as infectious on print as when it happened. But Vivienne's patience is limitless when she has a picture in her mind's eye. She studied photography for several years in England, concentrating mainly on black-and-white work in the dark-room. These days she prints her photographs digitally. "This means that I can print limited



One of the images in the exhibition. VIVIENNE WHIFFEN

editions and also work in colour." One of the founder members of Art Gaucín, she exhibits at their Open Studios event and at

the Art Society's annual exhibitions in Benahavís. Now she's back in Estepona, "... where I first came over fifty years ago! In the summer months I am

EXHIBITION

- **Title.** Lo Que Ven Mis Ojos - What My Eyes See.
- **Venue.** Casa de las Tejerinas, Plaza de las Flores, Estepona.
- **Date.** Last day Wednesday 15 April.
- **Opening hours.** 9am to 8pm
- **Contact.** A retrospective review of Vivienne's work is available in a colour catalogue from whiff34@hotmail.com

usually found on a boat on the canals of France or Holland, with Peter and our dog Molly."

OBITUARY

Former El Capistrano village president dies after long illness

JENNIE RHODES

NERJA. Alfons Albert Mettel, who was president of the community of owners of El Capistrano Village in Nerja for 30 years, passed away following a long illness, on 30 March. He was 89. Alfons also spent 25 years as president of Apcun, the association of Presidents of Nerja's Urbanisations, which he founded. Alfons and his wife Rosie originally bought a house in the development in 1978. The couple used it as a holiday home for a decade and became permanent residents in 1988. Originally from Germany, Alfons spent many years working in top level positions for Unilever in Africa and South America. In 1998 Alfons was awarded an OBE for services to industry and for helping British people who were living in the same countries as him. He told SUR in English in 2017 that he was the 75th German person to receive the title. Unable to travel to London to accept the award, he was presented with it at a later date by the UK ambassador to Spain, on behalf of the Queen, when a British warship docked in Almeria.

A tribute was paid to Alfons last week, in the presence of his family, at the square of Capistrano Village which was officially named after him on his retirement as president in November 2017.



Alfons Albert Mettel. FI

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EXHIBITIONS

Vivienne Whiffen

ESTEPONA. Until 15 April. Casa de Las Tejerinas, Plaza de las Flores. The display entitled Lo Que Ven Mis Ojos is a retrospective exhibition of photographs by Vivienne Whiffen.

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 of artwork from around thirty students displays different techniques such as Mokulito and the use of a baren (a tool used in Japanese printing.)

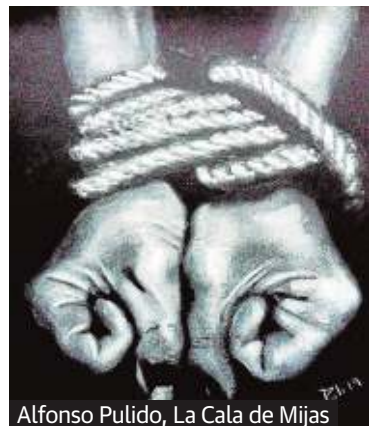
Imon Boy

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. He uses graffiti, videogames, internet, cinema, music, and travel to create stories. Viewing is by previous appointment only. galeria@yusto-giner.com / 951507053

Gallery Art Club

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

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.



Alfonso Pulido, La Cala de Mijas

Alfonso Pulido

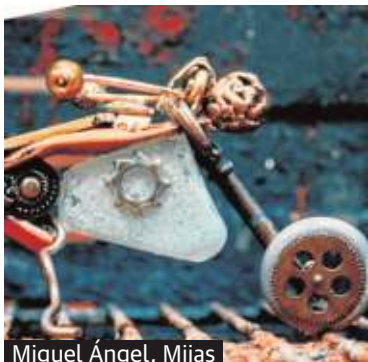
MIJAS. Until 19 April. Centro Cultural la Cala de Mijas. An exhibition of charcoal and pastel drawings by artist and musician Alfonso Pulido.

El Arte de un Principante

MIJAS. Until 26 April. Casa Museo de Mijas. Miguel Ángel García Moreno uses discarded items and stones and sea-washed glass to create these amazingly intricate sculptures.

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.



Miguel Ángel, Mijas

Malaga Picasso Museum

MALAGA. Museo Picasso Málaga, Calle San Agustín.

It is possible to see works from the Meret Oppenheim exhibition on the website www.museopicasso-malaga.org

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

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

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.museopicassomalaga.org.

Brigitte Bardot

MALAGA. Until 6 June. La Térmica. 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. Many scenes were shot in various locations in Malaga province. www.latermicamalaga.com

The Soul Train Tour delivers disco fever to Fuengirola

The spectacular tribute show will pay tribute to disco legends Earth, Wind and Fire and Kool & the Gang

TONY BRYANT

FUENGIROLA. Following the success of the first two editions, The Soul Train Tour will stop off again in Fuengirola this year. The third edition of the disco music event will present the hits of Earth, Wind and Fire, and Kool & the Gang - two of the most innovative and commercially successful acts of all time.

The concert brings together a cast of extraordinary musicians known as the Cool Fire Band, a Malaga-based ensemble fronted by the charismatic Oscar Roots, former lead singer of popular electro-jazz outfit Acid Filter. It was while on a tour with his former band that Roots, originally from Madrid, fell in love with Malaga, where he settled and formed his disco tribute band.

Roots possesses an incredible vocal range and is capable of hitting the falsetto notes of Philip Bailey, and reproducing the funk-infused voice of James JT Taylor.



The charismatic Oscar Roots and the Cool Fire Band. SUR

The band has gained a reputation on the Costa del Sol for its spectacular show, complete with dancers and all the razzmatazz of the disco era. The repertoire is full of classic dance-floor hits, like Boogie Wonderland (EWF), and Kool & the Gang's Lets Go Dancing (Ooh La La La).

The event will also include guest artists performing the music of other legends of

black music who rose to fame after appearing on the cult American music programme Soul Train.

The two-hour concert will be held in the Palacio de la Paz auditorium on Saturday 17 April. Show starts at 7pm.

Tickets cost 15 euros and are available from www.eventbrite.es

Capacity restrictions and Covid regulations will apply.



EXHIBITIONS

Centre Pompidou
MALAGA. Muelle Uno.
[https://centrepompidou-malaga.eu/Dar la Cara](https://centrepompidou-malaga.eu/Dar%20la%20Cara). Until 11 April. This latest exhibition consists of photos and videos by 26 artists. Classic portraits are mixed with contemporary and innovative styles, sometimes surreal and disquieting.

Centro de Arte Contemporáneo - CAC Málaga
MALAGA. C/Alemania.
Rafa Macarrón, Quince. Until 6 June. The exhibition consists of canvases, drawings and four large bronze sculptures.
Jules de Balincourt. Until 30 May. After The Gold Rush is a series of 40 paintings by artist Jules de Balincourt.

Sala La Coracha CAC Malaga
MALAGA. C/Alemania.
Ana S. Valderrábanos. From 9 April until 20 June. Borderline is the first solo exhibition at the gallery by artist and graphic illustrator Ana Valderrábanos. It consists of over 60 works including embroidered pieces and some created for the exhibition.



Ibn Gabirol, Malaga

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.

One thousand years since Ibn Gabirol
MALAGA. Until August. Municipal public library Manuel Altolaguirre (Cruz de Humilladero).
To commemorate a thousand years since the birth of Jewish philosopher and poet Salomon Ibn Gabirol, the town hall has arranged an exhibition in a comic strip style presentation based on the life and works of this illustrious Malaga resident.

LIVE CONCERTS AND MUSIC

OFM Chamber Music concerts
MALAGA. Auditorio del Museo Picasso de Málaga.
11 May, 8pm. Cuarteto con Fuoco and Tilman Mahrenholz.
Tickets: www.museopicasso-malaga.org

Malaga Philharmonic Orchestra
MALAGA. Various venues.
9 April, 7pm. Music by Bohemian composer Bedrich Smetana. Conducted by Christoph König. Teatro Cervantes.
18 April, 12pm. Sinoidal Ensemble sax recital with music by Bach, Sciarrino, Ligeti and Scarlatti. Museo de Málaga.
30 April, 6pm. The Barber of Seville. Teatro Cervantes.
Tickets: www.entradas.mientrada.net

The Hall
MALAGA. 10 April, 8pm. Calle Heroe de Sostoa, 65. 10€.
The Q Trío with bassist Joan Masana, drummer Juanma Nieto and saxo-

phonist Enrique Oliver.

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/>.

Michael Jackson and Elvis tribute
MIJAS. 24 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

Mussorgsky recital
ONLINE. 17 April, 7pm. Via Zoom. 15€
A presentation and recital entitled Mussorgsky, Pictures at an Exhibition with pianist Jorge Lechado. Reservations: reservas@musicaconen-canto.org More information: 654013232 www.musicaconen-canto.org

FLAMENCO

Flamenco jazz jam session
MALAGA. 9 April, 8.30pm. The Hall, Calle Heroe de Sostoa, 65. 10€.
Rubén Lara (guitar), Jesús Bachiller 'Bachi' (bass), Miguel 'Nene' (percussion) and Francisco de la Llave keyboard with special guest singer Antonio Luque 'Canito'.

The Antonio Andrade Dúo
MALAGA 10, 11, 17, 18 April, 7pm.
Sala Joaquín Eléjar, C/San Juan Bosco
Flamenco guitarists Antonio Andrade and Miguel Sotelo play a selection of flamenca, fandangos and bulerías in this concert Memories of the Alcázar.

Joven Compañía de Danza
MALAGA. 9 April, 8pm. La Caja



Flamenco, Malaga

Blanca, Avda del Editor Ángel Caffarena, 8. 12€ on the door, 10€ in advance.
A fusion of flamenco, contemporary and traditional Spanish dancing full of colour and innovative ideas by eight professional dancers. Tickets: Kairos Danza & Fitness, C/Atabalero nº1, Malaga. danzafitnesskairos@gmail.com

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/>.

Hansel and Gretel
MALAGA. 10, 11 April, 12pm. Teatro Cánovas, Plaza de El Ejido.
Borobil Teatro present an adaptation of the Brothers Grimm famous tale. Suitable for children over five years. www.teatrocanovas.es

TALKS / LECTURES

The Arts Society Costa del Sol
FUENGIROLA. Lectures online.
The Arts Society Costa del Sol streams lectures to its members via Zoom. You can also register for a sin-

gle lecture, 10€. To join email: costadelsol@theartssociety.org
12 April, 4.30pm. The Extraordinary Talent of John Singer Sargent. Lecturer Brian Healey.

The Arts Society
NERJA. Lectures online.
The Arts Society Nerja season of lectures free online via Zoom for members and 10€ for supporters. www.theartssocietynerja.com
13 April, 6pm. The Extraordinary Talent of John Singer Sargent. Lecturer Brian Healey.
The Arts Society UK has started up their Lectures at Home again. Check their website. <https://theartssociety.org/lectures-at-home>

The Arts Society de la Frontera
SAN ROQUE. Lectures online.
The Arts Society de la Frontera streams lectures to its members via Zoom. Free for members, 12€ for visitors. Visitors can register by contacting lucianaobrien1@gmail.com
21 April, 11am. A brief history of wine by David Wright.

CHARITY

ARCH
ALHAURÍN EL GRANDE. Open from 11 April then every Sunday 9am -2pm.
The ARCH team at the Rescue Centre for Horses and Donkeys have resumed their popular Sunday open mornings. Children can groom the donkeys and ponies, and volunteers are on hand to explain the charity's work. More information on Facebook: Centro Andalusi de Rescate de Caballos or www.horserescuespain.org

Food Fairies charity quiz
FUENGIROLA. 15 April, 2.30pm.
Shaggy's Bar, Fuengirola Port. 2€. A quiz for teams of four consisting of

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Malaga marks International Jazz Day with two-day music festival

TONY BRYANT

MALAGA. Lovers of jazz will enjoy the tenth edition of the Malaga International Jazz Day festival, which will be held in Plaza de la Merced at the end of April.

This year's event will present some of the region's most celebrated musicians on a stage set up in front of the house where Pablo Picasso was born. These will include The Lito Blues Band, one of Malaga's most popular live bands; The Pepa Niebla Quintet, whose music reflects a New York contemporary jazz influence; and The Malaga Jazz Collective, an ensemble consisting of some of the genre's most-respected performers.

Organised by Malaga city hall, The Costa del Jazz and Cervezas Alhambra, the event has been organised to coin-



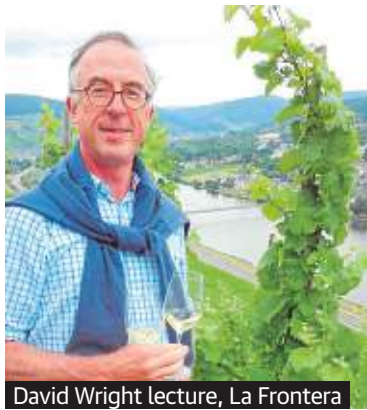
Lito Blues Band will perform at the Malaga Jazz Day event. SUR

cide with International Jazz Day (30 April), a celebration that aims to educate the public about the virtues of jazz music as an educational tool and as a platform for free expression.

The two-day event will begin

on Friday 30 April and continue on Saturday (1 May) from 6pm until 8pm.

Capacity will be limited to 300, although the spectators can also take advantage of the surrounding terraces of the many bars in the square.



David Wright lecture, La Frontera

six rounds including two music rounds. Food available from the bar at 1pm. Whatsapp 610522605

MORE IDEAS

Pop Art workshops

TORREMOLINOS. Centro Cultural Pablo Ruiz Picasso. Free. 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.

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 foodstuffs to the food bank at the start of the course.
Beginner's guide to photography. 10

April. 10am-2pm, 4-8pm. With Alex Jaime.

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, 13.30 (Sun); 16.15 (Sat, Sun), 17.45 (Tues).
Minari: 17.00 (Tues).
Nomadland: 19.45 (Tues).
The Unholy: 18.10 (Tues).
The Father: 18.30 (Tues).
Madame Butterfly Opera from the MET: 18.30 (Fri).

Yelmo Cines, Rincón

RINCÓN DE LA VICTORIA. C/ Arroyo Totalán. Tel: 902220922. www.yelmocines.es
Godzilla vs Kong: 19.30 (Tues).
Minari: 19.00 (Tues).
Nomadland: 20.10 (Tues).

Yelmo Cines, Vialia

MALAGA. Centro Comercial Vialia. Tel: 902220922
Godzilla vs Kong: 18.00 (Tues).
The United States vs Billie Holiday: 20.00 (Tues).
Minari: 20.15 (Tues).
Nomadland: 20.20 (Tues).
Relic: 19.45 (Tues).
The Life of Brian: 19.55 (Sat, Sun, Wed).

Madame Butterfly Opera from the MET: 18.30 (Fri).

Cinesur Miramar

FUENGIROLA. Avda de la Encarnación. Tel: 952198600.
Godzilla vs Kong: 17.55 (every day), 20.05 (Mon - Thurs); 20.10 (Fri - Sun).
The USA vs Billie Holiday: 12.00, 17.00 (Fri-Sun); 17.45 (Mon - Thurs).

Cine Albéniz

MALAGA. C/ Alcazaba, 4. Tel: 902360295. www.cinealbeniz.com
Nomadland: 12.00, 17.00, 19.45.
Raya and the Last Dragon: 12.00, 17.00, 19.45

Original Version films

MARBELLA/SAN PEDRO. IES Río Verde, Marbella. Centro Municipal de Música, San Pedro.
Falling: 19, 22 April (Marbella), 23 April (San Pedro).



Donkey grooming, ARCH



Farrell performing at the Mijas Blues Festival. sur

Richard Ray Farrell in concert

JENNIE RHODES

ALMUÑECAR. American Blues musician Richard Ray Farrell will be performing at Almuñécar's Casa de la Cultura on Saturday 17 April. The concert will start at 7pm.

The musician and composer will be performing tracks from his latest album, *Three Pints of Gin*, which was released in February 2020, as well as some of his older work.

The album has been nominated for Acoustic Blues

Album of the Year award by the Memphis Tennessee Blues Foundation.

Richard Ray Farrell has collaborated with Spanish flamenco musicians in the past as well as classic Blues artists. The performer has lived in Andalucía since 2014, having busked on the streets of Paris for a number of years.

Tickets cost 12 euros and can be bought from La Casa de la Cultura (Calle Puerta de Granada, 5) or Viajes Ecuador (Paseo del Altillio, 2).

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When spring wears you out

Health. Fatigue, headache, sleepiness... many people consult their GPs at this time of year. Feeling tired and weak? Forget vitamin supplements, go out and do sport

CARMEN BARREIRO



Carmen went to see her GP for a check-up a couple of weeks ago. For some time she had been feeling as if everything was just too much. It took a great deal of effort to get anything done, and even things that not long beforehand had seemed normal, such as loading bags of shopping into the car or doing her job as a sales representative for a food company, seemed to be too much. It was all getting difficult to cope with, says this young woman from Madrid. "Sometimes I felt a bit better, but other times I felt as if I were dragging myself along. Apart from the tiredness, I was having difficulty sleeping and getting occasional headaches," she says. A blood test showed nothing unusual, just a slightly higher level of cholesterol than normal for someone of her age, and a physical checkup and the symptoms she reported didn't correspond to any significant illness. The diagnosis? Asthenia (when the body lacks or has lost strength) with an unidentified cause. In other words, exhaustion. "We see a lot of patients like

this at this time of year, especially women aged between 20 and 50. The feeling of being physically and mentally tired, sometimes known as spring fever, tends to be mild in most cases and it goes after a few days without any treatment being needed, although it is true that to combat the symptoms you do need to lead a healthy lifestyle all year round," said Dr Ana Cristina Serrano, a member of the working group on Nutrition at the Spanish Society of General Practitioners (SEMERGEN). "Asthenia is the cause of one in every three or four consultations in specialities such as Internal Medicine, Rheumatology and Psychiatry, especially during the spring," said Dr Nicolás García, of the Clínica Universidad de Navarra (CUN). But why do we feel so tired at this time of year? Is it real, or just a sensation? What causes the fatigue? What can be done about it? These experts answer the most frequent questions asked about this condition, which appears to be quite common in the spring.

Does spring fever exist?

From 'I can't go on like this' to headaches and lack of appetite

First, we need to clarify what asthenia is. "From a medical point of view, it is a term that means tiredness or fatigue. It's a type of ex-

haustion which is disproportionate to the level of activity. If you have just run ten kilometres, it is normal to feel tired. What isn't so normal is feeling fatigued every day when someone is only doing normal activities. That's when we can start to talk about asthenia, whatever the time of year," the specialists agree. What happens is that this feeling of not wanting to do anything, and a general lack of physical and mental energy, tends to occur more frequently in April, May and June, which is why it is known as 'spring fever'. This is something that occurs as the body responds to seasonal climate change, more hours of daylight, different time-tables, and a range of temperatures," said Cristina Fernández Marcos, the coordinator of the Information Centre of Medication

and Quality of the General Council of the Official Colleges of Pharmacists. "Apart from the tiredness, other symptoms can occur as well or in isolation, such as a lack of concentration and appetite, forgetfulness, headache, sleep alterations, a feeling of sadness and, in some cases, irritability," said Dr Serrano.

Why do we feel like this? Fatigue is almost always the symptom, not the illness.

Unless it occurs in a case of chronic fatigue syndrome, asthenia is not an illness. "It is a mild condition which usually improves after a few days without causing any complications," says Nicolás García. "What is most important

is to determine the cause of the asthenia, because tiredness often occurs in different illnesses or in life itself. You can be tired because of stress or if you have just had a virus, but also through cancer or because there is a dysfunction of the thyroid gland or even depression. When we don't find another cause to explain the fatigue, and the feeling of tiredness goes on more than two or three weeks, it's a good idea to see a doctor because asthenia can hide something more serious." Of course, the opposite can also occur. "Sometimes patients come because they are always feeling tired and when they tell us what they're doing in their everyday life, it really isn't strange that they feel worn out," said García.

What to do about it? Get some exercise and you'll feel less exhausted

It might sound strange, but, "It



ILLUSTRATION: IRRIMARRA

"For some it can be hard to channel the energy we get in spring"

Marie Strandberg
Psychologist



Marie Strandberg. **SUR**

ALEKK M. SAANDERS

April is here. Sleep patterns and appetite have changed, and for some, feelings of hopelessness and even thoughts of suicide appear. To feel down for a few days or even weeks is normal, but if you see that it has an effect on your everyday

functioning over time, and you no longer have the energy to do activities you normally enjoy, experts recommend consulting a GP or seeking help from a psychologist. We met Marie Strandberg, a psychologist from Sweden who has a Spanish and a Swedish degree, at her clinic in Marbella.

-In the spring most people feel more energised and vital. Who doesn't feel like that?

-People who tend to suffer depression or who are already experiencing depression might feel pressure (from others and themselves) to go out and "meet the world" in spring. The pressure might back-

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STAY IN SHAPE

Tips to avoid losing your energy

Take exercise

Yes, you did read that correctly. The more exercise you do, the less tired you will feel. Although getting off the sofa is the last thing you feel like doing, make yourself practise sport regularly.

Eat properly

Stick to a healthy, balanced diet and reduce your consumption of fats and refined carbohydrates. The vitamins in fruit and vegetables will help to reinforce your immune system and combat the lack of energy associated with asthenia.

Stay hydrated

Being hydrated is essential for our

bodies to function properly. Drink water, natural fruit juices and herbal teas. Don't overdo coffee or alcohol.

A light supper

Avoid heavy meals, and try to eat the last one of the day at least two hours before going to bed.

Regular bedtimes

Try to go to bed and get up at the same time every day.

has been shown that controlled physical exercise substantially improves the symptoms of asthenia, while prolonged rest can actually be counterproductive," said Fernández Marcos.

Dr García completely agrees. "I'm aware that it must seem that we always recommend physical exercise for everything, but the reality is that in the case of asthenia it is the most important thing. A lot of the feeling of tiredness probably originates in the mus-

cles, so doing regular physical activity and doing it properly is essential to mitigate the fatigue. The more exhausted we feel, the more we need to take exercise, even though we really don't feel like it," he said.

It is also important to maintain a good sleeping routine (going to bed and getting up at a regular hour, avoiding caffeine before going to bed...) and eating healthily.

"The food we eat should pro-

vide our bodies with proteins, carbohydrates, fats, mineral salts, vitamins and water. However, on some occasions people don't eat a wide enough variety of things and in that case it is a good idea to take a vitamin or mineral supplement. Nevertheless, caution is needed: vitamin and mineral supplements can never transform an unbalanced diet into a healthy one," say the experts at the College of Pharmacists of Barcelona.



fire, leaving the person self-critical, in a downward spiral, feeling more depressed. Studies show a peak in suicide rates in April. For some people it can also be hard to channel the extra energy we get in spring and it can lead to a kind of restlessness and lack of productivity, making some people feel more anxious and/or tired.

-Is 'spring fever' a real illness?

-No, it is not a diagnosis and it often goes away by itself after a few weeks. Seasonal Affective Disorder (SAD) used to be diagnosed but has now been changed in the diagnostic and statistical manual (DSM V) to depression with seasonal patterns. A person who suffers from this meets the criteria for depression or bipolar disorder and you see a covariation each year with the symptoms beginning and ending at around the same time. Most common is

depression in winter.

-Does it mean there is a sort of emotional calendar?

-Yes. Even if this is more obvious for some people than others. I would say we are more or less sensitive towards this as individuals, although we do not know exactly why that is. Another important factor is of course where we live, closer or further from the equator, affecting the hours of darkness and daylight we are exposed to.

-So, I guess the sunny Costa del Sol would normally be very beneficial, but with pandemic restrictions it could be compared with dark and less lively places?

-Well, I guess partly it could, but more due to similarities in our behaviour changes. Meaning we are less social, staying more at home, getting less sunlight exposure, for example. One important difference to note is the added stress

and anxiety in the pandemic due to a real threat but also a great deal of uncertainty which makes it "riskier" in terms of mental illness.

-Could you give some advice about what someone can do, if they feel low, before falling into depression, especially in a pandemic?

-Number one, I would say, is to try to keep healthy routines. Sleeping patterns; eating healthily; not drinking too much alcohol; trying to stay connected socially, even if in these times it needs to be over a video call; physical exercise - just a 20-minute walk a day can make a difference (even if you feel tired and your body says no, try to get out). It's also important to do things that make us feel good. When we are feeling low we might look over our life and see if we are prioritising in the right way. We might need to make different choices more inclined towards fun.

Chronic fatigue or exercise intolerance syndrome

Fatigue is often a symptom of an asthenic illness, not a pathology in itself. What happens is that for a high percentage of patients it is impossible to identify the cause of their fatigue.

"And when this exhaustion from an unknown cause lasts more than three months and also greatly affects someone's everyday life, then we would be talking of an illness, specifically the chronic asthenia syndrome, something that is very disabling and mostly affects women," said Dr Nicolás García, a specialist in Internal Medicine at the Clínica Universidad de Navarra (CUN).

Unlike spring asthenia, or fatigue which is caused by another pathology, in this case the tiredness remains more or less at the same level throughout the day.

"In other words, these are people who feel tired when they get up, even though they have slept well. It is also unusual in that it is a type of fatigue that gets worse with any physical activity, so it is also sometimes known as exercise intolerance

syndrome. Sometimes just taking a shower is enough to make these people tired. We could say they wear themselves out doing nothing," said Dr García.

"Not understood"

Chronic asthenia is a "very disabling" illness for someone who suffers from it because it affects all aspects of their life, at work as well as personally and socially.

"There is a great deal of stigma associated with this condition, because it is often misunderstood. Patients who have it suffer a great deal, not just because of the illness itself but because nobody takes any notice of them. They don't go yellow, they don't bleed, nothing is broken... and in addition, when the doctor sends them for a blood test the results are normal. Other people often accuse them of laziness or making it up, but they're not, they really are worn out. It's an illness which affects a large number of people and we have to be able to help them," explained Dr García.



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Changing customs

ANDREW J. LINN



Today there is a huge selection available for wine lovers, and it is hard to believe that until quite recently the only choice for non-wine producing countries was French imports.

For example, the British drinker was limited almost exclusively to claret, and the average cellar at the time contained

Bordeaux, perhaps a few Burgundies, and a comfortable selection of port.

I am re-reading Wayward Tendrils of the Vine, a classic of the trade written in 1948 by one of its leading figures, Ian Maxwell Campbell. Considering that the period he writes about was characterised by the hardship of post-World War II recovery,

there was no shortage of excellent wine. A typical dinner menu quoted in the book comprised turtle soup, Dublin Bay prawns, roast pheasant, beef fillet, chocolate soufflé, tongue (savoury course) and a dessert. The wines, in addition to sherry and the final brandies, comprised Château Latour, Leoville and Lafite, a Piesporter Goldtröpfchen, a Krug champagne

Until quite recently the only choice for non-wine producing countries was French imports

and two vintage ports. Most of the clarets were served in magnums and jeroboams. At the time every wine merchant had a private dining room, and five days of the week directors and their guests enjoyed superb cuisine. They all wore top hats outside the office.

The book also refers to the many social events that would similarly feature sherry, champagne, German whites, multiple clarets, vintage port and brandy. The reaction of any modern reader must be how they managed to drink such huge quantities of alcohol, and regrettably there were no records kept that mention life expectancy and causes of death!

WINE OF THE WEEK

Teso La Monja Romanico 2018

We have enjoyed the Sierra Cantabria range from Rioja, and this wine from Toro made by the same family is of similar high quality. As with all wines from the region, a challenging 14.5% alcohol with loads of fruit, and perfect to accompany red meat and old cheese. Around €8.50.



The award-winning wines of the Serranía area

Ronda its surroundings produce almost two hundred different red, white and rosé wines, as well as one sparkling wine

VANESSA MELGAR

RONDA. How many wines are currently produced by the wineries of Ronda and the Serranía? Almost 200 different reds, rosés and whites. This is the result of the efforts of the winemakers who lead the sector which was revived by a few of them in the 1980s, after phylloxera had put an end to vine growing in the area.

Today, the area has its own Wine Route, certified by the Asociación Española de Ciudades del Vino (Acevin). There are almost thirty wineries that are enduring the effects of the Covid pandemic. The flow of wine tourists (before the virus, about 25,000 in 2019, according to data from the Asociación de bodegueros y vitivinicultores de

la Serranía de Ronda) has radically reduced, although online sales, national and international, are cushioning the blow somewhat.

“Although we are one, single area, each wine from each bodega is different,” explained Gema Pérez, from the Milamores Ronda company which is dedicated to wine tourism, organising visits to wineries and tastings, among other events including several courses planned for April.

The characteristics of the Ronda region and the Serranía, such as climate, terroir, altitude... allow a wide range, even when two wines share the same grape variety.

Total production is usually around one million bottles, although the figure depends on the result of each vintage. It is a small production area in comparison with others in Spain, but the wines have a lot of character, which is endorsed by the numerous awards and recognitions that these wines have achieved. Some 300 hectares are cultivated, around 80% for red



A few of the wines produced in the Ronda, Serranía region. RUTA DEL VINO DE RONDA Y MÁLAGA

wines, 18% for whites, and 2% for rosé. “We have white wines made with Chardonnay and Sauvignon Blanc, but also with Moscatel de Alejandría and Viognier,” explained Pérez.

She boasted that the Ronda rosé wines and the Serranos under the DOP Sierras de Málaga, are among the ten best in Spain. Those from the bodegas Lunares de Ronda, Vetas and F. Schatz, among others, stand out. “In the last five years rosé wines are being produced that

are wonderful,” she maintained.

However reds continue to reign in this land of wines (traditions date back to the Phoenicians). “There are strong wines, more conventional, with lots of personality for more classic tastes; but also a series of reds that are more pleasant, fruity, easy to drink,” she said.

The region also produces a sparkling wine, thanks to the Bodega Doña Felisa, Losantos Family, which in 2019 marketed Cloe Brut Nature, made with Sau-

vignon Blanc grapes and in the traditional Champenoise method that involves carrying out a double fermentation, the second of them in the bottle, to develop natural carbon dioxide trapped inside the bottle. This winery also offers a sweet wine, BF Maestro Dulce, made with Muscat of Alexandria grapes.

Interestingly, bodega Joaquín Fernández has been making a white wine for years, called Blanco de tinta, made with red grapes.



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Late Scepovic goal secures big win for Malaga on the road

The Serbian's first goal for the club since joining on a free transfer last month earned the Blue and Whites all three points against Lugo

SERGIO CORTÉS / DAVID BALMER

MALAGA. Malaga maintained an outside chance of reaching the play-offs following a 1-0 win away to Lugo on Sunday afternoon. A late goal from Stefan Scepovic sealed the win for the Costa side after a hard-fought encounter.

Coach Sergio Pellicer made seven changes to the side that lost 3-0 to Almeria on Tuesday evening, but it was the hosts who started the brighter. Indeed, the Galicians thought they had taken the lead around the half-hour mark when Marcelo Djaló found the back of the net. However, the goal was correctly chalked off as keeper Juan Soriano had been fouled in the build-up.

Of greater concern for Malaga was the injury suffered by Luis Muñoz - the midfielder was replaced after barely a quarter of an hour with what appeared to be a hamstring injury.

After the interval, Malaga showed greater intensity and had



The Malaga players pursue the referee after Folch's goal was allowed to stand. **SALVADOR SALAS**

a good chance in the 56th minute when Mohamed Benkhemassa seized upon a ball that the home goalkeeper was unable to control. He found Jairo Samperio but his effort was cleared by defender Frederico Venâncio.

Despite their improvements, Malaga still appeared frail at the

back and almost paid the price moments later when Soriano was forced to make a good point-blank save to keep out Chris Ramos' header.

Just as the game seemed to be heading towards a draw, Malaga won a freekick on the left-hand edge of the box. The ball was

whipped in by David Lombán and parried off the line by goalkeeper Ander Cantero. It then fell to substitute Stefan Scepovic, and the Serbian struck home on the half-volley for his first goal for the club.

Following the game, Pellicer commented: "We've taken a step closer to our target but we're not

0-1

LUGO-MALAGA

Lugo: Cantero; Campabadal, Frederico Venancio, Djaló, Alende (Luis Ruiz, 86'); Gerard Valentín, Xavi Torres (Pita, 86'), Juanpe, Chris Ramos (Appiah, 57'); Cristian (Hugo Rama, 72'), Manu Barreiro. Unused substitutes: Varo, Fran Vieites, Pedro López, Luis Castro, Seoane, Borja Domínguez.

Malaga: Soriano; Benítez, Lombán, Juande, Matos; Escassi; Jairo (Cristian, 79'), Jozabed (Scepovic, 63'), Luis Muñoz (Benkhemassa, 17'), Rahmani, Caye Quintana (Joaquín, 79') Unused substitutes: Dani Barrio (P), Alexander, Ismael, Quintana, Cristo, Ramón, Julio, Loren.

Goals: 0-1 Scepovic (84').

Referee: Gálvez Rascón. Yellow cards for Juande, Gerard Valentín, Frederico Venancio and Escassi.

Venue: Estadio Anxo Carro.

done yet."

The win takes Malaga onto 45 points with nine games left (50 points is seen as the rough requirement to avoid relegation). Pellicer added: "We're still taking each game as it comes and hoping to distance ourselves from those below and to get closer to those above."

The coach went on to say that if the team could replicate their away form at La Rosaleda they could be sitting comfortably in the play-off places. As it stands, Malaga are in ninth position, seven points adrift of Rayo Vallecano in the final play-off place having played a game more.

Next up for Malaga is a home game against bottom club Albacete on Sunday (kick off 2pm).

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Usual failings cost Femenino again

A goal just before half time condemned Malaga to their second defeat since the season restarted

MALAGA **0**
ALDAIA **1**

MARINA RIVAS

MALAGA. There was to be no resurrection on Sunday for Malaga's women's team as their usual failings cost them once more, this time against Valencia side Aldaia.

Nati Gutiérrez's team came up short again in this second phase of the league, in a match with two very contrasting halves. In the first, Malaga failed to register a single shot on target, looking completely uninspired as the ball approached the final third.

The visitors were able to capitalise on their hosts' poor show-



Malaga are denied by a tidy stop from the goalkeeper. **SALVADOR SALAS**

ing just before half time. In the 42nd minute Nuria Pomar picked up the ball in the middle of the field and drove at the heart of the Malaga defence before finishing well in the one-on-one with the keeper.

The Blue and Whites showed

much more attacking endeavour in the second half but again had no luck in front of goal.

Aldaia, content with their lead, kept several bodies behind the ball and it paid off as Malaga lacked the conviction needed to find a way through.



A LOOK AT LA LIGA
ROB PALMER
Commentator, Sky Sports

The long wait is over

Real Sociedad have constantly operated in the shadows of their illustrious Basque neighbours Athletic Club, but their approach to youth has paid off



Mention Basque football to anyone with a modicum of La Liga knowledge and they will tell you all about Athletic Bilbao and their locals-only playing policy.

Real Sociedad rarely get a mention. They don't play in a stadium which is nicknamed 'The Cathedral'. They aren't the fourth most successful team in La Liga. They don't embody the region's battle for autonomy. They haven't won the Spanish Cup on 23 occasions.

Athletic Bilbao are very much the flag bearers for the autonomous community. La Real are the 'not very noisy' neighbours.

Athletic celebrated winning the Spanish Super Cup in January; but Real are rejoicing in claiming the Copa del Rey after a year-long wait to get



Real Sociedad, Copa del Rey champions

A second-half Mikel Oyarzabal penalty was all that was required to seal victory in the all-Basque Copa del Rey final in Seville on Saturday. His Real Sociedad team won their first piece of silverware since 1987, seeing off old rivals Athletic Bilbao in the process, claiming the postponed 2020 title. Athletic don't have to wait long for another opportunity; they face Barcelona in the 2021 final a week on Saturday, also in Seville.

the game played.

Nothing about this final was normal. Ideally, it would have been played in front of a stadium full of screaming Basques as the season's finale. Given the uniqueness of the two clubs meeting each other, the footballing authorities did everything they could to delay the event until supporters could attend in the flesh. Ultimately, the pandemic won out; the teams had to do battle in an empty stadium in neutral Seville, 350 days after the game was originally planned.

It was a victory for Real Sociedad and success for their model of a modern club. When David Silva left Manchester City last year, he had the choice of scores of clubs, yet chose to head to San Sebastián to see out the autumn days of his ca-

reer. The former Spanish international is a rarity though, he takes his place in a team that shows just how a club can reflect a region.

Of those who got to play in the Copa Final, ten are from the Basque Country. Leading them is a man steeped in the club's history. Imanol Alguacil was a steady player of the late 90s who returned to the club to work with the youth. Eight of the final team followed him from the academy as Real Sociedad did a mini-Barcelona and found the talent from within.

The players were like sons to Alguacil. In fact, he was closer to the players than his family. During the pandemic he chose to stay within the football bubble rather than return to his family. His wife has seen him on just a handful of occasions since Christmas and, even then, she didn't really see him as he insisted on wearing a mask.

The end result is a historic moment for a club that operates impressively on a sensible budget and provides a pathway for local youngsters to make it into top-flight football.

It was a long wait to win a trophy and they will make the most of every day they can claim to be champions.

Marbella get off to a perfect start for Abraham García's debut as coach

Callejón's 84th-minute goal sealed the three points in the Costa side's opening fixture of the second phase of the season

MARBELLA
EL EJIDO 2012

1
0

JULIO RODRÍGUEZ

MARBELLA. Rather belatedly Mar-

bella fans have something to smile about. In his first game in the dugout, new coach Abraham García led his side to victory on Sunday in their first fixture of the second round of the Segunda B season to avoid relegation to the newly formed fifth tier.

Having already been condemned to relegation to the fourth tier, this morale-boosting win came at the perfect time.

It was sealed late on, in the 84th minute, when forward Callejón controlled the ball inside



Callejón, the goalscorer. J. R.

the area before lashing the ball past a helpless Wilfred between the sticks.

Women's national football team check in for 10-day camp in Marbella ahead of friendlies

M. RIVAS

MALAGA. Marbella this week has once again become the home for the Spanish national football team - in this case the women's team. The team led by Jorge Vilda arrived by train from Madrid on Monday and headed straight to their training hotel, where they will remain until next Wednesday.

A total of 24 internationals and stars from both the Primera Iberdrola and other major European



The players' arrival. S. SALAS

leagues have been training at the Marbella Football Centre ahead of two friendlies at the municipal stadium.

Their first opponents will be reigning European champions and world runners-up, the Netherlands, tonight, Friday, at 7pm. On Tuesday, also at 7pm, they face Mexico for the first time.

Both matches will be played behind closed doors.

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Malaga handballers make history as they reach European Cup final

Rincón Fertilidad are just the fourth team from Malaga to reach a continental showpiece and at the start of May will play Lokomotiv Zagreb over two legs

MARINA RIVAS



MALAGA. Rincón Fertilidad have qualified for their first ever continental final and are now one tie away from lifting the EHF European Cup. After defeating Atlético Guardés 44-37 on aggregate in the semi-final, the Malaga-based women's handball side will now face Croatian side Lokomotiv Zagreb in the final of Europe's third-tier competition.

Following a 23-18 win in the first leg away to their Galician opponents, Rincón Fertilidad booked their place in the final with a 21-19 win in Malaga on Saturday evening. It was not all plain sailing for the Costa side, however, as Guardés came out with greater intensity in the hope of clawing back the deficit and raced into a 4-0 lead. Even-



The whole squad jumped onto the pitch to celebrate the landmark achievement. **ÑITO SALAS**

tually, Rincón Fertilidad found their way into the game and secured the win with a solid performance.

The result means that Rincón Fertilidad are the just the fourth Malaga side to reach a European final in any sport and the first women's team to achieve the feat. In 1979, wheelchair basketball team Ademi won what has come to be known as the European Cup. Meanwhile, basketball side Unicaja are the only Malaga team to have reached two continental

showpieces, losing in the 2000 Korac Cup final but winning the 2017 Eurocup. And Malaga CF lifted the Intertoto Cup in 2002.

If victorious, it will be Rincón Fertilidad's third trophy of the season, having already won the Copa de la Reina and the Spanish Supercup. Standing in their way are Lokomotiv Zagreb, the 2017 champions. The Croatians received a bye in their semi-final against Yalikavak sports after their Turkish opponents were forced to pull out

due to a Covid-19 outbreak within their ranks.

Bigger venue possible

On Tuesday, it was announced that the first leg would be held in Malaga, most likely at the Palacio de Deportes, rather than at their usual home in Ciudad Jardín. If the match takes place at this much bigger venue, it will be on Sunday 2 May (as Unicaja play there on Saturday) before the return fixture in Croatia the following weekend.

Mager claims Marbella Challenger but all local hope extinguished in ATP 250 event

Home favourite Alejandro Davidovich was eliminated in the round of 16 by Belorussian Ilya Ivashka

PEDRO LUIS ALONSO

MARBELLA. Gianluca Mager (102nd in the ATP ranking) won the fourth edition of the Challenger 80 at the Puente Romano Tennis Club on Sunday as Marbella continues to enjoy a fortnight of top-level tennis.

The Italian came from behind to beat Spaniard Jaume Munar (99th) 2-6, 6-3, 6-2, in an hour and a half. Despite the capacity restrictions, there was a good atmosphere in the stands of the Manolo Santana centre court which this week continues to welcome spectators for the higher-level ATP 250 events which finishes this Sunday.

Local favourite Alejandro Davi-



Gianluca Mager and Jaume Munar with their Challenger trophies and, right, Alejandro Davidovich. **JOSELE**

dovich won't be vying for the trophy after his unexpected exit on Thursday at the hands of Belorussian Ilya Ivashka (6-1, 6-3).

Pablo Carreño Busta remains the favourite to win the trophy which will be presented by ten-

nis legends Manolo Santana and Björn Borg (whose son Leo, 18, was eliminated in the qualifiers of both tournaments after being grant wild card entry). Carreño Busta will face Kwon Soon-woo in his quarter-final today, Friday.

Also in the quarters are Spanish trio Albert Ramos, Challenger runner-up Jaume Munar, and 17-year-old Carlos Alcaraz, who saw off veteran compatriot Feliciano López in the final last-16-round match on Thursday.



IN BRIEF

SAILING

Estepona sailor Moncada on the medal podium once again

M. R. Estepona sailor Ana Moncada staked her claim for a place on the Spanish Olympic team by securing two medals at the Spanish International Laser Class Association-6 Cup in Mallorca last weekend.

Moncada took gold in the under-21 section and also earned a bronze medal in the senior category. Cristina Pujol, one of Moncada's rivals to represent Spain in the Laser Radial event in Tokyo, won gold.

Next up is the regatta in Vilamoura (Portugal) from 17 to 24 April - earmarked as the most important event in determining who goes to the Olympics. Moncada said: "I'm happy with my last performance and know how I can improve for Vilamoura."



Moncada in action. **SUR**

GOLF

Ana Peláez impresses at prestigious amateur golf event

M. R. Malaga-born golfer Ana Peláez continued her upwards trajectory after finishing an impressive 12th place in her debut appearance at the famed Augusta National Women's Amateur from 31 March to 3 April.

Peláez was the highest-placed Spanish competitor at the event in Georgia and her performance sees her rise one spot in the world amateur golf rankings to 12th position. This is the highest position of her career and makes her the top-ranked Spaniard in the world.

During the final day at Augusta, Peláez shot a score of 71, making birdies on the third, fifth and fifteenth holes but bogeys on the ninth and twelfth. She finished with a total of 221 strokes, just four more than the winner, Japan's Tsubasa Kajitani.

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THE STARS




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Pisces
February 20th - March 20th
Working in tandem with others brings real progress even if you cannot socialise with them. Keeping a clear head is good for the brain anyway.




Aries
March 21st - April 20th
To get what you want it is necessary to go about it the right way. Charm instead of challenge brings surprising results and more. Just ask for help and it will arrive.




Taurus
April 21st - May 21st
At work, give praise where it is due and certainly take no-one for granted. Someone who flatters you could be after more than your sparkling smile!



Gemini
May 22nd - June 21st
The chance to try something new at the weekend is exciting. This is a good time for you, so have the confidence to go ahead. It is a lucky week.




Cancer
June 22nd - July 23rd
Plans are about to take off, so check the details and timing. You need to be free of any small matters. These could distract you from the offers coming your way.




Leo
July 24th - August 23rd
Bright ideas are all around you. Indeed, there seem to be no shortage of friends. The only problem is that they are trying to tell you what they would do in your place.




Virgo
August 24th - September 23rd
Trying to agree with everyone could mean that no changes at all are made. How would you feel about that a few months down the line? Stand your ground on things that really matter.



Libra
September 24th - October 23rd
Professionally and workwise a solution shows itself midweek. Is it something that you want, however? I think that the answer has to be 'yes' if it will bring balance in the long term.



Scorpio
October 24th - November 22nd
This week is not all about rushing about in a panic to get things sorted. Indeed, given the time to think first a much better solution occurs.

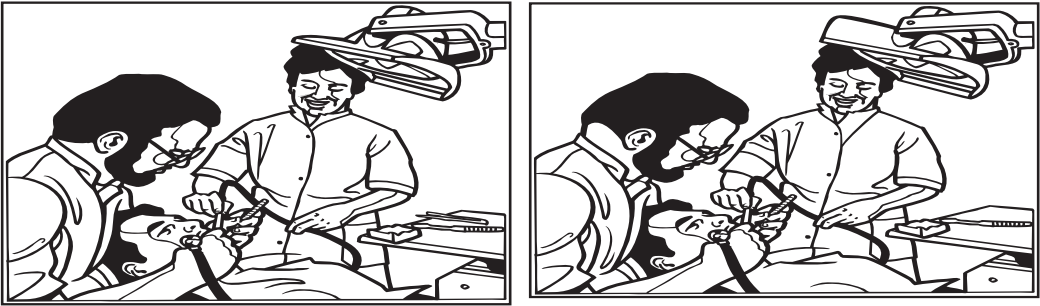


Sagittarius
November 23rd - December 21st
A dream may seem far away but, little by little, stay on the right track. When plans move ahead you want to be ready to move with them. So, get some rest if you need to.

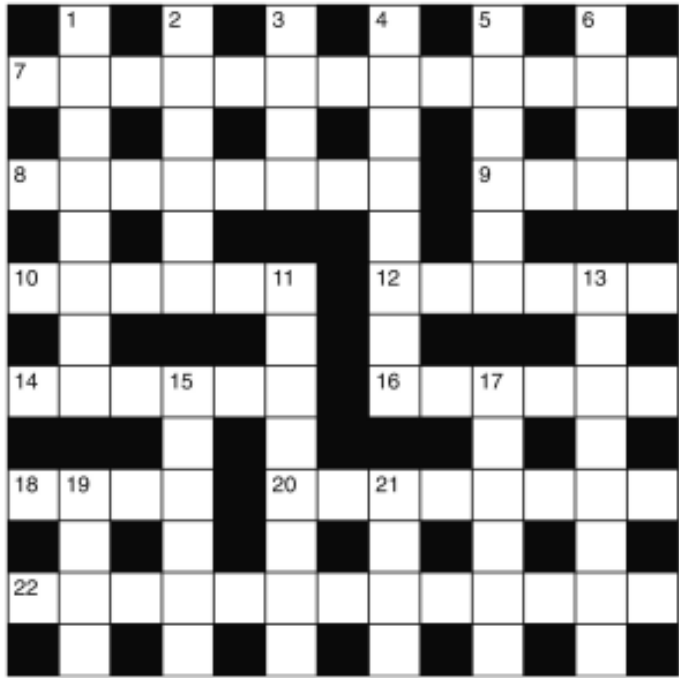


Capricorn
December 22nd - January 20th
It is a good and progressive week. Even so, expecting too much too soon could lead to frustration. The most satisfaction comes from creating something or helping a friend.

THE SEVEN DIFFERENCES



CRYPTIC CROSSWORD N° 11456



Across

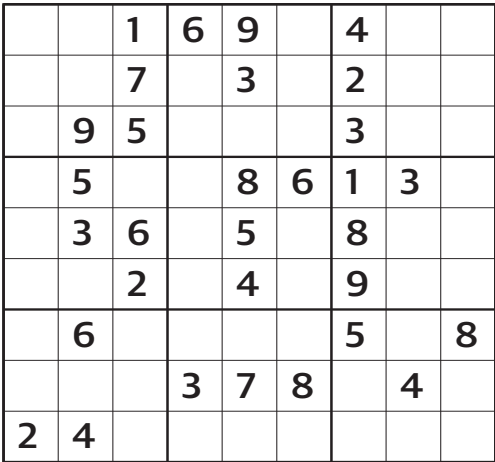
- 7 A matter of life or death for Hamlet (2,2,2,3,2,2)
- 8 Infers it makes us remiss (8)
- 9 Consumes some meat savouries (4)
- 10 He tries to get a lot (6)
- 12 The French examination is the most recent (6)
- 14 Not acclaimed like an instrumental work (6)
- 16 Leave the Sahara (6)
- 18 Complaint about meat (4)
- 20 Over-concerned with Grand National horse-killer (8)
- 22 Fashionable indication if I cannot be unimportant (13)

Down

- 1 Possibly into soul - that's the answer (8)
- 2 Appeared to catch sight of the sea (6)
- 3 A bit of an eye for a girl (4)
- 4 Comforted when one's cold clears up (8)
- 5 Road tester, perhaps (6)
- 6 Assist with a wager (4)
- 11 Military unit getting a course of therapy on time (8)
- 13 See Grant becoming a soldier (8)
- 15 It's not just a funfair that won't start (6)
- 17 Draw a small sailing vessel (6)
- 19 One's out for a long time (4)
- 21 Widespread fire, perhaps (4)

SUDOKU BY HANZO

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



THE WORDPUZZLER

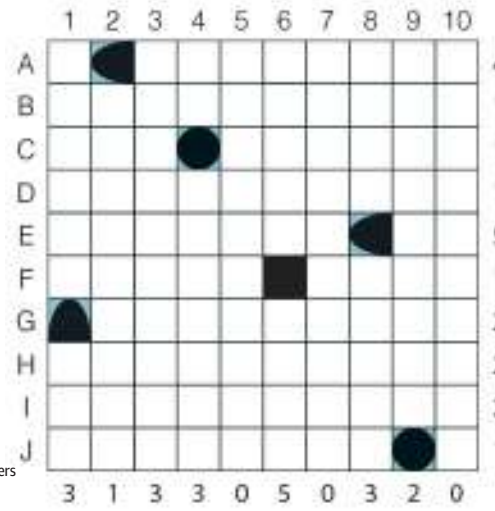
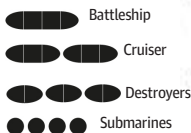


Can you identify the words that may follow 'private' from the clues listed below?

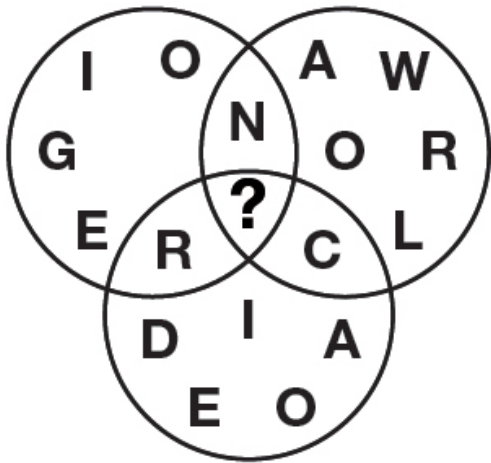
- 1. Zone
- 2. Existence
- 3. Revenue
- 4. Beak
- 5. Firm
- 6. Sections
- 7. Limb
- 8. Exclude
- 9. College
- 10. Regard

BATTLESHIPS

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



CIRCLEGRAM



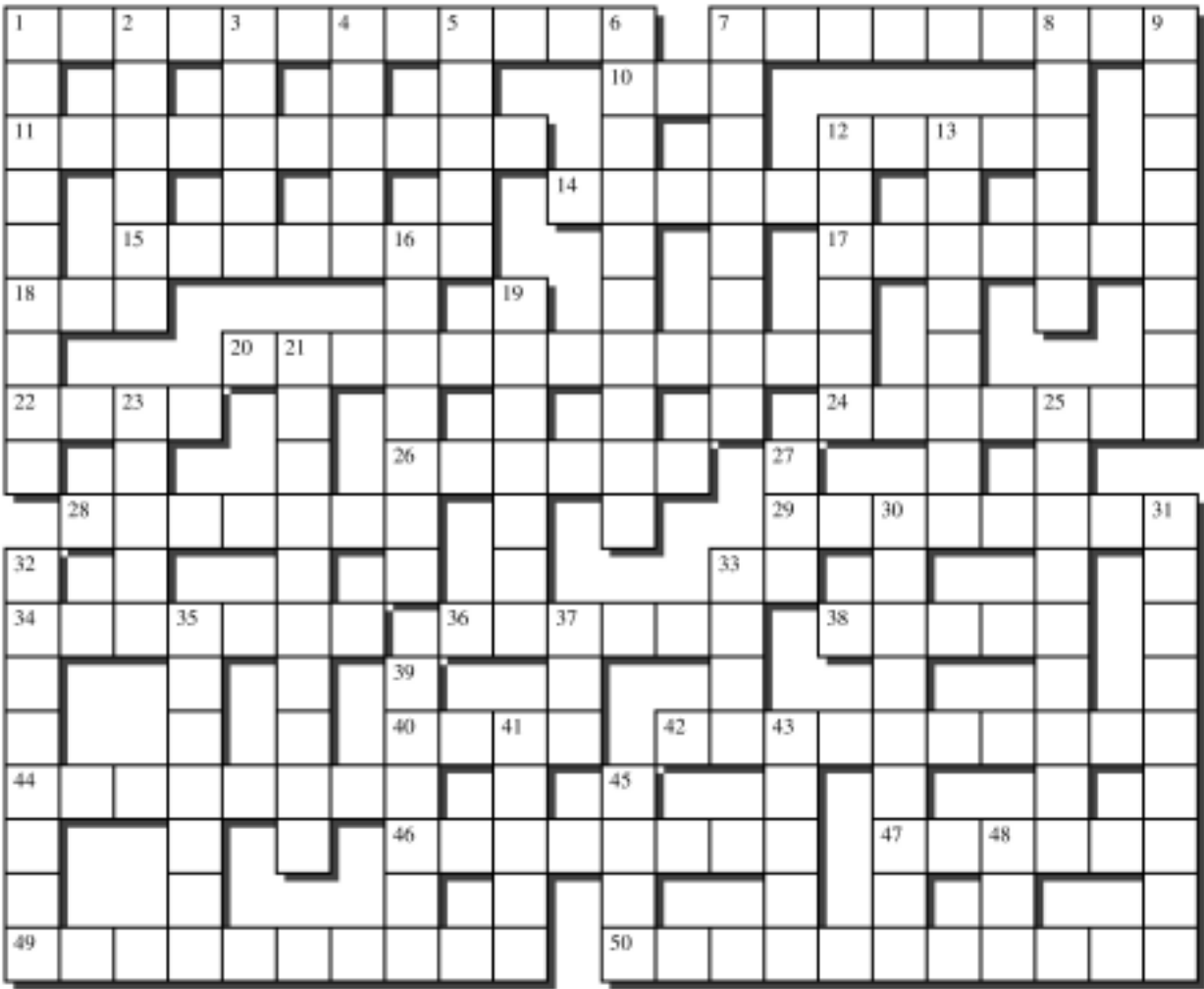
Instructions
Replace the question mark with a letter so that the letters in each circle can be arranged to form words, names or terms on a common theme. What are the three words, and the letter represented by the question mark?

Across

- 1) Speculation (12)
7) Princesses (9)
10) Year (3)
11) Candidates (m) (10)
12) Pothole (5)
14) Mermaid (6)
15) Finished (m) (7)
17) To inherit (7)
18) Two (3)
20) Offspring (12)
22) Magnifying glass (4)
24) Seed (7)
26) Oil (6)
28) Viewpoint (7)
29) Atmosphere (8)
33) To go (2)
34) Longed for (f) (7)
36) Blues (6)
38) Duke (5)
40) She (4)
42) Marriage (10)
44) Gibraltarians (8)
46) To try (8)
47) I attended (6)
49) Revolution (10)
50) Admirers (11)

Down

- 1) Scandal (9)
- 2) Pegs (6)
- 3) Girl (5)
- 4) She calls (5)
- 5) Poplar (5)
- 6) Birth (10)
- 7) Controversy (8)
- 8) Salary (6)
- 9) Sovereign (f) (8)
- 12) Bays (6)
- 13) I corrupted (8)
- 16) I declare (7)
- 19) Unhappy (7)
- 21) Adulthood (4,6) (10)
- 23) Cousin (m) (5)
- 25) Torches (9)
- 27) To give (3)
- 30) Baptised (f) (9)
- 31) Episodes (9)
- 32) Relative (8)
- 33) Island (4)
- 35) Reign (7)
- 37) He uses (3)
- 39) I resided (6)
- 41) Brass (5)
- 43) I twisted (5)
- 45) Wave (4)
- 48) Gone (m) (3)



ANSWERS

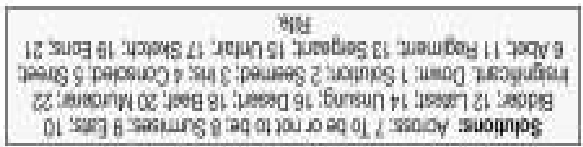
Quiz answers

Answer: Girtin
Of interest: J M W Turner and Thomas Girtin were friends and were both employed by John Raphael Smith, the engraver, for whom they used to colour prints. Girtin died aged 27 in 1802 from asthma or tuberculosis.
Answer: An idiomphone
Of interest: The txalaparta (pronounced 'txalaparta') is one of Europe's most remarkable folk instruments. Its origins are bound up with cider-making in the Basque province. A thick plank (used for pressing apples) was placed across two supports and hit with a stick.

Language Crossword



Cryptic Crossword



Wordpuzzler solution

- | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1. Sector | P | L | A | C | E | T | R | A | N | T | |
| 2. Life | L | I | B | O | R | S | I | S | T | O | |
| 3. Income | I | M | E | M | B | E | R | T | I | N | |
| 4. Bill | S | E | L | P | A | C | K | E | M | A | |
| 5. Company | S | C | R | A | P | T | O | Y | A | B | |
| 6. Parts | C | H | I | N | C | O | M | E | R | I | |
| 7. Member | H | O | R | A | Y | A | R | D | N | E | L |
| 8. Bar | O | M | O | M | I | M | E | B | I | L | |
| 9. School | O | P | O | B | D | A | L | A | S | E | |
| 10. Eye | L | I | F | E | L | P | A | R | T | S | |

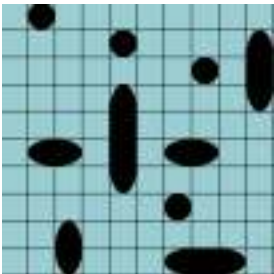
Sudoku solution

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

Circlegram

The letter represented by the question mark is L. Goneril, Cornwall, Cordelia, all characters from Shakespeare's King Lear.

Battleships



WHERE IS THIS?



Picturesque roundabout

Last week:
Cómpeta

This view is of the small square in front of the Nuestra Señora de la Asunción church. The roundabout has the bronze figures of a man carry a basket of grapes on his head and a child at his side.



CORONAVIRUS ADVICE

To notify symptoms of coronavirus

If you have symptoms and/or have been in contact with someone with coronavirus



APP Salud
Responde: take the
coronavirus
symptoms **test**

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

Coronavirus information

If you have symptoms call

955 545 060

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Chema Cobo in the courtyard at Casa Gerald Brenan, with his work South from Granada (Gerald Brenan). **S. SALAS**

Some years ago he bought the book from a shop in the Cuesta de Moyano in Madrid. One of those editions from the other side of the pond at a time when it was thought in Spain that these things could not be - and should not be - read. Chema Cobo began reading *The Face of Spain* and was astonished by the perspicacity of Hispanist Gerald Brenan's view, which was from outside, but still able to approach with precision the situation of a country in *ciaroscuro*.

That marked the start of an intellectual idyll between artist and writer. Well, in reality it may have begun earlier, through their shared passion for mystical poetry and the "dark night of the soul" that loomed over a country that Cobo would abandon for long periods shortly afterwards.

One of his sojourns was in New York in the 1980s, where he showed his work at the city's Metropolitan Museum: scenes inherited from the black paintings of Goya and the torrential symbolism of William Blake.

These works have returned now, as if 35 years had not gone by, to the quiet rooms of the Casa Gerald Brenan, the writer's former home in Churriana, Malaga.

There, the artist has opened *In The Twilight Kingdom*. This en-

Chema Cobo in the labyrinth of Gerald Brenan

Exhibition. The artist, who now resides in Malaga, is exhibiting works of art which he did in New York 35 years ago with new ones based on the writings of the author, at the Casa Gerald Brenan

ANTONIO JAVIER LÓPEZ



igmatic and delicious, subtle and powerful exhibition once again displays Cobo's work like a laminated surface that offers something new at each glance, an added significance, a wider vision than those before, superimposed but at the same time complemen-

tary. Each work opens like a fascinating labyrinth, whose existence has to be sought, like the reader of the pages of *The Spanish Labyrinth* by Brenan himself.

This display is like a fascinating game of mirrors in which the works of Cobo and Brenan are re-

flected, in space and also in time. *In The Twilight Kingdom* links with an astonishing naturalness his works from the 1980s with new ones for this exhibition; at the same time it links the creative moments of Cobo, first with the poetry of San Juan de la Cruz

IN THE TWILIGHT KINGDOM

► **Artist.** Chema Cobo.

► **Where and when.** Casa Gerald Brenan. Churriana, Malaga. Until 3 September.

► **Opening times.** Wednesdays and Thursdays 4pm to 9pm; Fridays 11am to 2pm and 4pm to 9pm. Entry is free.

(about which Brenan did a paradigmatic study) and, afterwards, with Dora Carrington and Gamel Woolsey, women who are essential to understanding the hazardous life of the Hispanist.

The first room brings together Cobo's works from the 1980s with texts by Brenan on San Juan de la Cruz and the volume of complete works of Arthur Rimbaud which Brenan successfully annotated. This produces an interesting conjunction featuring the shared symbolism of the poets and the prints and drawings by the artist, whose works are in collections such as the Reina Sofía National Art Museum and the Met in New York.

To this, Cobo adds a new piece, in which a young Brenan travels the Andalusian desert landscape with the vocation of an anchorite, linking him to San Juan de la Cruz. This piece creates an imaginary bridge to the second room, where the impressive depth of Cobo's work detonates in a splendid and profound content. Because every watercolour unleashes a bouquet of references, metaphors and allusions which serve a succulent artistic and conceptual feast. From the kaleidoscopic portraits of Brenan and Woolsey, to the bombardment of the city, seen by Woolsey from the tower of the house which now features in the watercolours titled *Death's Other Kingdom I* and *Death's Other Kingdom II*, taken from T. S. Eliot's poem *The Hollow Men*.

Each image says more than it appears to and combines with the one next to it. Each piece is in dialogue with the one next to it, to create a lucid, ironic and free labyrinth. The labyrinth of Cobo in the Casa de Brenan. And also viceversa.



▲ Detail from *In The Twilight Kingdom* (Gamel Woolsey), one of the watercolours created by Cobo for this display.



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