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May 21st to 27th 2021  
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### MALAGA CF. THE SEARCH FOR A NEW COACH BEGINS

Sergio Pellicer, who has overseen one of the most difficult periods in the club's history, will step down now that safety is in the bag **P38**



Some of the migrants in the water after swimming into Ceuta from Morocco on Tuesday. **REUTERS**

## Tourism fair delivers a dose of optimism after long pause

At Fitur in Madrid the Andalusian president predicted 51% more tourists this summer

Madrid's international tourism fair, Fitur, opened this week with an atmosphere of optimism among professionals and tourism authorities. Opening the Andalucía section, regional president Juanma Moreno predicted that

the summer would bring an increase of 51% in tourists to the region, but stressed the importance of the return of British visitors. By the end of June, he said, vaccination in Andalucía would be at 75%. **P3**

**Preparations for high season well under way on the Costa's beaches** **P2**

**First four-star boutique hotel opens in heart of Estepona** **P14**

## Ceuta crossings cause Spain's biggest migrant crisis in 40 years

Many of the around 8,000 people who swam or waded into Spanish territory have been returned to Morocco, while hundreds of women and children remain in Ceuta. **P18**

**Covid measures eased as Malaga province goes into lowest alert level** **P6**

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## Record May temperatures fill beaches

The weather station at the Malaga-Costa del Sol Airport registered the city's highest temperature on record for the month of May last Sunday, with 35.4C. The high temperatures, caused in part by the warm terral wind, were also widespread across the province. Official figures showed that Coín registered the third highest temperature in Spain, with 36.8C. The first full weekend with no state of alarm restrictions in Spain saw the Costa del Sol at its liveliest for months, with thousands of tourists from Madrid and other parts of Spain flocking to the beaches. Several hotels reported being more than 80% full, although only 38% of the Costa's hotel establishments are currently open, according to the hoteliers association Aehcos.

# Beach preparations under way for a summer with fewer restrictions

Rincón de la Victoria, Estepona, Vélez-Málaga, Marbella and Fuengirola councils have applied for extra sand on those that suffered storm damage

JOAQUINA DUEÑAS

MARBELLA. All hopes for economic recovery are being focused on the forthcoming summer season and town councils are rushing to get their beaches ready for the imminent arrival of visitors from elsewhere in Spain and abroad. Everyone is hoping that things will be as close as possible to the way they were before the coronavirus pandemic.

The Junta de Andalucía was the first administration to indicate a return to normality, back in April, when it decided not to contract anti-Covid monitors this year, on the basis that as people are now well aware of the rules nobody is needed to enforce them.

Even so, some councils such as Estepona have said they will be putting up signs as reminders, and in Rincón de la Victoria councillor Sergio Díaz says there will be monitors on the beaches to inform people about the anti-Covid measures.

All the councils are repeating the same extra hygiene and disinfecting precautions as last year, such as increased cleaning in the lavatories, showers and access ramps. In Estepona, for example,

sources at the town hall say the toilet modules will be open between midday and 8pm and will be cleaned four times a day.

Three municipalities in particular stand out for their Covid precautions. Rincón de la Victoria has an app to control the number of people on its beaches, will analyse the sand and water quality regularly, and has contracted 'scum-skimmer' boats.

Vélez-Málaga will once again mark out squares on its main beaches to help people respect social distancing.

Also, on 8 May Marbella council announced that when the state of alarm came to an end the following day, a local decree would come into effect under which all its beaches will be closed between

midnight and 6am. This was to stop people heading for the beaches to party after the bars have closed.

That announcement coincided with the start of the lifeguard service at weekends, from 11am to 6.30pm. There will be 21 of them in Marbella, monitoring 15 of the beaches, until the start of the peak season when a full serv-

**Marbella beaches are now off-limit between midnight and 6am, to stop people heading there when the bars close**



Preparations in the Guadalpín area of Marbella. JOSELE

ice will be provided. This year there will be over 40 lifeguards in total.

In general, the lifeguard service will start all along the Malaga coast on 15 June. There will be 23 lifeguards in Estepona, 30 in Rincón de la Victoria, about 20 in Torrox and 73 in Mijas.

Mijas council will also be using lifesaving drones. They introduced these last year to control the number of people on the beaches, and this summer there will be larger ones with the ability to carry inflatable lifejackets.

### Preparations

Apart from the Covid-19 precautions, beach maintenance will also be stepped up as usual during this summer season, with cleaning being carried out early in the morning or at night to minimise inconvenience to beach users.

Several town halls have requested assistance from the Coastal Authority in preparing their beaches. Fuengirola has applied for a regeneration plan because storms have damaged the lifeguard towers and buried shower trays and wooden and concrete walkways under sand in many places. In the meantime, council workers are using equipment to move heavy elements.

Marbella approved a similar request at the council meeting in April, when the Partido Popular proposed that the projects to stabilise the beaches and bring more

### INFORMATION

► **Drones.** Mijas will be using lifesaving drones to monitor its beaches again this summer.

► **Lifeguard service.** About 200 lifeguards have been contracted in the province this year

► **Application.** Rincón de la Victoria has a mobile phone app to control the numbers of people on beaches and will analyse the sand regularly

sand to certain places should be facilitated. As a result, on 5 May a proposal to provide 200,000 cubic metres of sand to the area between La Venus beach and Punta Ancón was put on public display.

Estepona has also applied for sand for six of its beaches, including those which suffered serious damage at El Padrón and El Ángel.

In La Axarquía, the areas which were worst affected by the storms were Los Rubios in Torre de Benagalbón and a stretch of coast close to Arroyo Granadillas, in Rincón de la Victoria, while in Vélez-Málaga the council has applied for help to prepare the beaches at Torre del Mar, Chilches, Valle-Niza and La Caleta de Vélez, and Torrox has done the same for El Peñoncillo.

Meanwhile, on the western coast, Mijas is still waiting for its application for 15,000 cubic metres of sand to be approved. Sources at the Coastal Authority say that normally action is taken when beaches suffer damage from bad weather and do not regenerate naturally.

► **Contributors to this report:** J. M. Martín, E. Cabezas, I. Gelibter.

# Madrid fair pumps optimism into the tourism industry

Authorities were positive at Fitur, which was held face-to-face with strict Covid protocol, but stressed the importance of recovering UK visitors

PILAR MARTÍNEZ

MADRID. There was optimism this week within the tourism industry as the Fitur international tourism fair officially opened its doors in Madrid on Wednesday.

This is the first major face-to-face event in the industry since the start of the Covid-19 pandemic and as such has become a symbolic starting signal of the recovery of the sector.

"The Costa del Sol awaits everyone with open arms," said the president of the provincial authority and Costa tourist board Francisco Salado in Madrid earlier this week.

Along with other local authorities, he visited the central Puerta del Sol metro station which has

been renamed Costa del Sol this week as part of the area's Fitur promotion in the capital.

Around 80 organisations from Malaga province, including town halls and businesses, as well as 150 industry professionals, are taking part in the tourism fair, which runs until Sunday with strict Covid-10 health and safety procedures in place.

The Andalucía stand at the fair was opened on Wednesday by President Juanma Moreno and Vice-President and regional Tourism Minister Juan Marín.

Moreno said the region had gone to Fitur with "positive expectations" but stressed the importance of the region recovering British visitors "as soon as possible". He called for the Spanish government to push firmly for a safe air corridor with the UK.

"Andalucía is a safe destination," stressed Marín, saying that ongoing meetings were being held to ensure that Spain can move from the UK's amber to green holiday destination list.



The Junta President and Vice-President open the Andalucía stand. s. s.



The Puerta del Sol station, renamed Costa del Sol for the week. s. s.

## EU prepares to open up to vaccinated tourists from third countries

SUR

MALAGA. The 27 members of the EU agreed on Wednesday to allow non-EU citizens to travel into and around Europe again if they have been fully inoculated against Covid-19 with a vaccine authorised by the European Medicines Agency. The new scenario could be a reality in June, after months of a ban on trips considered non-essential.

With tourism from outside the EU one step closer, the UK government has updated its travel advice about documents required by visitors on arrival in Spain.

"British nationals visiting Spain should be prepared to show proof of return or onward journey, sufficient funds for their visit and proof of accommodation, such as a hotel booking confirmation, proof of address if visiting a second home or an invitation from a host, at the border. The Spanish government has clarified that the 'carta de invitación' is one of the options available to demonstrate proof of accommodation if staying with a host in a private home," said a spokesperson from the British Embassy in Madrid on Thursday.

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# Marbella gets back three million euros owed from corruption trials

## MARBELLA

The money will be used for projects in the public interest, such as road surfacing and improving sports facilities

## JOAQUINA DUEÑAS

Marbella council has recovered a further three million euros from assets that were seized from those found guilty in the long-running historic corruption cases at the council, dating back almost 20 years.

Local officials had to ask for the money back, in this instance linked to the Saqueo I and II corruption cases, via a legal challenge to national government in court, who were accused of withholding what the town was due under the settlement.

Now the council has the money again, it will invest it in projects that benefit "the most local people possible".

On Monday this week at a full meeting of the council, the spending plan was approved.

"The three million euros will be invested in initiatives that are in the public interest," confirmed Mayor of Marbella Ángeles Muñoz.

Around half the funds will go to road surface repairs in residential areas, seafronts and beach accesses.

Plans to repair schools (269,000 euros), sports facilities (280,000 euros) and to invigorate the tourism sector (250,000) will also be main beneficiaries.

## MAIN USES FOR THE MONEY

► **Repairs.** Just over 1.6 million euros for repairs to road surfaces in residential areas, the Paseo Marítimo and paths onto beaches.

► **Education and sport.** Almost 270,000 euros for schools and 280,000 for sports facilities.

► **Promotion.** Publicising the resort to tourists and improving its appeal.

In addition, 100,000 euros will go to promote shops, bars and restaurants in the resort; the same amount for a promotional campaign for Marbella as a sporting destination; 50,000 euros for technical studies for planned works in San Pedro Alcántara; and 30,000 for an open government and resident participation programme.

The council wants the effects of the money to have an "impact on a cross section" of local residents.

## Fifty million recovered

Since 2012, almost 50 million euros have been recovered by courts from those guilty, destined to cancel the debt that the town hall had with the tax and social security authorities, a legacy of the corruption scandals in the early 2000s in the town.

Following a law change in 2018, the funds can now be used for direct investment in the municipality.

Muñoz however criticised central government for forcing the town hall to take legal action against it to get the money.

## 112 REPORTS



A candle marks the spot where the Norwegian woman fell. **F. TORRES**

## MARBELLA

### Norwegian tourist dies in balcony fall

**F. T. / J. C.** Police believe the death of a 24-year-old Norwegian woman, who fell from a balcony in Marbella last Friday, was a tragic accident. Emergency services were called at 8.15pm to the

woman who was on the pavement of Calle Padre José Vera in the centre of the resort.

Police worked through the Millennium 1 building until they found the balcony where the accident happened. The Norwegian couple in the flat were unaware their guest, who had been taking selfie photos from the balcony, had fallen.

## BENALMÁDENA COSTA

### Red Cross cares for 21 migrants arriving by boat

**F. T. / A. F.** Red Cross volunteers have assisted a total of 21 migrants who arrived in Benalmádena aboard two boats.

According to the Andalusian Emergency Services 112 control centre, all of them were Northwest African and, among them, there was one minor.

The first of the boats was located around 9am on Tuesday morning.

## MALAGA

### Woman stabbed on bus 'over smell of perfume'

**A. F. / J. C.** National Police officers in Malaga have arrested a woman after a bus passenger was stabbed. It is believed the victim was bothered by the perfume of the woman who was sitting next to her and decided to open the window of the bus. That, subsequently, led to the attack. Police said that the alleged attacker had chased the victim through the bus.

## MARBELLA

### Britons held after late-night chase at 200 km/h

**F. TORRES.** A British-registered vehicle that failed to stop for the Guardia Civil in Riviera del Sol last week started a high-speed police chase along the Costa del Sol that finally ended in Marbella.

According to sources, the high-powered Audi headed along the A-7, towards Marbella, reaching speeds of more than 200 kilometres per hour.

The incident happened in the early hours of Thursday last week.



The car is examined by police. **SUR**

Eventually, the Audi was found abandoned and the four British occupants were located in the Nagüeles area. SUR has learned some of those arrested already have a criminal record.

## NERJA

### Arrests made over poaching goats and boar

**E. CABEZAS.** The Guardia Civil have made two arrests and seized hunting trophies, 17 shotguns and 1,300 rounds of ammunition after investigating the poaching of mountain goats and wild boar from a private hunting estate in the Axarquía.

Operation Fiducia began last December when the officers

from the Seprona environmental team learned that several people could be poaching from the reserve located in Nerja. The owner of the land had discovered that the number of ibex mountain goats had dropped considerably, with a loss to the reserve of more than 60,000 euros.

Investigators found that the poachers operated both during the day and at night, throughout the year, and, as they were locals, they were able to escape quickly.



## Insider Tips CAR INSURANCE

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### EASING OF RESTRICTIONS

At the time of publishing this article, British residents in Spain can travel to and from the UK. A negative PCR, TNA or LAMP taken less than 72 hours before arrival is required to avoid quarantine. Travel between Spanish provinces are changing depending on the rise and fall in local case numbers. Residents who are registered with their local doctor will be contacted for the vaccine through the Spanish Vaccine Programme.

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# Will Spain's 2021 tax enforcement plan affect you?

By Chris McCann, Senior Partner, Blevins Franks

It's easy to understand why so many people want to live in Spain, particularly to enjoy their retirement years. The lifestyle and climate provide many benefits and the wide variety of locations and properties suits all tastes and budgets. While there are a few pros and cons to weigh up, we find the biggest concern for many is taxation.

Yes, the Spanish tax regime is complex, with different income tax rules, a whole new additional wealth tax and unfamiliar inheritance tax regime. And on paper the tax burden does look high for wealthier people. But specialist advice and a good understanding of the rules and available tax planning opportunities can make all the difference. With strategic – and compliant – wealth management, many people have significantly reduced their tax liabilities on investment capital and assets to much lower levels than expected.

However, you do need to be vigilant with your tax planning and ensure you fulfil all your tax obligations in Spain – starting with registering for tax if you meet the residence criteria – and use approved arrangements. The Spanish tax authorities have

become adept at preventing tax fraud and their tax control plan for 2021 goes even further.

The Agencia Estatal de Administración Tributaria (AEAT) has published details of its latest tax control plan, which covers all direct taxes, corporation tax, personal income tax, wealth tax and succession tax. Its aim is to be transparent and allow taxpayers to voluntarily regularise their tax situation where necessary and avoid a formal tax enquiry.

When it comes to individual taxpayers, including expatriates, its main areas of focus are:

- Personal income tax
- Wealth tax
- Succession and gift tax

#### Tax residence in Spain

As part of their income and wealth tax audits, the authorities are reviewing individuals' tax residence position in Spain – particularly where they have indications that individuals claiming to be non-resident do in fact meet one of the residence criteria.

Generally speaking, with the

exception of Spain's 'Golden Visa', if you have applied for legal residence you are likely to be tax resident.

You are resident for tax purposes if you spend over 183 days in Spain in a calendar year, or (even if you spend less than 183 days) your centre of economic interests is in Spain or your centre of vital interests (spouse/dependent children) is here.

If you meet any of the criteria and cannot prove you are tax resident elsewhere, you are legally obliged to register for tax and submit income tax returns as well as wealth tax returns and Modelo 720 (where applicable), declaring worldwide income and assets.

Where necessary, the Spanish tax authority will collect plenty of evidence to determine if you are Spanish tax resident – so make absolutely sure you get this right.

#### New IT tools, big data and international exchange of information mechanisms

The tax authority is using new technologies and big data to achieve its goals and uncover and prevent tax

fraud. It can profile taxpayers and determine who to investigate further, using all the data now available to them from a myriad of sources.

Their audits will incorporate data received from international automatic exchange of information mechanisms, such as the Common Reporting Standard (CRS) and Foreign Account Tax Compliance Act (FATCA) – it is impossible these days to hide anything from the taxman.

If you have failed to declare income or assets in the past, you need to voluntarily regularise your tax situation to avoid the worst sanctions. A tax accountant should be able to help you get your affairs in order.

Many people make genuine mistakes. They may not realise they are tax resident in Spain or not understand where income earned in another country should be declared and taxed – for example, inadvertently paying tax in the UK rather than Spain. But this would still open you up to a tax investigation which could prove very stressful and costly.

Also make sure you correctly apply tax reliefs, particularly for wealth tax.

And take advice on how the authorities could view the intermediate entities and holding structures you use.

#### Effective tax planning for Spain

Many people worry about the tax implications of becoming resident in Spain. But with expert planning, it's possible to structure investments and assets to be tax-efficient – and potentially pay less tax in Spain than you did in the UK, depending on your circumstances.

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

*Tax rates, scope and reliefs may change. Any statements concerning taxation are based upon our understanding of current taxation laws and practices which are subject to change. Tax information has been summarised; individuals should seek personalised advice.*

# Think you will pay too much tax in Spain?

## You may be surprised.

The Spanish tax regime provides opportunities for tax efficient investing, and how you hold your assets can make a significant difference to how much tax you pay.

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## Covid measures eased as all of Malaga province moves to the lowest health alert level

It is the only Andalusian province that is entirely at level 1 and, as a result, restrictions are further relaxed, including for numbers allowed at tables in bars and restaurants

ENRIQUE MIRANDA

MALAGA. All health districts in Malaga province are now at coronavirus alert level 1, the lowest level established by the Ministry of Health and the regions to mark the risk of disease in an area. Until Thursday, 20 May, Malaga was at level 2 - medium risk - and will now drop one more step to a low-risk level, a sign of the good evolution of the pandemic in the province.

Malaga is the only province in Andalucía that is completely at level 1 and, like last week, there is no Malaga town that has a bor-

der lockdown or will be forced to close non-essential business activity because of a high rate of the disease.

Eight different criteria determine the health alert levels including the cumulative incidence rate at 14 and seven days, the cumulative incidence in the over-65s, the number of people vaccinated and the pressure on hospitals and intensive care units.

The reward for being in health alert level 1 will be an easing of measures with regard to the capacity of events and premises. For example, up to 75 per cent capacity (up to a maximum of 50 people) will be allowed in enclosed spaces for wakes, burials and funeral ceremonies and there are no limitations for outdoor weddings and communions as long as social distancing can be guaranteed.

In hospitality, at alert level 1, 100 per cent of the capacity is



Up to 10 people are now allowed on outdoor terraces. MIGUE FERNÁNDEZ

allowed on terraces, something that also happens at levels 2 and 3. For indoor tables, 75 per cent of the capacity can be occupied in level 1.

As for tables, at level 1 there is a limit of eight people indoors and 10 people outdoors. In ad-

dition, bar service and consumption is allowed, as is buffet service "provided that measures are taken to maintain social distancing between people, signage of transit flows and, the provision of hydroalcoholic gels at the entrance and monitoring of com-

No notable effects felt from mass gatherings that marked the end of state of alarm

Ten days was the deadline set by Spain's Ministry of Health to see the effects of the weekend mass gatherings of 9 May, when the state of alarm ended and night curfews were lifted. And the date came and went this Wednesday (19 May), with the country's 14-day coronavirus cumulative incidence rate continuing to drop, going from 147.54 to 144.56 cases per 100,000 inhabitants in the last 24 hours.

But there were some slight concerns as the seven-day infection rate, a marker much more sensitive to recent events, increased slightly over the past day from 60.89 to 61.01 cases. However, the seven-day rate remains well below half that of 14 days ago, which suggests no significant signs of a resurgence of coronavirus after the easing of restrictions.

pliance with these measures".

There are also no restrictions at this level on beaches and swimming pools, as long as the social distancing between groups can be maintained.

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# Health ministry bows to pressure over the AstraZeneca 'second dose crisis'

Backlash against the vaccine 'cocktail' plan for the under-60s has forced another change to the national vaccination plan but the authorities are confident of herd immunity by June

M. SÁIZ-PARDO / Á. SOTO

MADRID. There was another major change to Spain's national coronavirus vaccination plan on Thursday after a rebellion from the regions. Just 24 hours after the Public Health Commission approved the proposal to give the Pfizer vaccine to the almost two million essential workers under 60 who were banned from having a second AstraZeneca jab (due to the 'very rare' problems with blood clots), the Ministry of Health amended its policy again.

The department, faced with a backlash against the vaccine 'cocktail', decided that all those affected by the 'second dose crisis' could now choose between a second AstraZeneca dose or a Pfizer one if they prefer.



Essential workers under 60 can choose their second dose. REUTERS

The option of letting people under 60 freely choose the formula used for their second jab came following a trial from the Carlos III Health Institute of just over 600 volunteers, carried out in just two weeks. Though results supported the authority's belief that the mix of vaccines is not only totally safe, but also increases immunity, it caused a backlash as it goes against the recommendations of the European Medicines Agency (EMA) and many medical groups.

Until now, the vaccination strategy had been based on denying

any decision about the choice of vaccine to the public.

In Malaga there are about 150,000 people waiting for a second dose after receiving the AstraZeneca vaccine. Most are essential workers who were given the Oxford formula before the blood clotting issues changed the Interterritorial Council criteria, which decided to restrict this vaccine to those aged between 60 and 70.

#### Janssen shortfall

There was a further setback to the national vaccination plan this week

with North American giant Johnson & Johnson once again telling the EU that it will not meet its planned delivery schedule again.

Spain's Minister of Health, Carolina Darias, had promised that in the second quarter, Spain would receive 5.5 million doses of the Janssen single-dose vaccine but, so far, the multinational has only delivered 410,400.

The Public Health Commission last week approved the use of Janssen for people such as maritime and seasonal workers, immigrants without documentation, the homeless or Spaniards residing abroad, but this campaign is now in doubt.

#### Herd immunity in three months

These setbacks came just days after prime minister Pedro Sánchez announced that the "mass" vaccination of those under 50 years of age will begin in June, with some regions, including Castilla-La Mancha and Extremadura, calculating that they will be able to start vaccinating people between 30 and 39 years of age from end of June.

Speaking on Monday, Sánchez calculated that there were just "93 days" left until herd immunity in Spain (with more than 70 per cent of the population vaccinated).

In Andalucía, president Juanma Moreno said on Wednesday that everyone over 40 will have received at least one dose of a Covid vaccine by 30 June.

# Compulsory face masks outdoors could be scrapped 'within days'

SALVADOR ARROYO

MADRID. Spain's leading epidemiologist Fernando Simón has said that it is "very likely" that the use of a mask outdoors can be relaxed "in not many days".

Simón did not want to give a specific date, but did say that it could be soon, in view of the good progress of the Covid-19 vaccination campaign and the decrease in infections. According to the expert, this could be when the vast majority of regions have a cumulative incidence rate below 150, with the number of people immunised currently increasing by almost 10 per cent every 10 or 15 days.

But the epidemiologist also acknowledged that the evolution of infections could mean that this relaxation measure is not for the entire population or for all regions. "We are evaluating many options; one is clear: we now have a population group, such as people in residences, with a high rate of immunisation and different measures can be proposed for these groups rather than in others," he said.

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# Iconic Blue Palm Café closes after 14 years in Marbella

The British café on the town's promenade was popular with local expats and tourists, but is the latest victim of the Covid lockdown

ASH BOLTON

MARBELLA. A popular British café closed its doors for good in Marbella last Friday due to the Covid pandemic.

The Blue Palm Café was run by Ruth and Nigel Stevenson and had been welcoming locals and tourists since it opened 14 years ago.

But due to a lack of customers and a lack of support from the local authorities the owners have decided to sell the lease and retire.

Ruth, 54, who is originally from Hertfordshire, and lives in Can-



Nigel and Ruth. SUR

celada, said: "It's been a great 14 years. We've made a lot of friends, we have some great memories and I'm proud of what we have achieved.

"But it's a Covid-related decision, I've been working seven days a week since last May and earning

no money. It's just been so tough."

Ruth added that the business had received no help from local authorities and that their landlord had asked for full rent each month, even when the business was forced to shut.

She continued: "It's the end of an era, but we live in a beautiful country and now we will have time to enjoy it more. But I've been blown away by the comments people have been leaving on our Facebook page. We've been getting emails, cards, presents – it's made me cry."

"I'm 54 and Nigel is 62 now, so it's probably about time we retired."

Ruth now plans to volunteer her time with a number of local charities in the area.

An upmarket Dutch restaurant is now planning to open in the café's location.

## HERE AND THERE



Guests and supporters of Collective Calling at the opening event. SUR

### SAN PEDRO

#### Collective Calling charity opens new office

**SUR IN ENGLISH.** Marbella-based charity Collective Calling opened its new 'Inspiring Futures' office last Friday in San Pedro Alcántara.

The office will act as a walk-in centre for families and individuals to register for support, as well as hosting the Collective Calling food bank and a shower facility for the homeless community. The premises also has a space dedicated to the Inspiring Futures programme, whose core mission is to facilitate work placements.

The opening was attended by

volunteers and supporters, among them Nicole King from Marbella Now TV; members of the Rotary Club Marbella International; Spence Clarke; and the sponsors of the centre: Peter Jorge, Founder of HighTower Invitational, who donated 17,000 euros and Louise Palmer, of the Chellaram Foundation, who gave 1,826 euros for office equipment.

The next Collective Calling fundraising event will be the Summer Gala at Villa Padierna on 4 June. The evening will include entertainment from the Rat Pack Live tribute, a three-course dinner with unlimited drinks, a vintage car photoshoot and blackjack and roulette tables. Tickets are available from 711 006 961.

### MARBELLA

#### Site approved for new court complex

**J. DUEÑAS.** A council meeting this week gave final approval for 13,000 square metres of land at La Torrecilla to be ceded to the Junta de Andalucía for the construction of a new court complex which will handle cases from Marbella, Ojén, Istán and Benahavís. Another plot of land in the same area has also been reserved for a new police headquarters to be built in the future.

There are three court buildings in the municipality at present but they are in a bad state of repair and are considered insufficient. The mayor, Ángeles Muñoz, said the town needs modern, quality facilities.

### ESTEPONA

#### Council plans July fair - with restrictions

**J. M. MARTÍN.** Estepona plans to celebrate its renowned fair this year from 6 to 11 July, despite the difficulties posed by the Covid-19 pandemic.

The local council said it will follow the stringent protocol established by the health authorities and agreed with the fairworkers trade union UIFE.

The festival week, therefore, will have none of the usual concerts, there will be reduced capacities in all areas and other control and prevention measures. The town hall also stressed that the festival plans remain subject to the evolution of the pandemic.

### MARBELLA

#### Digital guide with recycling advice

**JOAQUINA DUEÑAS.** The Mancomunidad de Municipios of the Western Costa del Sol and refuse collection firm Urbaser have created a digital guide to help residents out with questions about recycling.

Reciclopedia is a multi-platform search engine which is simple to use: users can put in the name of the item to see how it should be recycled correctly; or consult the list of images in sections for each container.

Juan Luis Villalón of the Mancomunidad said it is normal for people to be unsure whether they can recycle used toothbrushes or nail polish bottles, for example, and this system will answer their query immediately.

Stickers with QR codes will be placed on the recycling containers so people can scan them and be connected to Reciclopedia straight away.

The guide (<https://www.costadelsoleco/reciclopedia/>) is accessible from any device with an internet connection.

The Mancomunidad authority includes Western Costa towns from Torremolinos to Manilva.



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## St Andrew's Church reopens with added facilities

The chaplaincy has renovated the toilets, kitchen and function area, and installed facilities for those with mobility restrictions

TONY BRYANT

FUENGIROLA. St Andrew's chaplaincy has announced the reopening of its main church in Los Boliches, following the lifting of the state of alarm. The church, which was established in 1968, will offer services on Wednesdays at 10.30am and on Sundays at 11.30am.



Reader Caroline Macfarlane and Father Nigel Stimpson. **SUR**

The church has also undergone extensive renovation work to the exterior and interior of

the building. This included the installation of new air conditioning units, the renovation of the toilets, kitchen and function area, along with new facilities for those with mobility restrictions. The ministry is hoping the improvements will make the church facilities more attractive to potential hall users in order to provide much needed additional income to support the chaplaincy.

Although the major part of the renovation work is complete, there are still elements of the building that need to be updated, and the chaplaincy is appealing for donations in order to carry out future work.

"This project is not just about buildings - it's about rejuvenating, rebuilding and growing our ministry and outreach as a chaplaincy," Father Nigel said.

## Norwegian school marks Constitution Day

Students, teachers and parents came together at the Norwegian College in Benalmádena on Monday to celebrate 17 May, Constitution Day, the national day of Norway. The celebration was coordinated by the school's principal, Trude Jahren, and was attended by Mayor of Benalmádena Víctor Navas. Due to restrictions, the traditional parade was replaced by a series of outdoor activities that highlighted Norwegian traditions, which included typical cuisine, games and music.



**SUR**

### HERE AND THERE



Interior Minister (c) with Civil Protection volunteers in Seville. **SUR**

### SEVILLE

#### Medal of Merit for Civil Protection volunteers

**T. BRYANT.** Volunteers from the Civil Protection delegation in Benalmádena were awarded the coveted Medal of Merit from the Interior Ministry during a ceremony held at the Alcázar palace in Seville last week. The medal

was given for the tireless work carried out by the group during the coronavirus pandemic, especially during the lockdown, when volunteers organised home visits and food parcels for the elderly and people in vulnerable situations.

The medal was presented to the group's director, Pepe Aguilar, by Interior Minister Fernando Grande-Marlaska.

### TORREMOLINOS

#### Raising the flag to mark Gay Pride 2021

**T.B.** Torremolinos town hall has announced that Gay Pride 2021 will be marked between 3 and 6 June. This year's edition will not offer a street parade or any concerts to avoid the spread of the coronavirus: instead, the town will acknowledge the occasion by raising the rainbow flag on iconic buildings and in main squares. Residents are invited to decorate their balconies with the LGBT colours, with the prospect of winning a prize for the most inventive display.

### MIJAS

#### Support group continue fundraising drive

**T.B.** The Simply Surviving group is continuing its fundraising drive throughout May with a series of charity events. These include a dinner and concert at Club Miraflores (Mijas) on 22 May, and a fun quiz afternoon at Restaurante Cerros de Águila on 27 May. In order to support local businesses, the group will also launch a new breakfast club, the first of which will be held at the Sunrise Café (Fuengirola) on Monday 31 May. Contact Alan Boardman on 610522605.

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# Residents' group starts petition over noise and nuisance from airfield

## VÉLEZ-MÁLAGA

A spokesperson said that flights taking off from the site have become much more frequent in the last year

### EUGENIO CABEZAS

VÉLEZ-MÁLAGA. Residents living close to the Leoni Benabu airfield near Vélez-Málaga have formed a group and started a petition on Change.org against the noise, nuisance and danger they claim is caused by planes using the site.

The group have written to Spain's air safety agency, AESA urging them to adopt "urgent measures" to stop planes flying over built-up areas and to revise flight plans, which the group believe do not comply with air safety laws.

"I have lived here for 10 years and up until a year ago we didn't notice the planes so much, but



Aircraft stationed at the Leoni Benabu airfield near El Trapiche. E. C.

since then the flights have become much more frequent," said group spokesperson, Victor Morales.

President of the Real Aeroclub de Málaga, which runs the airfield, Jesús Guerrero, dismissed the complaints saying they "come in

phases" and tend to be from "foreigners who have illegal homes that they use as tourist apartments. He added that all flights are authorised by Spain's civil aviation agency and have "scrupulous flight plans".

# Mountain goats take in the sights of the Axarquía's white villages

Residents of Frigiliana and Comares have been capturing images of mountain goats wandering through the villages. In Frigiliana two goats were photographed as they walked across the roof of the cane sugar factory. Local police chief Plácido Navas said that sightings had become more frequent since the start of the pandemic.



# Migrants contact emergency services as boat runs out of fuel off Torre del Mar

## TORRE DEL MAR

E. C. The National Police, maritime rescue services and the Red Cross in the Axarquía responded to a call last Sunday from the occupants of a boat carrying 14 migrants of north-west African origin. The boat was intercepted as it approached Torre del Mar beach. The occupants of the boat had warned the emergency services that they did not have enough fuel to reach land and that they had "a leak" in the craft in which they were travelling.



Organisers of the race. SUR

# Local residents organise virtual race to raise money for toddler with rare condition

## UPPER AXARQUÍA

E. C. Residents of Canillas de Albaida, Árchez and Cómputa have come up with a virtual race to raise money for the family of Higinio, a toddler with spinal muscular atrophy. The condition is a rare, progressive neuromuscular disease, which he was diagnosed with when he was four months old. Higinio, who will be two on 27 May, requires weekly speech therapy and physiotherapy sessions as well as a wheelchair, walking frame and specially adapted car.

Organisers say that anyone can join in and a five euro inscription can be made via [www.dorsalship.com](http://www.dorsalship.com). Additional donations can also be made via the website. Participants have until 19 June to walk or run five, 10 or 30 kilometres. On 20 June a limited number of walkers will set out from each of the three villages and a raffle will be held with prizes donated by 135 businesses that are collaborating with the charitable activity.

# Town hall warns of environmental dangers linked to incorrect disposal of cigarette butts

## R. DE LA VICTORIA

SUR. Rincón de la Victoria town hall launched last week a campaign to raise awareness of the dangers of throwing cigarette butts onto the street, promenade and beach. According to Environment councillor Sergio Díaz, there has been a large increase in the number of cigarette butts in the town in recent weeks. He went on to say that they take up to 25 years to biodegrade. The town hall is planning to launch an environmental awareness campaign ahead of summer.

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## New boutique hotel opens in Estepona's historic town centre

### ESTEPONA

El Pilar Andalucía is a four-star property managed by the Silken chain, which invested more than ten million euros in the project

#### JOSÉ MARÍA MARTÍN

ESTEPONA. The first four-star hotel in the heart of Estepona old town is now open. Located in the iconic Plaza de las Flores, the El Pilar Andalucía Hotel Boutique, managed by the Silken chain, was opened on Tuesday at a ribbon-cutting ceremony attended by the town mayor, José María García Urbano.

The ten-million-euro establishment has 36 rooms of different styles inspired by nature. Covering nearly 3,000 square metres, the hotel has four restaurants, a spa and two function rooms. Its architecture is traditionally Andalusian, with white walls, curved Arabic roof tiles and decorative balconies and grilles. Two domed



The ribbon is cut at the official opening ceremony. SUR

turrets on the rooftop terrace give it a palatial appearance.

García Urbano thanked the developers of the project for supporting the town, saying it represents a "turning point" in the local hotel scene and adheres to Estepona's historical aspiration to create hotels with such features in the town centre.

The mayor also alluded to the

council's Estepona, Garden of the Costa del Sol project, which has been responsible for revitalising the town centre.

In addition to the more than 130 remodelled streets, it has encouraged important cooperation that has so far led to the development of 14 hotel projects, which are currently in differing phases of completion.

## The Junta is to invest two million euros in reopening the CIOMijas hotel and college

### IVÁN GELIBTER

MIJAS. Slowly, but surely. That has been the strategy that the regional government's Employment ministry has pursued in trying to find a new use for the CIOMijas building, which has been closed for the past five years, and which has been steadily deteriorating with the passage of time and, recently, because of damage caused by Storm Filomena.

In its time, the CIOMijas was an international benchmark as



The building needs repair. SUR

a training centre for tourism, catering and leisure services, and the Junta has now taken a giant step and decided that it will pay for it to be fully renovated and reopened, including the four-star hotel and student residence, at a cost of two million euros.

It appears that several hotel groups have expressed an interest in running the building, and the Junta has asked the provincial authority to carry out a viability study for the proposed works. It is hoped that these can begin within the next few months and the project can be completed next year.

Before making the decision, the Junta invited professionals from the relevant industries to visit the building and make suggestions regarding its future.



The river tunnel. SUR

## Another milestone reached in the construction of Malaga's long-awaited metro

### MALAGA

FRANCISCO JIMÉNEZ. Another milestone has been reached in the Malaga metro project which began 15 years ago and which is expected to be completed before the end of next year, when trains will be able to travel beyond the main railway station as far as the Alameda Principal, in the city centre.

The tunnel beneath the Guadalmedina has now been completed, linking the western side of the river with the area on the eastern side.

This was one of the few remaining parts of the project to involve excavation works, and now the lines can be laid, the electrical system installed and the Guadalmedina (beside El Corte Inglés department store) and Atarazanas (near the Casa del Guardia bar) stations can be finished.

The plans for a metro system in Malaga were first proposed in the 1990s as a way of easing the major traffic congestion in the city centre. The first stretch opened in 2014.

## Malaga already thinking about its Christmas lights and has increased this year's budget

### MALAGA

F. JIMÉNEZ. Malaga city council has announced it will increase its expenditure on Christmas lights by 200,000 euros this year now the coronavirus situation is improving.

Last Christmas there were no musical shows or official switch-on to avoid crowds gathering, but a hundred streets of the city were decorated and that area will be expanded further this year: "There will be an increase compared to last year because there are new spaces to be lit such as the Alameda and Avenida de Andalucía. It is a matter of not focusing only on the centre," said mayor Francisco de la Torre.

## Travel giant TUI plans first pandemic cruise stopover on the Costa del Sol

### MALAGA

P. MARTÍNEZ. The first cruise ship since the start of the coronavirus crisis will arrive in Malaga on 15 June, the Port Authority has announced.

TUI, the largest leisure, travel and tourism company in the world, has requested to operate this first voyage which will depart from Gran Canaria before ending in Palma de Mallorca, via a stopover in Malaga.

"The TUI shipping company has developed a 'bubble' cruise experience, in which it transports its passengers in its own planes, and only allows excursions organised by the company itself," the Port Authority points out.

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## COMMUNITY SPIRIT



Royal British Legion members with the boxes at the Nerja Solidaria food bank last week. **SUR**

## Royal British Legion Nerja marks 100 years with charity donation

### NERJA

A shoe box for each year of the organisation's existence was filled with toiletries and donated to Nerja food bank

### JENNIE RHODES

**NERJA.** Following the low-key events to mark 100 years of the Royal British Legion in London on 15 May and around the world, the Nerja branch of the organisation marked the anni-

versary by donating 100 boxes of toiletries to a local food bank last week.

RBL member, Dorothy Allen, who also volunteers for the food bank, said "I found that there was a shortfall of toiletries for adults, children and babies. I asked my friends and some businesses to help make up shoe boxes with an assortment of toiletries."

Dorothy and her team of volunteers filled 100 boxes; one for each year of the RBL and one for each family in need in Nerja. On Thursday 13 May the

team took the boxes to the Nerja Solidaria food bank.

Half of the boxes were handed out on that day and Dorothy and fellow RBL member, Helen Elkins, returned on Tuesday to distribute the rest.

Additionally, those donating the boxes were invited to take part in a raffle in aid of this year's poppy appeal. The 100 euros raised will go to support other charities in Nerja.

After the raffle, Dorothy Allen thanked all those who donated boxes of toiletries and bought raffle tickets.

## Walking group climbs La Maroma for Lux Mundi



The group and their guide at the top of La Maroma on Wednesday. **SUR**

### VÉLEZ-MÁLAGA

**J. R.** A group of friends raised money for Lux Mundi Torre del Mar when they climbed La Maroma, Malaga province's highest mountain, on Wednesday.

The group, who are in their late 60s and 70s and all originally from the UK, started walking together in November 2020 when Vélez-Málaga was closed due to a high Covid rate. When the local mobility restrictions were lifted, the five friends started to venture further and the idea to climb La Maroma was first mooted.

As volunteers and users of the Lux Mundi centre in Torre del Mar, the group knew that the organisation has been struggling financially for some time, so they decided to do the walk to raise money through sponsorship.

They said they were "tired yet exhilarated" on completing the challenge. At the time of going to press they didn't know how much money they had raised.

## A 35-kilometre swim for charitable causes

### ESTEPONA

Carlos Vinuesa hopes to swim from La Línea to Estepona to raise money for several local associations

### JOSÉ MARÍA MARTÍN

A 35-kilometre uninterrupted swim between La Línea and Estepona. This is the challenge swimming instructor Carlos Vinuesa has set himself in a bid to help several associations in the towns he will pass by.

Vinuesa has decided to swim from the town where he was born and the town he grew up in after taking to open water swimming during lockdown while all of the pools were shut. He presented the idea to the Fundación 24 Horas de Estepona which is now in charge of coordinating the logistics and how the money raised will be divided between a number of charitable organisations and associations in La Línea, San Roque, Manilva, Casares and Estepona.

The swim is provisionally scheduled for 29 May, al-



Vinuesa, before getting in the sea in Torrox. **C. N. TORROX**

though it could be delayed by a week depending on weather conditions. Vinuesa believes it will take between twelve and fifteen hours in the water and he has been training for the big day in Torrox with former Olympian Melquiades Álvarez. "I feel like a pro," he says.

On the day he will be accompanied by two boats and two other kayakers, which will provide assistance and keep him company during difficult moments, especially during times of strong currents.



Specsavers hopes to raise 5,000 euros by the end of the year. **SUR**

## Virtual dog walk raises important funds for guide dog charity

### COSTA DEL SOL

**SUR.** Hundreds of people have taken part in a virtual dog walk organised by Specsavers Ópticas which has helped raise 1,325 euros to support the work of the ONCE Foundation for Guide Dogs (FOPG).

The charity breeds and trains guide dogs so they can be placed free of charge with people who have severe visual impairment.

Nerea Galdos-Little from Specsavers Ópticas Marbella thanked everyone who took part and said: "This is a great step towards raising the 5,000 euros we have pledged to donate at the end of the year. We will continue to collect money in the stores for the rest of the year and would appreciate any donations in the collection tins in our stores on the Costa del Sol."



Rapid lateral flow tests are needed upon arrival at the airport. **D.B.**

## New Covid controls introduced for visitors due to fears over Indian variant

### GIBRALTAR

**DEBBIE BARTLETT.** As visitors from the UK flew in to Gibraltar on Monday, when the British government's 'green light travel' scheme came into force, there was a last-minute change to the entry requirements and people were asked to take a rapid lateral flow test, at no charge, upon arrival at the airport.

The Gibraltar government explained that the move had been decided in light of comments by

UK prime minister Boris Johnson expressing concerns about the Indian variant of the virus and after discussions with Gibraltar Health Authority Consultant Microbiologist Dr Nick Cortes. The decision was taken before the first flight arrived from the UK.

Gibraltar is currently Covid-free for the first time since 21 July last year, and there have been no cases among the local population since 6 April, although a few cases were detected in visitors. The authorities are keen to keep it that way.

## Local nurses presented with Florence Nightingale medals

### GIBRALTAR

**D. B.** Nurses in Gibraltar have been presented with their own Florence Nightingale medal, the highest international distinction that can be awarded to a nurse.

It recognises exceptional courage and devotion to caring, or exemplary services and a pioneering spirit in healthcare delivery, and brings with it a sense of belonging, achievement and history. In crisis situations it is nurses who are on the front-line, often providing care in conditions not unlike those that existed in Florence Nightingale's day. In practice, nurses are challenged on a day to day basis as they respond to the needs of people who may be sick or well.

The Gibraltar medals have been specially designed, showing the face of the leading reformer and pioneer of modern nursing and the castle and key insignia of Gibraltar.

### IN BRIEF



Popular cruise destination. **SUR**

### TOURISM

## Cruise ships welcome in Gibraltar again

**D.B.** Gibraltar's tourism minister Vijay Daryanani announced this week that cruise ships are now welcome to visit the Rock again, and that passengers and crew who have either a valid PCR or lateral flow test taken up to 72 hours before arrival will be able to disembark and visit Gibraltar. He has written to all the cruise companies that used to come before the pandemic, to let them know that Gibraltar is "open for business" again.

### SECURITY

## Terrorism threat remains 'moderate'

**D.B.** The governor and chief minister of Gibraltar co-chaired a meeting of the Contingency Council this week and, after analysing data from the police and British forces, the Council's assessment was that there was no change in the threat level with a terrorist attack remaining possible but not likely. Nonetheless, the situation is constantly monitored and people are asked to report any concerns to the Royal Gibraltar Police.

### ENVIRONMENT

## Solar panel protest in Campo area on Sunday

**D.B.** Residents of the Campo de Gibraltar area of Spain are asking for support in their protests against plans to cover vast swathes of the local countryside in photovoltaic parks, because of the lack of regulation, the land speculation and effects on agriculture and the environment. They will be holding a demonstration in Castellar this Sunday, 30 May, at midday, under the theme 'Renewable energy yes, but not like this!' It will begin at the fairground.

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A soldier and Red Cross volunteer help a man who has just arrived. EFE



People have been gathered up by the security services in Ceuta. F. TORRES

## Hospital stay of 'rebel' leader seen as trigger of Moroccan action

When the Moroccan authorities allowed a mass exodus into Spain this week, many observers were not surprised. The North African neighbour, traditionally portrayed as a good ally, had recently expressed its unhappiness with Spain for, in its eyes, harbouring a wanted terrorist that threatened its national security. Brahim Gali, the leader of the Polisario Front, the independence movement of disputed Western Sahara, arrived at a Rioja hospital in April from Algeria for treatment for Covid-19 under a false name. The secret operation was revealed in days. Morocco protested about the stay to Spain and the Minister of Foreign Affairs cited "humanitarian reasons" for allowing it.

# Spain faces biggest migrant and diplomatic crisis of the last 40 years

After the mass entry of 8,000 people into Ceuta from Morocco this week, the Spanish government warns against 'blackmail'

### SUR

MALAGA. The government of Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez is facing the greatest diplomatic and migrant crisis since Spain's transition to democracy in the late 1970s and 80s. It follows this

week's mass illegal entry of over 8,000 people from Morocco and sub-Saharan countries into the Spanish city of Ceuta on the North African coast.

Eyewitnesses said that Moroccan border guards stood back from Sunday to Tuesday and allowed the illegal crossings, mostly by people wading or swimming through the sea around the fences into Spanish territory. Bus loads of people had been arriving to cross after news spread that the authorities in Morocco had re-

laxed the normally strict controls. Reports showed many families and young children, including babies, making the journey and arriving exhausted on the Spanish side. The Spanish guards were overwhelmed and the army was called in to control the situation.

On Tuesday, the Prime Minister travelled urgently to Ceuta and, also, to Melilla, the other Spanish North African city which Morocco claims as its own. A crisis meeting of the Cabinet was called and Spain's Minister of For-

eign Affairs, Arancha González Laya, summoned the Moroccan ambassador.

González Laya said she told the ambassador of "the unhappiness and rejection" of the government over the mass entry of migrants.

The ambassador had earlier warned the Sánchez government, "There are acts that have consequences and must be assumed," referring to the admission to a Spanish hospital of the leader of the Polisario Front, the independence movement of Western Sa-

hara, a former Spanish territory now controversially controlled by Morocco.

By late Tuesday, Moroccan border guards were back on duty again, stopping the flow, and both sides were collaborating at the frontier.

The Spanish Interior Minister promised to send back who he could at once. By the last part of this week, the majority of people had been found and returned, with Morocco's permission. However thousands of children, the vulnerable and pregnant women were entitled to stay; neither they, nor the Spanish authorities, were sure quite what would happen next.

On Thursday Spain's defence minister warned, "We won't accept the slightest blackmail or questioning of our national territory."

## 'I hope when they get their residency papers, they won't forget me'

### F. TORRES / J. CANO

CEUTA. Brahim was walking between two friends. He was one of the few with a new face mask, which he lowered to speak and to smoke. On his shoulders was a bag full of personal effects: trainers, flippers, clothes... his face showing the signs of a bittersweet triumph. He had to return, but his wife and three-year-old daughter could stay in Spain. At least for the moment. "I hope that when they get their residency papers, they won't forget me," he said, speaking in Darija, a Moroccan dialect of Arabic.

Brahim (not his real name) was speaking through a Spanish soldier who was acting as interpreter. He told us that they got up the courage to cross over when they heard that the Moroccan border patrols had decided to turn a blind eye. They made it by swimming, skirting the sea barriers at Tarajal beach, the main border point into Ceuta from Morocco.

"They said that there were people here waiting to take care of us and we decided to go for it, but it's not how they told us it was going to be. My wife and daughter have stayed with the Red Cross, that's fine. But I've got to go back, there's



Brahim, between his two friends, could claim half a victory this week. F.T.

nothing that can be done."

At seven in the evening, as he walked back to the border with Morocco, a young group of his fellow citizens were holding out on some rocks a few metres off the beach. It was the last stage of a

swim that started on Moroccan soil. "Jump, go for it...this is pointless...you have to go back," a Spanish soldier explained to them.

The sea border at Tarajal beach consists of two rocky spits jutting out into the water. Both are capped

with barbed wire. The longer one belongs to Morocco and the second one, 200 metres on, belongs to Spain. In the early part of this week, that side was surrounded by Spanish troops, including the Legion, and tanks. And emergency workers, including the Red Cross - all dealing with cases of hypothermia, shock and, in some instances, people who could barely swim carrying babies.

In the streets of Ceuta small groups of people walked around aimlessly - mostly really young, carrying possessions. Some wore Madrid or Barça shirts, or even the Spanish national team colours.

In response most shops in Ceuta closed on Monday and Tuesday and many parents did not send their children to school.

Volunteers from the Red Cross and other charities worked with the security services to find and tend to the recent arrivals in their midst.



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# El Corte Inglés Mijas to become a discount brand outlet

The company will keep the supermarket and services on the ground floor, but part of the building will be rented out by the firm's real estate branch

JUAN SOTO

MIJAS. El Corte Inglés in Mijas is to be turned into a discount outlet centre similar to those the retail giant already has in the Malaga Nostrum retail park and Fuengirola.

According to information obtained by SUR, the company plans to refurbish the ground floor and keep open the basement floor where the Hipercor supermarket is currently located.

It will also expand the supermarket with a wider range of household appliances and IT equipment, similar to the outlet located in Bahía Malaga.

The company will, according to sources, continue to use the second basement level, which is the current location of the homeware and decoration departments, but as further space for



The Costa Mijas centre opened in Las Lagunas in March 2006. sur

outlet items.

The upper floors, which currently house the fashion departments, will all close.

After these changes, the company will occupy almost 70% of the building. The rest will pass into the hands of El Corte Inglés Real Estate, a new branch of the group that specialises in the de-

velopment, construction and management of real estate assets.

El Corte Inglés is in the middle of a restructuring process that entails the redundancy of up to 3,292 people on a national level (4% of the workforce). According to trade unions, around 260 of the current 460 workers in Mijas will keep their jobs.

## Inditex to close five Zara and Pull&Bear stores on the Costa this summer

COSTA DEL SOL

A. NOGUÉS. Spain's fashion retailing giant Inditex is to close a score of stores in Andalucía during the summer months as it undergoes a massive restructuring of its business.

The local secretary of the CCOO trade union in Malaga, Isabel Ramos, has confirmed to SUR that the planned clo-

tures will affect five stores in the province.

The first is the Rincón de la Victoria store, which stopped operating on 11 May. Marbella's iconic Zara on Avenida Ricardo Soriano in Marbella, one of the group's oldest stores, will also close, along with Zara Home on the same street, affecting 29 and three employees respectively.

In Torremolinos, the Inditex group will shut two stores: Pull&Bear in the central Calle San Miguel (seven employees) and Zara Niños (Kiddy's Class) at the El Pinillo shopping centre, where six jobs will be lost, according to the CCOO union.

## Disney says goodbye and 'thank you for being part of the magic'

MALAGA

JUAN SOTO. Disney, the American entertainment giant, will shut up shop in Malaga's Larios Centre on 16 June after more than two decades in the city.

The closure of Disney's only remaining store in Malaga province is part of the company's policy of reducing physical out-

lets worldwide.

The company has initiated this policy following a drop in sales since the start of the Covid pandemic and will focus its efforts on the internet and retail premises located in theme parks. Today, Disney Store has about 300 outlets around the world, although in its prime years it had as many as 800.

SUR has learned of closure plans that would affect 13 stores. The first will be in Malaga, and the move has already been confirmed to staff and customers with a simple sign where they say, "Thank you for being part of our magic".

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## In with the old



It's taken almost eight months, but it looks like Catalonia has its old government back. The potential reinstatement of a pro-independence coalition between the Republican Left of Catalonia (ERC) and Together for Catalonia (JxCat), announced this week by acting premier and ERC leader Pere Aragonès, would be an exact repeat of the previous administration, which dissolved last September when its then-leader, Quim Torra, was barred from office. Political upheaval, an early election in the midst of a Covid resurgence, three months of discussions - and everything's the same.

Well, not quite. Before the Catalan election on February 14th, the region's pro-independence candidates promised to pursue secession (again) if they collectively won more than 50% of the vote. JxCat's leader, Laura Borrás, now potentially a deputy president in an Aragonès-led coalition, even vowed

to "activate" the unilateral declaration of independence that followed the illegal referendum of 2017 - without, of course, explaining how doing so would further the separatists' cause in any meaningful way.

For the first time, separatist parties jointly crossed the halfway line on February 14th, by 2% on a turnout of 51%. This wafer-thin victory prompted Catalonia's Socialist leader, Salvador Illa, to describe the re-turning coalition as an "agonising extension of failure". Its reinstatement will also refresh unionists' concerns about the potential damage to Spain - both political and economic - of Catalan secession.

Just before the last Catalan election, a report by an EU think tank forecast the financial and logistical hurdles Catalonia would face in becoming independent. It predicted multi-billion-euro start-up costs, soaring debt, decreases (at least initially) in exports and tourism and formidable diffi-

culties in rejoining the EU as a self-governing republic.

As Spain continues to emerge from the pandemic, the last point has even greater relevance. A non EU-affiliated Catalonia would be denied access to the Covid recovery funds which Pedro Sánchez claims will reshape the country in a way not seen since its accession to the EU (unlikely, but still...). Notice how separatists - in Scotland as well as in Catalonia - always fail to explain how they'd re-enter the EU as independent nations, perhaps simply because it presents too formidable a problem.

Such issues, though, remain hypothetical, at least for Catalan separatists. As was the case for his unsuccessful predecessor, Aragonès will first have to resolve disagreements within the coalition itself. If you want an idea of how long that might take, just look at the last three months: the ERC and JxCat required over a hundred days of talks to renew an old arrangement, let alone make any new advances for their joint cause.

The most that's going to happen during this Catalan government's term is discussions, more endless discussions - perhaps sometimes with Pedro Sánchez's Socialists in Madrid, but mainly with itself. Spain's unionists can relax for the time being.

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LETTERS  
TO THE EDITOR

## Idiots on the road

Tuesday 11 May Spain's directorate-general for traffic (DGT) introduced the new speed limits in urban areas.

I will be honest with you; I found it very challenging to keep to the 30km an hour speed limit or under. It just felt so slow.

I made two trips that day, and what I noticed on both trips concerned me.

As we all know there are a few blatant and stupid idiots on the road, but when you get someone overtaking five or six cars keeping to the new speed limit on a blind bend, and luckily missing the oncoming car, it makes you wonder how soon it will be before some serious accidents are going to happen and kill more people than the law is supposed to protect.

These impatient people who drive bumper to bumper, intimidating the car in front, always trying to overtake one car after another aren't going to change their bad driving habits just because the laws have changed.

Their reckless and dangerous driving will cause accidents and many deaths, and in my book that is tantamount to premeditated murder.

Yes there will be fines for speeding, lots of them to go into the coffers.

The intention of the DGT to save lives is very admirable.

But driving too slow, I believe is as dangerous as driving too fast.

I for one will keep hitting my brakes and driving in lower gears to conform to these new laws, as frustrating as they are. **TONY RUIZ**

## Welcome fiction

Interesting to see Mr Edgerton moving into fiction (Telling Tales, SUR in English 2

April and 7 May). As always, with warmth and a twinkle; very enjoyable. I hope we shall see more?

**MARGARET DEAN**

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## The free mosquito ears

**T**hey get everywhere, those pesky little blighters, droning on in your ear when all you want is a bit of peace and quiet, but that's politicians for you.

Also a profound nuisance in this regard are mosquitos. It's the time of year when they most enjoy toying with our sleep patterns, looping the loop and indulging in ostentatious fly-pasts before dive-bombing towards our lug holes just as we're on the cusp of the sweetest of slumbers in the arms of Morpheus. The 'Zzzzz' sound which should rightfully be ours at this point is unforgivably usurped and abused by the heartless blood-suckers and fired right back at us as if to mock our very existence. Enough.

Normally, one of those PITS (Pluggy Inny Thingies) in the bedroom does the trick, but not this season. Mosquitos seem to have acquired super powers dur-

ing lockdown, multiplying exponentially in number and stepping out from confinement with an outrageous sense of arrogance and invincibility. A bit like humans, then.

In the manner of those people who you sometimes see wearing an extra mask over the first one, I've resorted to doubling down in an attempt to get some blessed rest. There's now a Pluggy Inny Thingy in my ironically named - at least as far as mosquitos are concerned - living room as well. Gotcha! In they fly, full of pomp and vigour, seeking the blood of an Englishman and Bam! the first PIT hammers them to within an inch of their sorry little lives. By the time they stagger through to the bedroom, they're there for the taking and the second PIT finishes them off. On one occasion, a particularly hardy little soul made it to within buzzing range of my ear drum but only managed a

bewildered 'z..' before giving up the ghost. Happy days.

Last night it was me who did the staggering to the bedroom after a couple of pints, smug in the knowledge that I'd be sleeping through until morning, ready to awake profoundly rested and ready to take on the world. My head hit the pillow and I edged serenely towards The Land Of Nod.

"Zzzzzzzzzz."

"Eh?"

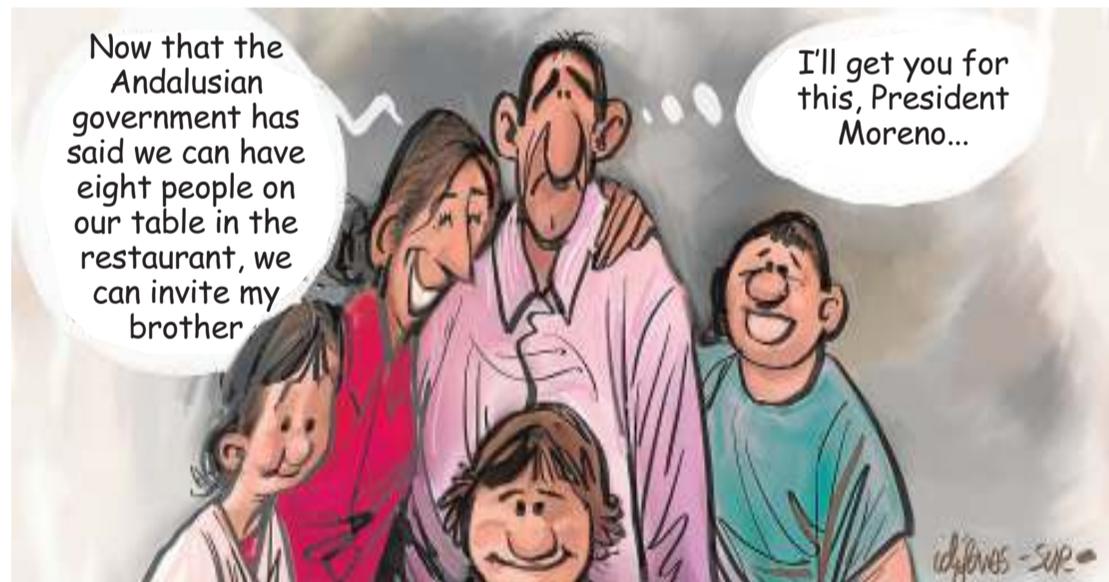
"Zzzzzzzzzz."

No, this couldn't be true. I leapt to my feet to investigate and saw, to my horror, that I'd left the bathroom window open. The crafty little thing had bypassed my double whammy technique with nonchalant ease.

Not to worry though, another strategically placed Pluggy Inny Thingy and a firmly closed window tonight will put paid to my Nemesis once and for all.

There are no flies on me.

## IDÍGORAS



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THE BOTTOM LINE  
TXEMA MARTÍN

## Raise a glass to the sun

**T**rade fairs were never the best place for self-criticism and so each year the Fitur tourism fair in Madrid generates a splendid explosion of good spirits: "a fix", as one mayor from Malaga province described it. The event has returned in 2021 after one empty, terrifying year for an industry that is currently riding on the hope that things will go back as they were before.

There's no doubt that this is not the time to debate whether things before

really were so good or bad, or whether they can be improved with the experience we have today, especially not there, at a fair devoted to such a big industry that provides work for so many, and that now just needs enthusiasm and the hope of recovery.

Andalucía announced that we could expect nine million tourists this summer and there would be 20 million all year. In 2019, 30 million tourists came to this region. The stand at Fitur has been

surrounded by an antiseptic shield to protect it from pandemics, humanitarian crises or anything connected with migration or bad vibes.

Torrox went to the fair this year with the slogan 'Un brindis al sol' (A toast to the sun); it's so good that you only have to see it to want to travel to that beautiful town where we'll be served a glass of wine and we can forget our worries.

There's a great deal of creativity going on at Fitur. In recent years, the fair has shaken off the image of being a frivolous macro-event that attracts thousands of councillors who go there to unveil projects, and members of the general public searching for freebies, items offered by brands and institutions hoping in vain that they might be picked up by future visitors or customers.

Now the event has little in common

with that puerile experience. The fair has gained, thanks to advanced technology and investment, a high grade of sophistication. Fitur is a great business centre located inside a theme park where there is no room for sorrow.

A stroll around the fair is like diving into a world of emotions and orbiting over it, living life as if it were a dissolute experience or imagining yourself in a thousand different places, but always on holiday, with the self-assurance of a rich man who lives all year round in different countries in search of fine weather, treating himself to the luxury of spending 365 days a year in linen shirt sleeves.

I wonder if you can do that in Torrox, which has the best climate in Europe. It would be good to go there to raise a glass and feel that nothing else mattered at all.

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# Exploring the colour and light of Joaquín Sorolla's masterpieces

Jacqueline Cockburn, who will be giving the next Benahavis Art Society lecture, is an art historian and divides her time between London and the village of Gaucín

JENNIE RHODES

**BENAHAVIS.** Art historian Jacqueline Cockburn is an expert on Spanish art and combines her training with her skills as a linguist to reveal the secrets of some of Spain's greatest painters. One of these, Joaquín Sorolla, will be the subject of the next Benahavis Art Society lecture.

Jacqueline, who divides her time between London and Gaucín, has a Master's and a PHD in Art History and the subject of her PHD thesis was Federico García Lorca; one of Spain's most well-known writers and poets. Talking of her two areas of study, Jacqueline says that the two weave together. "It's hard to study Spanish art without speaking Spanish."

Having come to Spain ever since she was a teenager, Jacqueline has a lifelong passion for the country and indeed its art. She says that 50 per cent of the lectures she gives are about Spanish art while the rest focus on art from other European countries.

Along with her husband Ian, she runs Art and Culture Travel Anda-



Jacqueline Cockburn will give her lecture on Sorolla on 25 May. **SUR**

lucía, a UK-based company that brings lovers of art and culture to the region. Jacqueline also gives lectures and runs courses for the Victoria and Albert (V&A) museum and has worked for Christie's Education (a branch of the famous Christie's auction house), as well as the Royal Academy of Art. She also manages her own lecturing company, Art at Home, through which she gives online talks.

"What I love doing is being able to put art across in a really accessible way," Jacqueline explains.

She says that her work has increased since the beginning of the pandemic. "People have said that actually they are able to see images much more clearly through

a screen on their computer than from the back of a large hall," the lecturer explains.

When she is in Gaucín, Jacqueline is very involved with the local arts community; she is a member of the local writing club which produces a book every year and she supports the annual art trail.

## Joaquín Sorolla

Sorolla was born in Valencia in 1863 and it was there that he met his wife Clotilde who was also his lifelong muse. The couple settled in Madrid in 1890, where Sorolla built his own house and studio - now El Museo Sorolla, left to the nation upon his death.

The artist spent two periods in

America and was commissioned by the Hispanic Society in New York to paint 14 murals depicting the different regions and traditions of Spain to people who did not know the country.

In 2006 and 2007 all of the canvases were restored prior to an exhibition tour of Spain. Never seen before publicly in Spain, the masterpieces created a sensation, attracting over two million visitors and the show became the most visited exhibition in Spain's history.

Jacqueline says that it's really only been in the last 10 years or so that art lovers have discovered Sorolla's work and this has been since a number of large European galleries, including in Madrid, Malaga and London's National Gallery have held exhibitions of his work.

Her own personal discovery of Sorolla happened around 20 years ago when she had just finished her own studies. "I was contacted by Exeter University as they had a PHD student who was studying Sorolla's small paintings. They needed someone who could give a lecture in Spanish," she explains. She went on to research the painter and has given a number of lectures on him in the UK.

Next Tuesday's lecture will follow the artist's career and in particular will focus on the works that are in Madrid galleries. Jacqueline will explore the artist's use of light and colour. "Sorolla was from Valencia, so there is a lot of colour, like Valencian oranges and the light."

The lecture will be given via Zoom on 25 May at 7pm. Visitors are welcome to join.

**Further information:** Grace McNabola: [graciesvilla@gmail.com](mailto:graciesvilla@gmail.com) [www.theartsocietybenahavis.com](http://www.theartsocietybenahavis.com)

PET CARE  
ERNY HARRISON

## How to train a cat



**N**o! Impossible! Cats cannot be trained, I hear you say. But why not? I knew a cat that was brought up by a dog ever since it was a week-old abandoned kitten. Lucky, as she was called, didn't know better and assumed she was a dog. This was not done on purpose by the owners. It just so happened that their dog took to the poor blind thing and treated it as its own.

Lucky copied everything Captain did and therefore wiggled her tail when she was happy, came when called and even sat when you asked her politely.

Cats can be trained and I am sure that you have trained your cat to some extent without even being aware of it.

Have you ever said "no" to your cat when it scratched the furniture? That is the beginning of training.

Litter training is what we all do. This is how it works. When you have kittens, the mother has already been shown where the litter is and how it works. You follow from there. Have a large enough tray filled with cat litter in the room you have allocated for it and show it to the kittens. When they have eaten put them on it. Soon they will go to it automatically. After a couple of days, move the tray to another place and again show the kittens. Keep repeating this action until the litter tray is close to the door or cat flap. Then put it outside and before you know the kittens are doing everything outside and you do not have a cat litter tray in the house any more.

Scratching furniture or carpets is something you do not have to put up with on condition that you have a scratch pole, old piece of carpet or something else suitable to sharpen claws on.

When they scratch your favourite armchair firmly say "No", pick them up and show them where they are allowed to scratch. They soon learn.

Our cat and Labrador both understand very well the meaning of the word "Out".

I do not advocate that you teach your cats tricks, but I do emphasise that even cats must follow a few basic rules.

In our house that means no cats on the dining table or on worktops. And they know it.

## SCHOOL TALK

# Fashion graduates step out in style

MONDA

Marbella Design Academy's 2021 Fashion graduates were able to show off their final collections at a live catwalk event earlier this month.

The show was attended by a select audience of local industry leaders and media, and a few close family and friends.

The Design Academy's large terrace and the fine weather meant that the models were able to show off the students' creations in the open air.

"It was a considerable achievement and a fitting culmination to three years of study, facing down the challenges of the pandemic," said a spokesperson for the school, which is located in Monda. "The Acad-



Third Year Fashion students at Marbella Design Academy. **SUR**

emy was determined to maintain tuition schedules and access to workshop facilities and resources as far as possible, so

that students could produce and show a physical final collection.

"We are incredibly proud of all of our Fashion students."

## Sotogrande school launches sports scholarship programme

SOTOGRADE

Sotogrande International School has launched a scholarship programme for basketball and swimming athletes. Successful candidates will join the school's Elite Sports Programme designed to help them balance their high academic and sporting demands.

"Our main objective is to create opportunities for dedicated, ambitious and committed young players to follow their passion, whilst achieving academic excellence," said Jak Kearney, head of the school.

Applications are now open for the assistance which includes a 25 per cent discount on fees, tuition and boarding.

**SOUTH BAY | AEDAS HOMES**



South Bay Estepona. AEDAS Homes

**QUALITY AND BEST LOCATION.** In its South Bay development, AEDAS Homes has taken great care to ensure its residents enjoy all the charms Estepona has to offer

# South Bay, a privileged spot in Estepona

## ESTEPONA

**SUR.** A South Bay is a development located in a privileged spot, 40 minutes from Malaga International Airport and surrounded by numerous services, including greenfield sites like the acclaimed "Parque de Los Niños". Situated in the town of Estepona, this project comprises 3 phases of 2-, 3- and 4-bedroom apartments, all with spacious rooms and superb interior layouts, making this new-build development a perfect place to begin a new stage in your life.

In its South Bay development, AEDAS Homes has taken great care to ensure its residents enjoy all the charms Estepona has to offer. With a Mediterranean look that fully blends in with the landscape and large terraces overlooking the sea, these homes are perfect to take advantage of the sun all day long. Estepona's coastline occupies a 20-kilometre stretch between Puerto Banús and Sotogrande, two of the most important marinas on the Mediterranean.

### South Bay I and II, ready to move in

These phases are now entirely finished and are available for you to



take immediate possession of the keys. So, if you are interested in buying a new property in Estepona, you could be moving into your new home before the summer is here without having to wait for building work to finish. There are still 2- and 3-bedroom units available.

### South Bay III, a short distance from the sea

This phase is made up of 2-, 3- and 4-bedroom apartments, all with spacious, tiered terraces and community facilities that include separate pools for adults



**With a Mediterranean look that fully blends in with the landscape and large terraces overlooking the sea, these homes are perfect to take advantage of the sun all day long**

and children, landscaped gardens and a multipurpose community hall. It also comes with a gymnasium and sauna/spa, and the nearby Las Mesas Sports Centre has all the necessary facilities to help you keep active and healthy.

### Book an online tour of South Bay

We bring our homes to your screen. You can now connect live with South Bay directly from your mobile or computer. A professional real estate adviser will show you the location, the amenities and the units. And you will be able to ask any questions you may have without moving from your sofa!

DENISE BUSH



GARDENING

# Kalanchoe uniflora

Kalanchoe uniflora is an epiphytic succulent with trailing (or climbing) stems. Its common names include coral bells, coral berry and trailing Kalanchoe and sometimes it is listed in catalogues under its synonyms Kalanchoe ambrensis or Bryophyllum ambrense.

Native to Madagascar, Kalan-

choe uniflora is a tropical plant and therefore not tolerant of cold weather. It has bright-green, scalloped leaves 3.5cm long by 1.5cm wide and in early spring will produce dangling racemes of bright-red or orange-pink flowers.

Kalanchoe is a genus of about 125 species and is a

member of the Crassulaceae family. Many in the genus will only flower in the winter and early spring after a period of short days where the plant has been in dim light for at least thirteen hours a day. This is why over Christmas, species of Kalanchoe in flower often appear on supermarkets shelves, sometimes forming part of a decorative Christmas floral arrangement.

During the summer, Kalanchoe uniflora will need a spot where it will receive partial sun to light shade; strong sunlight may scorch the leaves or they may turn red which in most succulents is a sign the plant is in distress. It is drought tolerant but will benefit from moderate watering in hot weather. Allow the soil to dry out between waterings and use a clay pot if possible to help excess water evaporate. Kalanchoe uniflora can be fed with a liquid fertiliser once every two weeks during the growing period.

Repot every couple of years but with care as the stems are very brittle. Propagation can be carried out by layering (roots form at the leaf nodes when in contact with soil) or by stem cuttings which will root easily in water.

The trailing habit makes Kalanchoe uniflora ideal for hanging baskets and around the edge of a large container. It is also suitable for xeriscaping and is happy in coastal locations.

All parts of the plant are poisonous, especially the flowers.



Kalanchoe uniflora and close up of blooms. PINTEREST / FLICKR

READERS' PHOTOS



CAROLINE SELLERS

## The silky oak

Here is a type of tree that you don't see very often but which was spotted by reader Caroline Sellers in her local park. It's *Grevillea robusta* or silky oak and is a member of the Proteaceae family with an ancestry that goes back to before the dinosaurs.



PATRICIA REYNOLDS

## Bottlebrush tree

Pat Reynolds sent in this photo of her twelve-year-old bottlebrush (*Callistemon*) tree in her garden in Elviria.

PHOTOS

### Calling all gardeners

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

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

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SAANDERS



## WHAT HAPPENED TODAY?

21 MAY 1904

# Spain joins six other nations to create FIFA

Due to the growing popularity of football, a governing body was required to homogenise and take the sport forward

**O**n this day in 1904, football's governing body, FIFA, was founded, marking the advent of the game as we know it. Due to the growing popularity of the sport, there was a need for a single governing body to provide unity among member associations and to plan matches at all levels. Seven nations therefore set up FIFA as founding members, including Spain.

In May 1904, representatives from the football associations of Belgium, Denmark, France, the Netherlands, Sweden, Switzerland and Spain met at the headquarters of the Union des Sociétés Françaises de Sports Athlétiques (USFSA) in Paris. The idea



The FIFA headquarters in Zurich, Switzerland. EFE

for an international footballing body was spearheaded by French journalist Robert Guérin, who envisioned closer ties between national associations, officials and players.

Despite being listed as founding members, Spain and Sweden were not present at the first meetings. Instead, the USFSA secretary André Espir represented Spain by proxy, although the

Spanish delegation that eventually took part was actually from Madrid Football Club, today known as Real Madrid. This is because the Royal Spanish Football Federation (RFEF) was not founded until 1913, and therefore Spain only became an official member of FIFA at that time. Madrid Football Club president Carlos Padrós sent a letter of apology for not being able to attend

the opening session. Interestingly, Padrós and his brother Juan, who had founded the Madrid football club in 1902, were Catalans.

On 21 May 1904, the seven national delegations established a non-profit organisation under the French acronym FIFA (Fédération Internationale de Football Association). On the same day, the German Football Association sent a telegram expressing its desire to join.

As the pre-existing national bodies of England, Scotland, Wales and Ireland wanted to remain independent, no joint UK delegation came forward. The English Football Association did, however, become the first British body to join in 1905.

Guérin became the first president of FIFA, being replaced by Englishman Daniel Burley Woolfall in 1906. His presidency lasted for 12 years until his death in 1918. During his time in office, Woolfall played a prominent role in drafting FIFA's new constitu-

## LANGUAGE FOOTNOTE

Fútbol	Football
Federación	Federation
Popularidad	Popularity
Asociación	Association
Historia	History
Aumentar	To increase
Promocionar	To promote
Balón	Ball
Pitar	To blow the whistle
Secretario/a	Secretary
Campeonato	Championship
País	Country
Independiente	Independent
Deporte	Sport
Reglas	Rules
Entrenador	Coach
Campo	Pitch
Sede	Headquarters

tion. As a result, the international Laws of the Game were established under the English model, removing any differences in how the game was played.

A total of nine men have served as FIFA president, including Britons Arthur Drewry and Stanley Rous. In recent years, Spain's Ángel María Villar served as a vice-president of FIFA from 2002 until 2017, when he was arrested on corruption charges.

**Bilingual crossword inside back page**

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# Workcation: more work, more vacation, or both?

**Change of scene.** Remote workers who have temporarily relocated their home offices from Berlin to Malaga talk about a concept that has risen from the pandemic

LAURENCE CRUMBIE

**M**arketing in the 21st century loves to blend words. Holistay, staycation and bleisure are just a few of the terms that now feature frequently on the websites or blogs of tourism companies. The latter, defined as adding some leisure activities or sightseeing onto a business excursion, appeals to our desire to kill two birds with one stone and is growing steadily in popularity. In fact, a 2017 report from the Global Business Travel Association in partnership with Hilton found that bleisure travel accounts for seven per cent of all business trips, with women more likely to undertake it than men.

The portmanteau - or blend of words - most in vogue currently though is workcation (also spelt 'workation'), which originally denoted heading off to a beautiful, isolated location in the countryside and working from there for around a week, often on an organised trip for which you would have to take time off work. Aficionados of such workcations describe them as productive escapes from the office, a change of scene that enables one to approach problems from a different angle, but critics see them as intrinsic contradictions - neither quite work nor vacation, but another

example of how the line that separates our personal lives from our professional ones is becoming ever finer, to the point of vanishing entirely.

## The pandemic

Like so many things during the pandemic though, the term workcation has morphed in meaning. A Skyscanner article from December 2020 defines it as home office relocation: workcators pick a destination and work there remotely for a set amount of time, "whether that be one month or six months", unlike digital nomads, who hop from one place to another and "generally don't have an end date to their travel plans".

An entire industry has spawned around this trend. In the absence of tourists, hotels across southern Europe have converted their facilities into remote working spaces, attracting young businesspeople in particular, and Homelike, an accommodation rental platform aimed at digital nomads, is expanding throughout Spain. It recently landed in Malaga, which is experiencing an influx of remote workers.

"I wanted to go somewhere where it's warm and sunny and the restrictions are less severe than in Germany," Antonio Her-



Antonio Hersonki, a Berlin Customer Relations Manager in Malaga. SUR



Antoine Garoux's job is based in Berlin, but he works in Malaga. SUR

sonski, a 27-year-old Customer Relations Manager from Berlin, told SUR in English. "I found flights to Malaga for 13 euros, so I said: 'Let's do it'."

Hersonski, who could not have worked remotely before the pandemic, originally planned to spend only the first week of April in Malaga, but he soon decided to stay over the summer.

"I have a healthier work-life

balance now," he explained. "In Berlin I would sometimes work until 9pm because there was nothing else to do."

When asked if he feels his stay has been more work or more vacation, he says it has been both. "Despite working fewer hours, I'm more productive because I'm looking forward to going out in the evening."

It's a similar situation for An-

toine Garoux, a 22-year-old Market Development Manager also based in Berlin. Like Hersonski, Garoux arrived in Malaga in early April and has also extended his stay. Although he values remote working and is considering spending some of the summer in Portugal as well, he does see the downsides.

"The problem is you lose the company culture," he said. "I got recruited during Covid and have spent almost no time with my colleagues."

For Hersonski, this is not such an issue. Like many of his coworkers, but not all, he is enjoying remote working and says he would no longer accept a job where he is forced to work in the office regularly.

"I think I could go to the office like three or four times a year on special occasions and to meet my colleagues [...] but I can't imagine going back to the office permanently," he said.

## Escape

Both Hersonski and Garoux expect remote working to remain a trend after the pandemic, though not necessarily workcations, which Garoux believes most bosses would view unfavourably.

"If you say you're going to the south of Spain to work, it can sound like holiday," he said. "I hope the mentality changes, so it becomes more result-driven than form-driven."

Even though they fit the Skyscanner definition of workcators, both Hersonski and Garoux would define themselves first and foremost as lockdown escapers. Hersonski feels guilty about this escapism whenever he talks to his friends "stuck in rainy, cold Berlin", but he does not have to worry about spreading the virus as he has already been vaccinated.

Garoux, who has not been immunised, also has a clear conscience as he believes that the German government has "failed" its people, especially the young, and hence feels no loyalty to remain in Germany during lockdown.

In fact, he may even head to Argentina in late 2021, but only if restrictions there improve. After all, would a workcation that entailed a reduction in freedom not defeat its main purpose?

## Estepona's orchid house celebrates the first blooms of the torch ginger plant

JOSÉ MARÍA MARTÍN

**ESTEPONA.** Two years ago staff at the Parque Botánico-Orquidario in Estepona planted a specimen of *Etilingera elatior*, a member of the ginger family native to Indonesia. Now, it is just starting to bloom for the first time.

Commonly called torch ginger, red ginger lily or porcelain rose, the flowering stem can reach up to five metres in height. According to the curator, Manuel Lucas, the large blooms are a mixture of reds and pinks and it is not a difficult plant to cultivate although it needs, "intermediate light and well-

drained and constantly humid soil".

He expects the flower to continue to open and to stay in bloom for several weeks.

The *Etilingera elatior* will be one of the main attractions at the orchid house, near the centre of the town, where there are nearly 200 species currently in flower.



The *Etilingera elatior*. SUR

Many of the species are difficult to find elsewhere in Europe as they are native to tropical climates and need specialised care.

Among the other species that are in bloom at the moment, Manuel Lucas has highlighted the spectacular *Dendrobium densiflorum*, which has beautiful yellow flowers and *Dendrobium anosmum*, which has deliciously scented flowers.

The centre has more than 3,000 different species of plants, of which more than 1,500 are orchids.

ASISA

**HEALTH INSURANCE.** Making the right decisions, from the beginning, to get the right care for you and your family is vital



**For a British person living in Spain, the idea of choosing the right policy and company can feel overwhelming**

of medical services” by asking the insured party to “co-pay”. This is a way of keeping premiums low, as you make a small contribution towards the cost of your treatment, on top of your monthly premium. Ask if there is a co-payment system, and if it has a cap. Some companies only ask their customers to contribute up to a certain amount of money; ASISA, for example, has a co-payment system which is capped at 300€; meaning you can opt to have this type of policy and you will only pay up to a further 300€ over the course of the year; regardless of the total cost of your treatment(s). You will never be required to pay more than this amount towards the pay-per-use services.

Another key point to remember is that it’s all about timing. If you are looking to contract health insurance, then it is better to do it sooner rather than later. Don’t wait until you have an illness as, no matter how great the company is, pre-existing conditions will not be covered. If you already have health insurance and you are unhappy with the conditions of the policy, then it is best to move as soon as you can. If you want to swap, do so before you are 65 and, if possible, before you turn 60. Most insurances stop accepting people at 65, some companies (ASISA for example) will accept until you are 70, with some exceptions going up to 74.

As more British people seek to move to Spain and are applying for their visa; they are having, not only, to prove an income of just over €27,000 a year, but also to find a further €7,000 for each of their family members. Add to that the cost of private health insurance, the cost of applications, and translations and it all mounts up. Making the right decisions, from the beginning, to get the right care for you and your family is vital. You can find out more about contracting the right health insurance, for you and your family, at [www.asisacaresforyou.com](http://www.asisacaresforyou.com).

**MORE INFORMATION**

[www.asisacaresforyou.com](http://www.asisacaresforyou.com)

# Decisions, decisions

**If you are looking to contract health insurance, then it is better to do it sooner rather than later**

**MARBELLA**

**SUR.** Whilst only about 13% of the British population in the UK have active private health insurance policies, the Spanish are much more comfortable with the concept of going private with almost 30% of the population contracting health insurance schemes. Why would Spanish people choose to use private hospitals when the state ones are so good? There are a few reasons they might consider: getting faster access to treatment; having the option to choose the clinic or consultant that they want, rather than the one allotted to them by the state; or the right to have a private room during a hospital stay, rather than share with a stranger.

For a British person living in Spain, the idea of choosing the right policy and company can feel overwhelming. There’s a lot of choice, and this is where it becomes vital to read the pesky, small print. If you are new to selecting a policy right for you and your family, then here are some tips to guide you. Make sure you ask these questions of any potential insurer to help you to make an informed choice about your insurance.

## CHECKLIST:

- Which language will you be communicating in? Can you understand all of the paperwork, the emails, the help centre and the website? For native English speakers, the opportunity to communicate in your native language rather than struggle in Spanish could be a key factor in your decision making process.

- Ask about the yearly premiums: do they increase as and when you are ill / become elderly?

- Ask about the maximum price or nights in hospital stays or for expensive inpatient treatment. In particular, ask about what is the maximum time you can spend in intensive care, and what is the maximum cover for expensive treatments, cancer, chronic, ongoing conditions, etc.

- Ask about how you can communicate with your doctor. Can you have limitless video consultations and telephone consultations from anywhere in the world?

- Ask about if you are covered when you fly back to the UK or travel anywhere in the world, and if you have emergency cover for repatriation should you need it.

- Ask if you have the freedom to have the specialist, GP and hospital of your choice. If you ever need specialist treatment, you will want to get the best specialist in the country, not just someone who works within your postcode.

- Ask about their emergency



services. Do they have an ambulance service in English? This might be fundamental if you do not speak Spanish and need to call for an emergency ambulance. Asisa Ambulance service is staffed by English-speaking doctors 24 hours / day every day of the year.

- Ask if you are allowed to have second opinions on diagnoses.

- Check who actually owns the insurance company. Is it owned by an investment fund or a bank? Or was it founded by doctors and run by medical professionals?

- Ask about the company’s range. Is it big enough that you will be covered wherever you are in Spain or around the world? E.G. Do they have an ambulance service in the Pyrenees when you go hiking? What if you travel to Ham-

burg for work? What if you are in the USA or South America, or Australia? Do they have a worldwide English-speaking customer / emergency service?

- Pricing: watch out for predatory pricing. Does the premium increase as you age? Ask about price progression, and what happens when you turn 65? How much will the price increase by?

- Check that the health insurance you are contracting will be accepted in the residency application process, if you need it.

- Assess if the co-payment system makes sense to use or not. A “Co-payment” is a way of the health insurance company sharing the costs of the services you are accessing. It is designed to encourage a “responsible use

Rubén, Giuseppe and Imma from the Coeo group **SUR**

## 'For us, the human side is the most important'

Coeo, an activities group formed last year during the first lockdown, is seeking to strengthen the international community

### DAVID BALMER

MALAGA. Amid the restrictions of the past year, one group has sought to keep providing the best of what Malaga city has to offer. Coeo formed last year to build friend-

ships among the city's residents through their various activities.

In Latin, coeo means 'experience together', and this is the group's goal - to not only provide activities but also to fortify a community. Coeo is part of White Spain, a property development company with a network of around twenty tourist accommodation buildings in Malaga.

Originally, Coeo intended to organise activities for visitors but, with the pandemic, a rethink was needed. The group became a place to make friends, particularly among new arrivals finding it different during lockdown.

The group's make-up is certainly cosmopolitan: Coeo's full-time staff include Imma from Italy, Colombian Mariandrea, Israeli Niv and Italian/German Giuseppe. Also part of the team are native malagueños Enrique and Rubén.

In terms of activities, the team members lead a running club, hiking, yoga and volleyball on the beach and salsa classes in their clubhouse on Alameda de Colón. Meanwhile, weekly meetups like Beber con Rúben (drinks with Rubén) are a relaxed way to make friends.

### Community

Coeo currently has 130 fully subscribed members, and Mariandrea remarks that "the first one hundred are always the most difficult to get".

Awareness is certainly on the rise, and around 1,000 people of all backgrounds have already attended activities. Those interested can attend one weekly activity free for a month.

After this, membership is for now 15 euros a month to access all activities but the group hopes to implement a structure to allow members greater flexibility.

Giuseppe explains: "For example, if someone wants to do yoga twice weekly but doesn't want to do volleyball, we can adapt." Currently, the Meetup app is the main place for keeping up to date and booking activities.

The group's special emphasis on community is seen in its charity work. In March, they organised a campaign for the Cudeca cancer research charity, organising donations of clothes, books and household items. They have also organised activities, such as beach volleyball, for underprivileged children in the city. In Giuseppe's words, "We're all about making an impact, so the human aspect is very important."

Through their charity work or by building friendships between members, it seems that Coeo are on their way to achieving this.

As Giuseppe says, "Every little helps."

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**SUR**

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# British artist exhibits paintings inspired by a lifetime of travel

Gary Elderfield has spent time in Southeast Asia, Africa and Central America and has lived for 10 years in Alhama de Granada, where he has a studio

JENNIE RHODES

EL MORCHE. Alhama de Granada based British artist Gary Elderfield will be exhibiting a collection of his paintings at the Bio Beach Club restaurant in El Morche, Torrox, from 27 May.

The exhibition will include approximately 30 paintings inspired by Gary's many trips to Vietnam, Colombia and the Philippines, as well as work he has done here in Spain.

The painter has spent the majority of his adult life overseas and has lived in Alhama de Granada for 10 years. He has also lived in Colombia and Germany and spent long periods in East Africa, Southeast Asia and Central America.

"I still try to get away every winter for a few months, Covid excluding, and paint on location," the traveller explains, adding, "Developing countries attract me more than anything and are inspirational to my work. You go outside and see a lot of colour."

Gary explains that he mainly uses oil, but some of his paintings are done in acrylic, which he says he prefers to use when travelling "for its quick drying



Gary Elderfield with one of the paintings which will be exhibited. SUR

time."

Gary, 55, was born and grew up in London. He explains that he comes from an artistic family and that he's "always painted", but it's only in recent years that he has really had the time to pursue his passion.

Gary has worked in house restoration and has had a number of commissions here in Spain. He admits that he wants to concentrate on his painting now and has a studio set up in his Alhama home, which he also renovated himself.

## INFORMATION

► **What.** Exhibition of paintings by British artist Gary Elderfield

► **Where.** Bio Beach Club, Paseo Marítimo, El Morche (Torrox)

► **When.** 27 May to 23 June. 9am-11pm. Restaurant closes on Tuesdays.

The painter says that he feels "at home in Alhama" and is well known among the local community, having painted scenes from a number of the local bars, restaurants and other businesses. "I try to capture people doing their everyday things."

Gary's rich and vibrant paintings bring to life the worlds that he has experienced. "My work reflects the worldly lifestyle that I have led and the different cultures that I have experienced. I like to capture the moment, the local feeling, the movement," he says.

The exhibition in El Morche will run until 23 June.

## ANDALUSIAN BIRD WATCH PETER JONES

# A big day for bird lovers around the world

Members of the Andalucía Bird Society took part in Global Birding day this month

May 8th was a landmark day for birdwatchers throughout the world. The day saw more than 50,000 people across 160 countries take part in a unique event entitled Global Birding Big Day. It

was a day that inspired folk across the planet to come together to celebrate their local environs and their birds. It was humbling to see countries political borders come tumbling down as they reached out to join

our birding and nature loving community.

One of the prime organisers and motivators for the project was Tim Appleton, who just happens to be the Patron of the Andalucía Bird Society. Tim promoted the idea to help fund efforts to stop the illegal killing of migratory birds, which has proved very successful raising funding for Birdlife International's campaign to end the shocking so-called sport of killing our wild birds. It is a serious problem for our migrating birds, for example the Italian government has issued hunting licences for shooting turtle doves; that theoretically could see 7.5



The European Roller. PETER JONES

million of these beautiful birds killed, a species that is headed towards the same fate as the extinct passenger pigeon.

I and others from the Andalucía Bird Society did our bit and organised ourselves into teams for counting as many species of bird as possible on the 'big day'. The weather was set fair, and so we set off on our day in the north of Malaga province and headed into Seville province, at last able to travel across provincial borders. We managed 105 species of bird and saw several European Roller, an amazingly colourful bird the size of the common Jackdaw. A day to remember, a day to celebrate.

www.andaluciabirdsociety.org

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## EXHIBITIONS

## Godai - Cinco Elementos

**ESTEPONA.** Until 27 May. Casa de Las Tejerinas, Plaza de las Flores. The exhibition Godai-Cino Elementos by Pilar Lobo consists of a selection of water colours and can be visited from Tuesday to Saturday, 9am to 6pm.

## Carlos Pesudo OVO

**MARBELLA.** Until 22 May. Galería Yusto/Giner. La Ermita industrial estate, C/Madera, 9. A selection of artwork by Carlos Pesudo.

## Malaga Picasso Museum

**MALAGA.** Museo Picasso Málaga, Calle San Agustín. It is possible to see works from the Meret Oppenheim exhibition in the museum on the website [www.museopicassomalaga.org](http://www.museopicassomalaga.org) under 'exposiciones digitales'.  
**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



Like, Malaga.

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](http://www.museopicassomalaga.org).

## Centro de Arte Contemporáneo

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

**Nalini Malani.** Until 30 May. Can You Hear Me? is the title of this exhibition by Indian artist Nalini Malani. It consists of an hour long video of her works which are influenced by feminism around the world.

**MALAGA.** CAC Málaga - La Coracha. Museo del Patrimonio Municipal.

**Ana S. Valderrábanos. Borderline.** Until 20 June. The artist's first solo exhibition features more than fifty works, including paintings and embroidery on different mediums, using vibrant colours, prominently featuring a woman's silhouette.

## Manuel Camino

**MALAGA.** Until 13 June. Salas Mingorance, Archivo Municipal de Málaga, Alameda Principal. Xebius y el arte de los sueños is the title of this exhibition of works by Xbox 360 designer, publicist and artist Manuel Camino. The exhibition consists of large format paintings reflecting visions in his dreams.



Brigitte Bardot, La Térmica.

Besides his art he has also worked on advertising campaigns for Nike, Suzuki, Heineken, Kia, Microsoft and Nestle among others.

## Carmen Campos

**MALAGA.** Until 24 May. La Casa Amarilla, C/Santos. The Casa Amarilla is exhibiting This Is An Untitled Project, a photographic work by young Malaga artist Carmen Campos. [www.lcamalaga.com](http://www.lcamalaga.com)

## Like

**MALAGA.** El Centro de Fotografía y Artes Visuales, C/Victoria. Artist Eduardo Nave is exhibiting a series of images which takes the viewer on a journey around the world in an instant. His photographs demonstrate the clash between the environment and humanity.

## Carmen Thyssen Museum

**MALAGA.** C/ Compañía, 10. 10am - 8pm Tuesday to Sunday.  
**Giovanni Battista Piranesi.** The Italian's artist's work may seem at first glance like a selection of 14 of his

very obscure and detailed engravings which the Thyssen has received from the Museo de Bellas Artes de Valencia. However, he is considered the precursor of the nightmares of reason that later influenced Goya. The legacy of the Italian artist is now on display and demonstrates in great detail his imaginary prisons. Created in a feverish moment, the painter has recreated a convoluted world, dark and full of staircases. [www.carmen-thyssenmalaga.org](http://www.carmen-thyssenmalaga.org)

## Botanical Garden exhibition

**MALAGA.** Until 29 May. Jardín Botánico Histórico, La Concepción. The vibrant paintings of Belgian artist Jean-Rémi D'Aubonne and French artist Martine Muller-Million are on display at the Botanical Gardens La Concepción.

## Brigitte Bardot

**MALAGA.** Until 6 June. La Térmica. Free. A series of photographs of Brigitte Bardot taken during the filming of the French film Les Bijoutiers du Clair



Coby Bloemsma, Nerja.

de Lune in 1957. It was directed by Roger Vadim and many scenes were shot in various locations in Malaga province. [www.latermicamalaga.com](http://www.latermicamalaga.com)

## Coby Bloemsma

**NERJA.** From 6 June until 19 September, Wed to Sat, 5-10.30pm, Sun from 2 to 6pm. Hostal Alegre. An exhibition of all new art works by the Dutch artist Coby Bloemsmaincluding colourful abstracts and objects made from recycled materials.

## Carmen Aros

**EL MORCHE.** Until 26 May. Biobeach Club restaurant. Exhibition of works by Chilean painter Carmen Aros.

## Gary Elderfield

**EL MORCHE.** From 27 May until 23 June. Bio Beach Club, Paseo Marítimo. Artist Gary Elderfield is exhibiting a selection of his works completed while in Vietnam, Colombia, Philippines and here at his home in Spain. The majority are in oils and a few in acrylics. <https://garyelderfield.com/>

## Fernando Robles

**RINCÓN DE LA VICTORIA.** Until 11 June. La Casa Fuerte Bezmiliana. Around thirty works completed in 2018 by Fernando Robles are on display.

## (Des)arraigos

**RIÓGORDO.** Until 19 June, Thurs 10am-2pm; Fri, Sat 10am -6pm; Sun 9am-5pm. Museo Etnográfico, Municipal de Riógorro, C/de la Iglesia. Artist Belén Millán is exhibiting a series of pictures that were influenced by the gradual disappearance of thousand-year-old olive trees from

## Festival of Legends brings two top tribute bands to Mijas

## MIJAS

The show will present the greatest hits of Queen and the Electric Light Orchestra

## TONY BRYANT

The Teatro Las Lagunas in Mijas Costa will continue its Festival of Legends cycle on Saturday 29 May with a show dedicated to the music of two of the biggest-selling bands of all time.

The night will get going with Queen of Magic, a Malaga band that performs a tribute Freddie Mercury and Queen. The group recreates the unique sound of the mega rock band with hits like Crazy Little Thing Called Love and We Will Rock You.

They will be followed by Elosphera, a group consisting of six established musicians from Seville. The band has gained a large following be-



Seville rockers Elosphera will bring the music of ELO to Mijas. SUR

cause of their musicianship and their incredible stage presence, reproducing the Electric Light Orchestra's golden era of the 1970s. Their repertoire includes classic songs like Evil Woman, Mr. Blue Sky, Last Train to London, Don't Bring Me Down and Turn to Stone.

This will be the band's first performance in Malaga and it

is sure to be a night of nostalgia for fans of ELO, a multi-instrumentalist band that created modern rock and pop songs with classical overtones.

Tickets for the show, which begins at 9pm, cost 18 euros in advance or 20 euros on the night and are available from El Corte Inglés or Rubens. Reservations: 633 647 260.



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Belén Millán, Riogordo.

the countryside.

### Mario Finlayson National Art Gallery open day

**GIBRALTAR.** 2 June.

The open day marks the sixth anniversary of the opening of the gallery and also to promote the new curation. Works by Gibraltar artists Gustavo Bacarissas, Jacobo Azagury, Rudesindo Mannia, Leni Mifsud and Mario Finlayson will be joined by works by artist and playwright Elio Cruz. Guided tours at 10.30am and 2.30pm, booking essential. There will also be a Children's Hour between 4.30 and 5.30pm to encourage younger visitors, with a variety of activities on offer. More information: [development@culture.gov.gi](mailto:development@culture.gov.gi)

### LIVE CONCERTS AND MUSIC

#### OFM Museum concerts

**MALAGA.** Various venues..

**23 May, 12pm.** Trio González-Díaz-Martín. Museo de Málaga.

**1 June, 8pm.** Trío Círculo. Museo Picasso de Málaga.  
Tickets: [www.museopicasso-malaga.org](http://www.museopicasso-malaga.org)

#### Malaga Philharmonic Orchestra

**MALAGA.** Various venues.

**21 May, 7pm.** Anton Bruckner's Symphony No. 4 in E-flat major, WAB 104 conducted by Nicholas Milton. Teatro Cervantes.

**27, 28 May, 7pm.** The Piano Concerto No. 5 in E major, Op. 73, by Ludwig van Beethoven was popularly known as the Emperor Concerto. Conducted by José María Moreno with guest pianist Ryutaro Suzuki followed by Beethoven's Symphony No. 6 in F Major, Op. 68 Pastoral. Teatro Cervantes.

Tickets: [www.entradas.mientrada.net](http://www.entradas.mientrada.net)

#### Silvia Pérez Cruz

**MALAGA.** 22 May, 7pm. Teatro Cervantes.

Silvia Pérez Cruz will perform tracks from her new recording Farsa (género imposible).

#### Cazbah Live Lounge

**MIJAS COSTA.** 28, 29 May, 9pm.

Amelinde and the Q Band will be performing hits by Adele, Amy Winehouse, Blondie and the Scissor Sisters among others on 28 May. This will be followed on 29 May by The Money Makers, one of Malaga's most popular cover bands. Their repertoire includes the songs of Bob Dylan, The

Beatles, Oasis, The Police and The Rolling Stones. book by calling 602535710 or on their facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/TheCazbahLiveLounge>

#### Sala María Cristina

**MALAGA.** Sala Unicaja de Conciertos María Cristina.

**26 May, 7pm.** Dmitro Choni (piano) playing pieces by Scriabin, Debussy and Rachmaninov.

#### Sophie Newick

**ALMUÑÉCAR.** 22 May, 7pm. Casa de la Cultura.

British singer Sophie Newick will be performing her own songs which feature elements of jazz, ragtime, lindy hop, swing and flamenco fusion. Tickets from the Casa de Cultura.

### FLAMENCO

#### Flamenco Wednesday

**MIJAS.** Every Wednesday, 12pm.



The Money Makers, Cazbah Live.

Plaza Virgen de la Peña.

Live flamenco performance weekly in the plaza.

#### Paseos Flamenco

**MALAGA.** Sundays, 9.30 -11am. May and June. 10€.

**23 May.** Cafés Cantantes and Tablaos Flamencos.

**6 June.** Juan Brevia.

Reservations call 687607526 or email: [flamencamalaga@hotmail.com](mailto:flamencamalaga@hotmail.com)

### THEATRE AND DANCE

#### Mademoiselle Traviata

**MALAGA.** 22 May, 9pm. The garden of The English Cemetery, Av de Pries.

The friends and volunteers at the English Cemetery in Malaga have organised a performance of the opera Mademoiselle Traviata by El Último Trovador company. Tickets: [www.eventbrite.es/e/entradas-mademoiselle-traviata](http://www.eventbrite.es/e/entradas-mademoiselle-traviata)



Alicia Alonso, Málaga.

#### Bacanal

**MALAGA.** Until 23 May, 7pm. Hotel AC Málaga Palacio. 20€.

A theatre performance with a difference from the La Líquida Compañía. The God Dionysius is synonymous with lustful, orgiastic partying where one eats and drinks as much as they like. Bacanal is a spectacle that also offers flavours and culinary pleasures, to delight the public with a unique gastronomic proposal specially created for the occasion. Three-course menu with water, wine and bread included. Tickets: <https://www.unientradas.es/>

#### Centenary Gala for Alicia Alonso

**MALAGA.** 26 May, 7pm. Teatro Cervantes.

The life of Prima ballerina assoluta Alicia Alonso is remembered in this special gala tribute performance with internationally acclaimed ballerinas. <https://www.unientradas.es/>



Miquel Barceló en su taller de cerámica, Málaga, octubre 2019. © Foto: Francisco Madrid, 2019. © Miquel Barceló, YPOCAF, Málaga, 2020.

# MIQUEL BARCELÓ METAMORFOSIS

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# Torremolinos summer culture agenda begins with series of flamenco concerts

## TORREMOLINOS

The bullring will host a weekend of flamenco performed by three of today's most promising young singers

### TONY BRYANT

Torremolinos will kick off its summer season of cultural activity with a series of flamenco concerts in the bullring next month.

The programme will kick off on Friday 11 June with young flamenco singer Juanlu Montoya, a performer who is currently making his name on the Andalusian music circuit. Grandson of the venerated Enrique Montoya - a singer who was at the forefront of the rumba-flamenco movement of the 1970s and 80s - Juanlu is currently enjoying the success of his latest single, *La Solución*, which has received almost one million views on YouTube.

Despite having a surname with specific weight in flamenco, Juanlu does not define his style as orthodox flamenco. Although his voice carries the distinctive characteristics of his family's legacy, his music falls more into the category of *flamenquito*, a style of pop music



Macarena de la Torre will perform at the bullring in June. **SUR**

embellished with flamenco-style rhythms.

The music will continue on Saturday 12 June when Macarena de la Torre will present her show *Rocío de Luz*, a work based on the music of her album *Eres Para Mi*.

Macarena de la Torre has become known for the versatility of her voice and her charis-

matic approach to flamenco. Although she presents a fresh new direction for flamenco, often performing with a five-piece band, she is also well-versed in the more orthodox styles of the art.

Macarena grew up among a family of flamenco singers and gained her experience during intimate family fiestas. She

trained at the Cristina Heeren Foundation in Seville, taking lessons from celebrated singers such as José de la Tomasa and Paco Taranto. She has performed at peñas and festivals all over Andalucía, and throughout her career has shared the stage with artists such as Arcángel, El Pele and Manuel Lombo.

The final concert will take place on Sunday 13 June with a performance by Saray Pérez Sánchez, known by her stage name of Sarayma. This spectacular young singer was born in Algeciras in 1991 and began singing in flamenco clubs in Cadiz at the age of seven. The turning point of her career was when she met flamencologist Antonio Rubio Díaz, from whom she learned the orthodox Gypsy styles of flamenco, like the soleares, syguiriyas and tientos-tangos. She has since performed at national and international festivals, as well as receiving prizes in numerous competitions in Andalucía.

Tickets for the concerts, which begin at 10pm, cost between 15 and 20 euros and are available online, from [www.mientrada.net](http://www.mientrada.net).

Capacity will be restricted and Covid protocols must be observed. Doors open at 7pm.

departure points an opportunity to purchase Duty Free Items and typical English items of food etc but be aware certain items are not allowed to come across the border into Spain. Passport needed. 14€ with Friends of Lux Mundi card or 16€.

### 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](http://www.yelmocines.es).

**Freaky:** 18.45 (Tues).

**Those Who Wish Me Dead:** 19.20 (Tues).

**Spiral: From The Book Of Saw:** 12.30 (Sat, Sun); 21.00 (every day).

**Nomadland:** 20.30 (Tues).

#### Yelmo Cines, Rincón

**RINCÓN DE LA VICTORIA.** C/ Arroyo Totalán. Tel: 902220922. [www.yelmocines.es](http://www.yelmocines.es)

**Spiral: From The Book Of Saw:** 18.00 (Tues).

**Nomadland:** 18.40 (Tues).

**Promising Young Woman:** 20.30 (Tues).

#### Yelmo Cines, Vialia

**MALAGA.** Centro Comercial Vialia. Tel: 902220922

**Promising Young Woman:** 20.35 (Tues).

**Those Who Wish Me Dead:** 20.20 (Tues).

**Nomadland:** 20.50 (Tues).

**Freaky:** 17.40 (Tues).

**Spiral: From The Book Of Saw:** 17.55 (Tues).

#### Cinesur Miramar

**FUENGIROLA.** Avda de la Encarnación. Tel: 952198600.

**Spiral: From The Book Of Saw:** 19.55 (every day), 21.55 (Fri-Sun).

**Those Who Wish Me Dead:** 17.45 (Mon-Thurs).

**Army of the Dead:** 17.45 (Mon-Thurs).

#### Cinesur Ingenio

**VÉLEZ-MÁLAGA.** Avda Juan Carlos, 1. Tel: 667773187.

**Spiral: From The Book Of Saw:** 18.15 (Tues).

#### Cine Albéniz

**MALAGA.** C/ Alcazaba, 4. Tel: 902360295. [www.cinealbeniz.com](http://www.cinealbeniz.com)

**First Cow:** 16.45, 19.15, 21.45 (every day).

**Nomadland:** 21.55 (every day).

## THEATRE AND DANCE

### Zarzuela

**MALAGA.** 23 May, 7pm. Teatro Cervantes.

La del Soto del Parral is a Spanish opera in two acts based in Segovia in the mid nineteenth century. <https://www.unientradas.es/>

## TALKS / LECTURES

### The Arts Society

**NERJA.** Quiz.

Free for members and 10€ for supporters. [www.theartsocietynerja.com](http://www.theartsocietynerja.com)

**25 May.** Arts quiz via Zoom.

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

## CHARITY

### Tribute concert for charity

**BENALMÁDENA.** 30 May, 4pm. Municipal auditorium. 15€.

A charity concert for people with Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD) will include three local tribute bands who will play a variety of music from legendary rock bands such as Bon Jovi and Queen. Tickets: <https://entra->



ARCH charity, Alhaurín el Grande.

[dium.com/events/corazon-azul-tributo-al-autismo](http://dium.com/events/corazon-azul-tributo-al-autismo)

### ARCH open day

**ALHAURÍN EL GRANDE.** 30 May, 9am - 4pm.

Come and meet ARCH mascot Bonnie, Rosie the blind donkey and all the other residents. At 2.30pm the Phoenix Singers will entertain visitors, and food and drink will be on sale. More information: [www.horserescuespain.org](http://www.horserescuespain.org) or Facebook Centro Andalusi de Rescate de Caballos.

### Triple A Flamenco Fiesta

**MARBELLA.** 23 May, Venta El Barranco. 25€.

The Triple A charity Flamenco Fiesta will include a welcome cocktail, a

three-course meal and flamenco performance. Tickets and more information: 952881080 or 655742117

### WalkaHOME for Cudeca

**BENALMÁDENA.** 23 May, 9am-2pm.

Walk at Home for Cudeca Cancer Hospice is a fundraising event. Participants can register at [www.dorsalchip.es](http://www.dorsalchip.es) or at [www.cudeca.org](http://www.cudeca.org). 4€ (bib number) or 8€ (bib + T-shirt).

### La Cala Lions Spring Fair

**MIJAS.** 24 May, 11am Miraflores Club.

The spring fair will include a fashion show with models modelling clothing from the Lions charity shop. John Sharples will be the compere and live music will be provided by Sean Murray. Tickets for the lunch are 15€ from the Lions stall, call: 607879450 or email: [annediabetics@gmail.com](mailto:annediabetics@gmail.com) The Diabetic Support Group meets 1st and 3rd Mon each month in Bar Tatal at 11am and the Alzheimer and Dementia Supporters Group meet there on 2nd and 4th Mon each month at 10.30am. Help and advice with a nurse in attendance. The Lions Support Groups are outside the Town Hall on 26 and 29 May 11am - 2pm.

### Costa Animal Society

**NERJA.** 29 May, 10.30am -

12.30pm. Fitzgerald's bar and restaurant. 5€.

Charity raffle and coffee morning with coffee or tea and three bakes or cakes. Tickets from the CAS shop or ring 643515428.

## MORE IDEAS

### El Molino de Inca

**TORREMOLINOS.** Jardín Botánico El Molino de Inca.

The site, which has been remodelled to make the gardens and facilities accessible to everyone, has now reopened. The gardens cover 40,000 square metres of land and contain nearly a thousand plant species of which there are 150 varieties of palm. There are also several different species of birds, including some unique in Spain.

### Tapas Route

**ALMUÑÉCAR.** 21 May - 4 June.

A tapas route around selected bars in Almuñécar offering a drink and a tapa for 3.50€. More information on participating bars etc: [www.almunecar.info](http://www.almunecar.info)

### Lux Mundi

**TORRE DEL MAR.** Lux Mundi Ecu-menical Centre, Avda Moscatel.

**Trip to Gibraltar.** 27 May. Various



Tapas Route, Almuñécar.

# A two-month-old baby receives a new heart in a pioneering operation in Madrid

The Gregorio Marañón hospital has carried out the first asystole heart transplant on a baby with a different blood group to that of her donor

J. A. GUERRERO

MADRID. She was just two months old, weighed barely three kilos and had a major heart problem - it is rare for there to be a transplant donor of this age. Things were not looking good at all for tiny Naiara. However, a team of cardiologists at the Gregorio Marañón hospital in Madrid are very happy right now, after having achieved something of extraordinary medical importance.

For the first time ever in the world, they have successfully carried out a heart transplant with a heart that had stopped on a very young baby whose blood group was different to that of her donor.

This little girl's life was saved thanks to medical skill and the immense generosity of parents who donated the heart of their own baby to Naiara. She does not know it yet, but she has made history in the world of heart transplants.

This type of operation would have been unthinkable just three years ago. It was not until 2018 that this hospital began a programme which would enable heart transplants to be carried out on children with different blood groups, and on top of that, this was an asystole donation, the first time a donor heart which was not beating has been given to such a tiny baby.

The baby who died was in a hospital in another region of Spain, which meant the team from the Gregorio Marañón had to fly there. During the procedure, the heart of the donor was revived through external means before being removed. This is a process which allows organs which are due to be transplanted to stay oxygenated. Once removed, the heart was transported back to Madrid by air and the surgeons transplanted it into Naiara.

This case is totally unique because the donor and recipient are both tiny babies and the

heart was implanted after several hours of cold ischemia in a different hospital and, because the babies had different blood groups, that was an added complication.

"The Gregorio Marañón was the first hospital in Spain to carry out a heart transplant between two babies with different blood groups, and now it is the first in the world to have carried out this type of asystole heart transplant. These techniques are so recent that three years ago they would have been unvi-

able. This significantly increases the chances of such small babies receiving a heart, because normally there are so few donations," says the head of the Children's Cardiac Surgery unit at the Gregorio Marañón, Juan Miguel Gil Jaurena.

Naiara's heart problems were detected before she was born, and that is why her mother was transferred from Castilla-La Mancha to the Gregorio Marañón hospital, a national benchmark for cardiac problems in foetuses. There, she was kept under close

supervision but the situation worsened and the birth was brought forward because Naiara's heart condition was very critical. However, the doctors managed to stabilise her, despite the complexity of her physical condition.

## "She continued to develop"

"Naiara continued to develop and the rest of her organs matured enough for us to believe that we could put her on the transplant list. We explained to her parents that there were few other chances because there are few donors of this age. Nevertheless, thanks to the generosity of other parents, a heart was found for her," says Manuela Camino, head of the Children's Heart Transplant unit.

"It was a very important moment, because this was the first heart transplant we had done on such a small baby and because, 24 hours earlier, Naiara had got a lot worse. If this heart hadn't arrived, she probably wouldn't have survived. Now, luckily, she is out of Intensive Care and recovering in the ward," she says.



Naiara being cared for by a nurse. REUTERS

## State-of-the-art new scanner at HC Marbella will improve the detection of cancer

SUR IN ENGLISH

MALAGA. HC Marbella has recently expanded its oncology facilities with a new PET-CT scanner with the latest technology, which will assist in the early detection and monitoring of cancer patients and planning their treatments.

Since its first PET-CT unit was installed in 2013, this hospital has diagnosed and monitored more than 500 cancer patients a year.

This new high-precision technology has cost over one million euros. It will mean that specialists will receive anatomical information in real time and will be able to locate a tumor at an early stage, see exactly how big it is and how the illness is developing.

"This is a major advance because with the information it provides, patients will be able to receive even more effective and personalised treatments," says the head of HC Marbella, Blanca de Castro.

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Just three years ago a transplant of this type involving two tiny babies would have been impossible

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# Drink, eat and be merry

ANDREW J. LINN



Once we get out of this Covid mess, we need to celebrate. There is talk of a new 'Roaring 20s', akin to the live-for-the-day era that followed the ending of the First World War and the Spanish flu pandemic. And why not? The small light at the end of the tunnel is becoming a radiant sun.

In his book *Arrêtez de Vous Priver* (Stop Depriving Yourself), French doctor David Khayat believes we should occasionally overindulge without worrying about possible adverse consequences. Such relaxations are necessary to restore our self-esteem, and while most doctors properly advise patients that avoiding

fried food, red meat and booze will lengthen their lives, can the prolonged existence be pleasurable enough to make such deprivations worthwhile?

The World Health Organisation, writes Khayat, maintains that eating 50gm of processed meat daily increases the risk of colorectal cancer by 18%, but without specifying what the risk is in the first place. If that risk is 2% and you binge

**French doctor David Khayat believes we should occasionally overindulge**

on ham daily, then your danger level goes from 2% to slightly over 2% - or practically zilch. Better to adopt the precepts of Epicurus, who advocated modest indulgences to bring peace of mind: 'Life without pleasure makes no sense'.

Britain's former chief medical officer warned women that every glass of wine brought them nearer to contracting breast cancer, and her US counterpart recommended giving up meat and dairy products in addition. French daily *Le Figaro* praised Khayat's advice, consisting of, as it does, 'a positive and liberating message'.

Turning our backs on the killjoys is the real message.

## WINE OF THE WEEK

### Pinea

The Pinea bodega is a Mexican enterprise on a 35-hectare vineyard at 3,000 metres in Ribera del Duero. Using biodynamic processes overseen by top winemaker, Isaac Fernández, there are two wines of outstanding quality: '17' at 60 euros and 'Pinea' at 150 euros. Available direct from the vineyard or online merchants.



# Coín cheese market returns with produce from across the area

The popular Mercado de Quesos de Málaga will be held this Sunday, 23 May, with over fifty different types of goat's cheeses available to buy

ANDREA JIMÉNEZ

COÍN. The Mercado de Quesos de Málaga will be held in the Mercado Agroalimentario del Guadalhorce outdoor market hall in Coín on Sunday (23 May) from 9am to 2pm.

"It is a good opportunity to revive local markets by making purchases among the more than fifty local goat's cheeses that will be available in the market that day, all of them handmade with top quality raw ingredients," said the organisers of the event.

The producers participating at the cheese fair include Quesos Argudo, Quesos La Cañada del Capitán, Quesos La Hortelana, Quesería El Pastor del Valle, Quesos El Pinsapo, Quesos El Porticatero, Quesos El Alcornocal, Quesos Santa María del Cerro and Quesos Flor Bermeja. The event has been organised



A previous year's event with stalls selling artisan cheeses. SUR

by the Asociación Quesos de Málaga (Malaga cheese association) and the Agrupación de Aderezadores de Aceituna de Mesa del Valle del Guadalhorce (Guadalhorce valley association of seasoned table olives) with the support of Coín town hall.

The meeting to announce the return of the Sunday event was attended by Isabel Serrano, head of the Guadalhorce agricultural office, who stressed "the great commitment" of the Andalusian regional department of Agriculture to promoting local trade.

# Bars in Almuñécar join forces for the Costa Tropical's latest Ruta de la Tapa

Customers can vote for their favourite tapa at each bar or restaurant taking part with the one with the most votes winning a cash prize

SUR

ALMUÑÉCAR. The seventh edition of the Ruta de la Tapa in Almuñécar (Granada province) starts today and runs until 4 June. Nearly twenty bars and restaurants are taking part this year, all vying to offer the most innovative and tasty tapa.

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Some of the tapas on offer. SUR

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# Pellicer to leave Malaga at the end of the season

After months of uncertainty, the head coach announced that he would not be renewing his contract as it was 'time to step aside'

ANTONIO GÓNGORA / PEDRO LUIS ALONSO / DARYL FINCH

MALAGA. It's not the news the club or fans were hoping for, but Malaga head coach Sergio Pellicer has announced he is quitting his post at the end of the season. The coach, whose tenure has been marked by board-room uncertainty and pandemic disruption, said that it was the right "time to step aside" at a press conference at La Rosaleda on Tuesday afternoon.

Accompanied by sporting director Manolo Gaspar and club administrator José María Muñoz, Pellicer said that he had "given this job his all" and that he "could leave feeling content" with what he had done. He added: "I feel that my time here has come to an end. You have to think of the person behind the professional."

For months, Pellicer's future at the club had been unclear, as it appeared as though the club were waiting for a change in the team's fortunes before making a decision on whether to renew his contract which expires at the end of the season.

While Gaspar and Muñoz have extended their stays, Pellicer's future had remained in limbo.

It must be remembered that the manager's job had been complicated by issues off the pitch, and Pellicer believes he has been able to improve Malaga despite these difficulties. He said: "A year and a half ago, we saw little future for the club, but now I believe that it has some good days ahead."

## A tough job

Since his appointment in January 2020, Pellicer has been a key figure both on and off the pitch as the club continues to deal with



Pellicer returns the applause given to him at his press conference on Tuesday. PEPE ORTEGA. MCF

its ongoing financial problems.

He was first appointed to the role after the sacking of Víctor Sánchez del Amo, removed from his position after a sexually explicit video of the then-coach was widely shared on social media. Pellicer, who had only just

returned to the club as B-team coach, was quickly promoted and was eventually given the job on a permanent basis.

The former Malaga right-back, who also filled roles as youth coach and assistant manager, went on to secure safety in two

consecutive seasons, as well as maintain squad harmony as the entire first-team squad was dismantled and the club placed in administration.

Commenting on the stress of this complex situation, the outgoing boss remarked: "You have

to be honest with yourself and only continue when you know you can give your all."

As Malaga and Pellicer prepare to go their separate ways, it seems that the manager will have little trouble finding a new job as several teams have been tracking his situation with Malaga in recent months. Gaspar and Muñoz thanked Pellicer for his contributions and, without going into too much detail, Gaspar added that the club will be looking for a successor "with a similar profile" to Pellicer.

## Mirandés coach shortlisted

One man who fits the bill is believed to be current Mirandés coach José Alberto López. The 38-year-old has kept the side comfortably in mid-table for the whole season and comes with a wealth of experience working with youth players. Most importantly, given Malaga's financial issues, his signing would be relatively cheap.

Meanwhile, Pellicer will remain in charge of the first team for the remaining three games, against Girona (at home, at the time of going to print), Leganés (away, next Monday) and Castellón (home, the following Sunday).

# Malaga take their foot off the gas in Oviedo

With safety already secured, the Blue and Whites seemed uninspired, perhaps aware that their boss would soon be leaving

**REAL OVIEDO** 1  
**MALAGA** 0

HENRY FLYNN

MALAGA. With results elsewhere already assuring Malaga will



Rahmani (2r) could not inspire his side in attack. AGENCIA LOF

continue in Segunda for another year, the Blue and Whites took their foot off the gas and ultimately fell to a limp defeat away to Real Oviedo in Asturias on Monday night.

There was, however, a place in the top half at stake before kick-off, but Malaga never looked likely to increase their points tally, as Oviedo took advantage to leapfrog their opponents in the table.

Coach Sergio Pellicer, prior to announcing he would be stepping down at the end of the sea-

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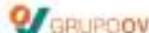
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## Draw confirms Femenino's relegation to the third tier

**MALAGA** **0**  
**LEVANTE B** **0**

MARINA RIVAS

MALAGA. Malaga Femenino's relegation was confirmed following a 0-0 draw at home to Levante B on Saturday afternoon. With one game left this season, it is now mathematically impossible for Javi Ramos' side to stay in the second division.

After a dire run of results, the Blue and Whites had to win their final two games and hope other results went their way. They started the brighter against their opponents, with Buceta at the heart of several good moves and María Ruiz looking dangerous in attacking areas. She had two opportunities go wide while Claudia could not convert just before the interval.

However, both teams lacked precision and this pattern of play continued in the second half. As the match wore on, the heat began to take a toll and Malaga's intensity dropped off and they could not find a way past the resolute away defence.

son, started Yanis Rahmani in attack instead of Caye Quintana, who played in the spirited draw against Mallorca the previous week. The Frenchman, however, could not inspire a listless forward line.

After a sluggish start for both teams, Cristian Rodríguez struck an ambitious long-range volley on 24 minutes, which sailed just beyond the top-right corner.

Oviedo - like Malaga, also consigned to a mid-table finish this season and safe from relegation - then came closer to scoring when Rodrigo Ríos tested Malaga goalkeeper Dani Barrio at his near post.

Gaining a little more fluency in attack, Malaga next threatened through Jairo, but his shot zipped narrowly wide of the post following a clever free-kick ten minutes before the break.

A higher tempo made for more exciting viewing in the second half, but matters worsened for Malaga on the hour mark. After latching onto a loose ball outside the penalty area, full-back Lucas Ahijado spectacularly thundered a wonder goal past Barrio to put Oviedo in front.

Caye Quintana and Stefan Šćepović soon joined the attacking ranks, but a listless Malaga left the pitch with nothing ahead of a tough test against Girona, which takes place as this edition goes to press.



A LOOK AT LA LIGA  
ROB PALMER  
Commentator, Sky Sports

## A dramatic final day

The La Liga champions will be decided this Saturday... all before the more serious business of Eurovision



**W**ill La Liga provide a dramatic final day or is it just a warm-up for Eurovision?

The colourful international song contest has dictated that the decisive games must kick off at 6pm as the Spanish TV airwaves are reserved for the sparkly outfits and outlandish characters three hours later.

Just maybe, the season was decided on the penultimate weekend of the season when Barcelona were discounted from the race, Real Madrid briefly took pole position before Atlético Madrid regained control.

The defining moment could be Luis Suárez's winner with a couple of minutes remaining against Osasuna. Atleti had briefly lost the top spot which had been theirs for the past five months. Suárez slipped in for his 20th goal of the season to maintain a two-point lead with one game to go. Given the head-to-head records, it means his team require just a draw at Valladolid to become champions. It has created a ripple of re-



Suárez celebrates the goal that could have won Atleti the title. AFP

actions elsewhere. Zinedine Zidane is reported to have informed his Real Madrid players that he will resign for a second time at the season's conclusion. He doesn't seem to have backed up this story publicly, but the institution does require some major restoration work.

It has sparked speculation about former Juventus coach

Max Allegri or Bernabéu legend Raúl González taking on the mighty task. Raúl hasn't been shy to suggest he can follow Zidane's path of promotion from managing the B team to the main team.

Zidane's final task could be to beat Villarreal and take the Liga season to the wire.

Over in Barcelona, the race

has been run. The Catalans won the Copa del Rey and Lionel Messi will once again claim the Pichichi, but defeat to Celta Vigo in the penultimate round ended all championship hopes.

It remains to be seen if this is Messi's last game in La Liga and the story has been underplayed. Amid a change of president and global uncertainty, Messi has been non-committal. He's gone on to keep his club's season alive, almost single-handedly.

The new president, Joan Laporta, has kept an uncharacteristically low profile. He knows the club requires a clear-out of high-earning players, the books need balancing and dreams need to be rekindled. Laporta must make a big statement. The biggest would be launching a post-Messi era. It would save millions, dawn a new era, and end the reliance on one superhuman.

On the downside, it would deprive the team of its best player, prevent the fans from seeing an icon with their own eyes after a pandemic season, and strip away the club's most marketable asset.

It promises to be a historic weekend. Atlético could disrupt the Real/Barça title dominance for only the second time in 17 seasons, Messi could say adiós, and Zidane bid his farewell too.

And to think Eurovision took prominence over La Liga's grand finale? They'll need the best thing since the 1974 winners ABBA to justify hogging the Saturday night schedule.





The race as it passed through Ardales in the first stage on Tuesday. **ÁLVARO CABRERA. EFE**

## Cycling stars roll onto the Costa for the Ruta del Sol

Miguel Ángel López leads the Vuelta a Andalucía after stage three, overtaking young Briton Ethan Hayter

**JAVIER BLANCO / DAVID BALMER / DARYL FINCH**

Some of the world's top cyclists have been winding their way through the countryside of the re-

gion this week as the Vuelta a Andalucía cycling race, popularly known as the Ruta del Sol, got under way on Tuesday.

The race, this year celebrating its 67th edition, is very different than previous years' competitions owing to the pandemic. Indeed, those involved have undergone PCR tests while social distancing is being observed as much as possible. Also, teams are being completely isolated from each other in

their hotels and, as much as possible, are staying at different hotels to reduce risks.

The Vuelta a Andalucía was initially due to be held in February, but had to be postponed due to the third wave of coronavirus. A knock-on effect of this is that many riders who may have taken part in this event are instead competing in the Giro d'Italia, which started on 8 May and runs until the end of the month.

The Ruta del Sol got under way on Tuesday with La Cala de Mijas welcoming the start line. On it were veterans such as former world champion Mark Cavendish and Marbella-born Luis Ángel Maté. Alongside them were several younger stars looking to establish themselves on the cycling scene.

One of them was Englishman Ethan Hayter of Ineos. He led the general classification after day two following his win in the stage between Iznájar (Cordoba) and Alcalá de la Real (Jaén). The 22-year-old had finished fourth on day one between Mijas and Zahara de la Sierra (Cádiz) but took the yellow jersey the following day after catching Colombia's Miguel Ángel López (also known as 'Superman') in the final 300 metres of the 184.8-kilometre stage. Hayter eventually finished eight seconds ahead of López, taking the lead from his Movistar teammate Gonzalo Serrano, who slipped to seventh following a disappointing day.

### Superman to the rescue

The third and most difficult stage (Beas de Segura-Villarodrigo. 176.9 kilometres) saw a shake-up in the classifications on Thursday. 'Superman' Miguel Ángel López came out on top in the Jaén route which included two first-category climbs. His win placed him top of the overall classification and the Movistar rider will be favourite to take home the prize on the final day.

The penultimate stage will take place between Baza (Granada) and Cúllar Vega (Cordoba) today, Friday, before finishing on Saturday with a 107-kilometre ride between Vera and Pulpí (both Almería).

## IN BRIEF

### FOOTBALL

#### Barcelona Women win Champions League

**SUR.** Barcelona Women became the first Spanish team to win the UEFA Women's Champions League after cruising to a 4-0 win over Chelsea in the final in Gotenburg (Sweden) on Sunday. This rounds off an incredible season for Barcelona, who won every match in their La Liga campaign.

### TENNIS

#### Davidovich up to career best ranking

**PEDRO LUIS ALONSO.** Alejandro Davidovich has reached a career-high ranking of 45 following his good recent form in Estoril and Rome. He will now ready himself for his first French Open appearance next week, where he will also have a final chance to earn a place in Spain's Olympic team.

### TENNIS

#### Nadal beats Djokovic to win Rome Masters

**E. GARDINER.** Rafael Nadal won his tenth Rome Masters title after a 7-5, 1-6, 6-3 win over Novak Djokovic on Sunday. This sees him equal Djokovic's record of 36 career Masters 1000 titles won. Nadal also closes the head-to-head gap between the two (losing 29-28).

## Marbella with renewed hope of avoiding the drop after edging five-goal thriller

With just one game left to play, the Costa side will be able to avoid a double relegation with a victory

**LORCA DEPORTIVA 2**  
**MARBELLA 3**

**FELICIANO MOLINA. ADG**

**LORCA (MURCIA).** Marbella have improved their chances of avoiding a double relegation following a 3-2 victory away at Lorca Deportiva on Sunday afternoon. In a feisty game, the hosts had two players sent off.

The Costa side dominated opening proceedings and took the lead midway through the first half when Chumbi responded quickest to a rebound. As halftime approached, Busquets was brought down in the box and Callejón converted his penalty



Callejón celebrates his penalty that gave Marbella a 2-0 lead **ADG**

to double Marbella's advantage.

Lorca came out after the interval looking more dangerous and soon halved the deficit through Silvente. Marbella were rattled and the hosts were level in the 61st minute when Silvente turned provider for Carrasco. However, moments later, Lorca were down to ten men when Galiano was shown a straight red card.

Marbella were able to capitalise on their numerical advantage when Redru found Tresaco. In the closing stages, Herrero made some decent stops to preserve Marbella's lead and, in stoppage time, Lorca had a second player sent off when Carrasco received his second yellow.

With one game left, Marbella are fourth in their playoff group, three points off avoiding the drop to the rebranded fifth tier (Tercera RFEF). Their final game of the season is a must-win home fixture against Yeclano.



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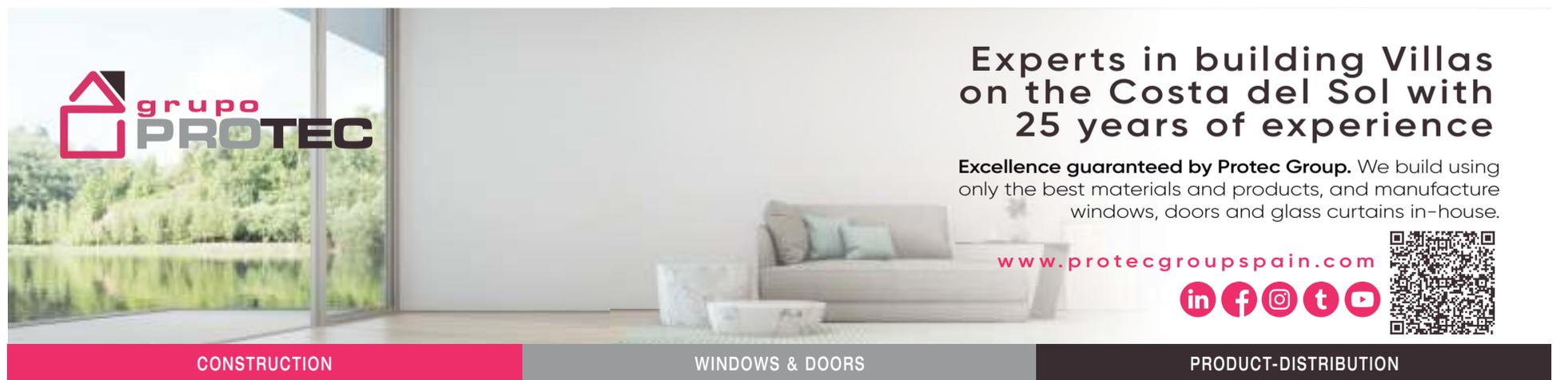
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National Police	091	Taxi Service	952471000	Tourist Information	952521531
Local (municipal) Police	092	Tourist Office	952467625	Town Hall	952548400
Medical	061	Town Hall	952589300	Foreign Resident Dept.	952548401
Fire	080	Foreign Residents Dept.	952589440	TORREMOLINOS	
Guardia Civil	062	MALAGA		Bus Station	902143144
Sea Rescue	900202202	Bus Station	952350061	Taxi Service	952380600
Crime report	902102112	Railway Station	902240202	Tourist Office	952371909
ENGLISH-SPEAKING HELP		Taxi Service	952345693	Town Hall	952379400
Samaritans in Spain	900525100	Tourist Office	951926020	Foreign Residents Dept.	952374231
Alcoholics Anonymous	600379110	MARBELLA		BENALMÁDENA	
Age Care	952933409	Bus Station	955038665	Bus Station	902450550
Age Concern (Estepona)	722606347	Taxi Service	952774488	Taxi Service	952441545
ANDALUSIAN HEALTH SERVICE		Tourist Office	952768760	Tourist Office	952442494
Salud Responde (Doctors' appointments and advice)	955545060	Town Hall	952761100	Town Hall	952374231
ESTEPONA		Foreign Residents Dept.	952768760	Foreign Residents Dept.	952442494
Bus Station	955038665	MIJAS		VÉLEZ-MÁLAGA	
Taxi Service	952802900	Town Hall	952485900	Bus Station	952503162
Tourist Office	952802002	Town Hall Las Lagunas	952473125	Taxi	952540016
Town Hall	952801100	Taxi	952478288	Town Hall	952559100
Foreign Residents Dept.	952809031	Tourism Office	952589034	Tourist Office	952541104
NERJA		Foreign Resident Dept.	952589010	GIBRALTAR	
Bus Station	902422242	NERJA		General emergency	199/112(mobiles)
		Bus Station	902422242	Fire/ambulance (emergency)	190
				Tourist Office	(00350) 20074950
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With symptoms and/or contact with persons with coronavirus or who come from an area of risk

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<b>Sweden</b>	Calle Córdoba 6, 5th floor, Malaga	952604383	<b>Philippines</b>	C/Marqués de Larios 4, 2º, Malaga	952771850
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**THE STARS**

**Aquarius**  
January 21st - February 19th  
A change in your style may not be easy now but you can brighten up life with a few extra colours. Will this make a difference? Sure it will!

**Pisces**  
February 20th - March 20th  
Someone who will be important to you is coming your way. Looking and feeling your best? Just be yourself. After all, an honest start is better than a fantasy.

**Aries**  
March 21st - April 20th  
There could also be a delay in finances. At a time when you want to steam ahead this is frustrating. Even so, avoid short-term solutions.

**Taurus**  
April 21st - May 21st  
The fun and pleasurable areas of your life may have been ignored. Not sure if it is time to step out again? Small moves gradually build confidence. Life is getting back to normal?

**Gemini**  
May 22nd - June 21st  
Information that helps you to move forward comes midweek. Check out the details but you have a good feeling about it. Nothing is set in stone yet and changes may be made later.

**Cancer**  
June 22nd - July 23rd  
Activities with friends liven up your mind but may snap up your spare time too. You really do need to concentrate on your own needs. Planning a holiday? Don't allow yourself to get stressed.

**Leo**  
July 24th - August 23rd  
Trying to get others to be sensible? Good luck with that! It is a time of flux, especially at home. Lockdown increased pressures for everyone.

**Virgo**  
August 24th - September 23rd  
You really are finding it hard to keep up, aren't you? This week you thought the pace would slow down. Although having to take account of others who are much slower than you, stay calm.

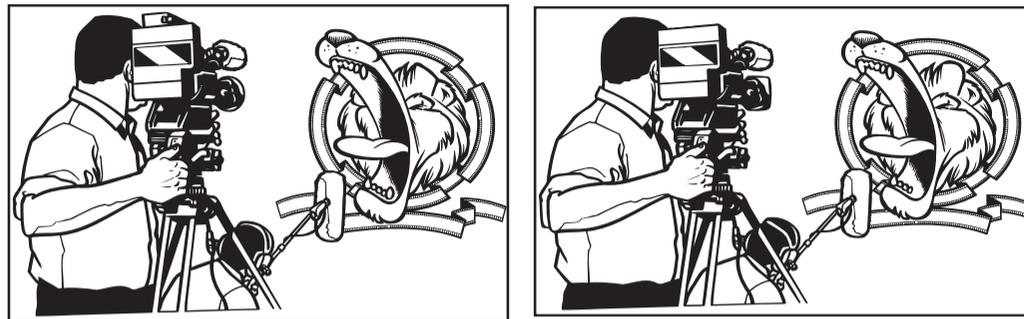
**Libra**  
September 24th - October 23rd  
Dying to get out and relax? Stay patient and sensible. Fantasy land is calling to you and we could all do with a bit of that. The time will come.

**Scorpio**  
October 24th - November 22nd  
With so much pent up energy you could be quite an asset to someone. Pick an equal, not someone you can just bully around. By giving a little you can take even more.

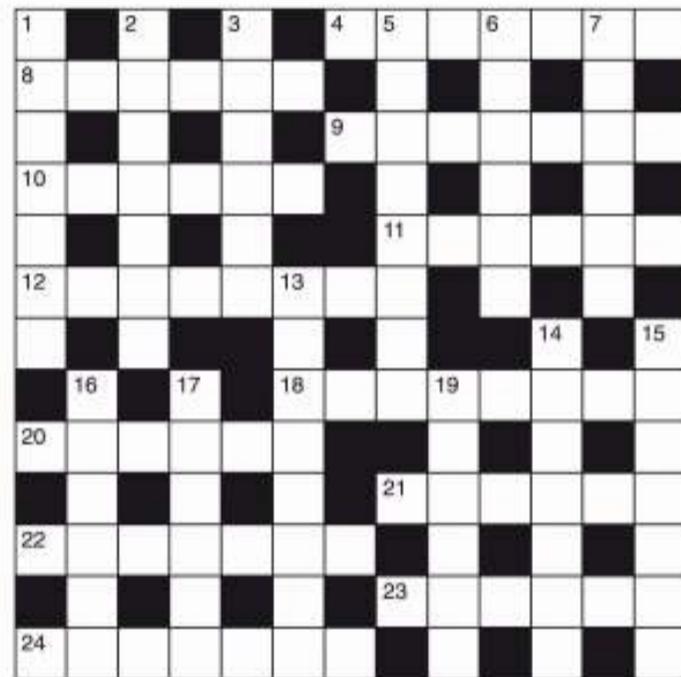
**Sagittarius**  
November 23rd - December 21st  
A slowing down of your body does not seem to be slowing your mind. So, this is a time for planning rather than doing. Looking for inspiration? Look no further than an old friend.

**Capricorn**  
December 22nd - January 20th  
When trying to impress someone special, no exaggerations but plenty of smiles and shared moments is the way to go. Please do keep an eye on your wellbeing.

**THE SEVEN DIFFERENCES**



**CRYPTIC CROSSWORD N° 11462**

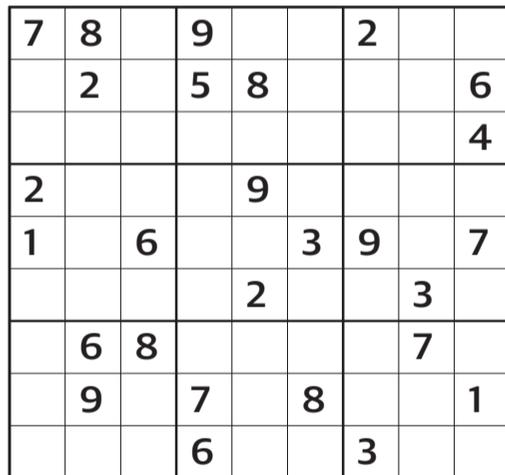


- Across**
- 4 The mountaineer rose (7)
  - 8 Better kicker (6)
  - 9 Beg for alteration of net rate (7)
  - 10 Two cats might get hit (3-3)
  - 11 Spoke to a red, perhaps (6)
  - 12 Dismisses records (4,4)
  - 18 Cuts short what dogs wag? (8)
  - 20 Neat tree (6)
  - 21 Measure that is introduced by hunting guide (6)
  - 22 Decide to start this puzzle again? (7)
  - 23 Stop a man first (6)
  - 24 Do they criticise roofers? (7)

- Down**
- 1 Grave piece of prose? (7)
  - 2 Enliven a team Ian took over (7)
  - 3 Make a note of unsurpassed achievement (6)
  - 5 Capital fellow (8)
  - 6 It's used in building a cannon (6)
  - 7 Times journalist deleted.. (6)
  - 13 ...quick check-up when finished (4-4)
  - 14 Rogue is unwell in vain (7)
  - 15 Agrees there's some point in valuable things (7)
  - 16 How's that for a request for help? (6)
  - 17 Canoe in which managers and substitutes sit? (6)
  - 19 Groups of biters, perhaps (6)

**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**

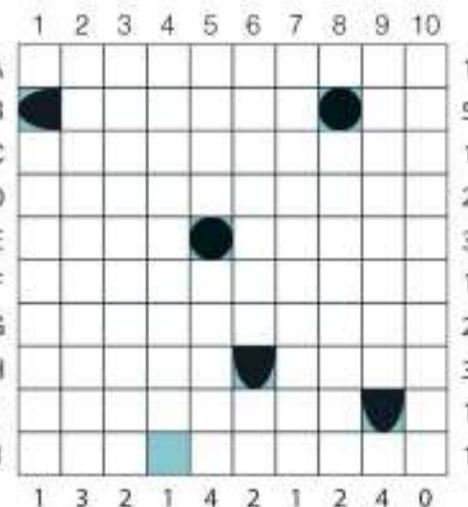
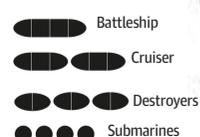


Can you identify the words that may precede 'table' from the clues listed below?

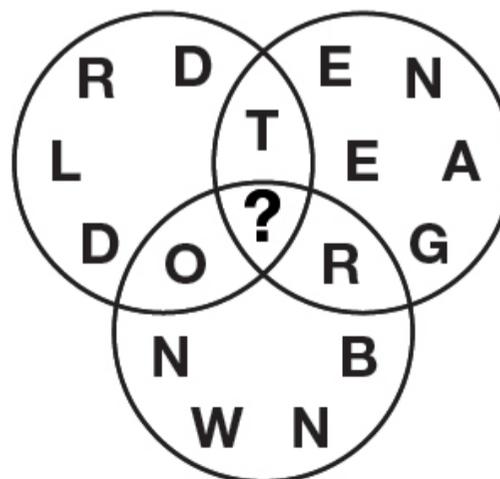
- 1. Union
- 2. Fine rock grains
- 3. Beverage
- 4. Sea movement
- 5. Adam's ale
- 6. Pond
- 7. Tall
- 8. Prison term
- 9. Winged creature
- 10. Circular

**BATTLESHIPS**

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



**CIRCLEGRAM**



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

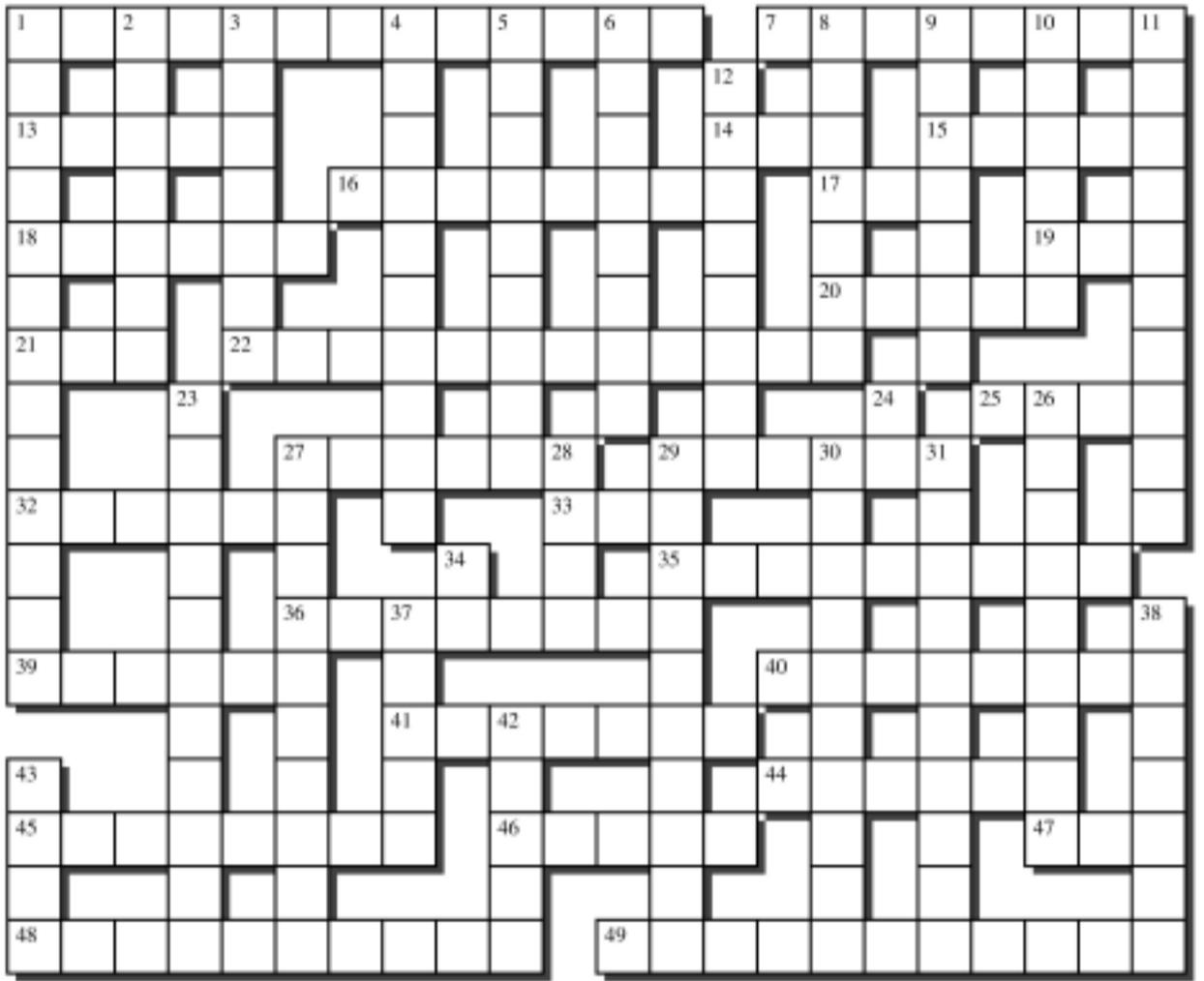
LANGUAGE CROSSWORD FILL IN THE SPANISH WORD

Across

- 1) International (13)
- 7) History (8)
- 13) Hard (m.pl) (5)
- 14) Net (3)
- 15) Achievement (5)
- 16) Halt (railway) (8)
- 17) Gone (m) (3)
- 18) Countries (6)
- 19) Like that (3)
- 20) Toilets (5)
- 21) Us (3)
- 22) Booking (12)
- 25) Almost (4)
- 27) Football (6)
- 29) To jump (6)
- 32) She chooses (6)
- 33) Bird (3)
- 35) Shirts (9)
- 36) To get into debt (8)
- 39) To recall (6)
- 40) Lukewarm (f) (8)
- 41) Sport (7)
- 44) Hold-up (6)
- 45) Essential (8)
- 46) Tower (5)
- 47) Thirst (3)
- 48) Coach (m) (10)
- 49) Popularity (11)

Down

- 1) Independent (13)
- 2) Thirds (7)
- 3) He respects (7)
- 4) Championship (10)
- 5) Body (9)
- 6) To increase (8)
- 8) They indicate (7)
- 9) Heels (7)
- 10) Rules (6)
- 11) Association (10)
- 12) Protein (8)
- 23) To promote (11)
- 24) Already (2)
- 26) We hug (9)
- 27) Federation (10)
- 28) Lute (4)
- 29) Secretary (m) (10)
- 30) Quarterly (10)
- 31) To replace (10)
- 34) Faith (2)
- 37) Thimble (5)
- 38) Quality (7)
- 42) To blow the whistle (5)
- 43) Headquarters (4)



ANSWERS

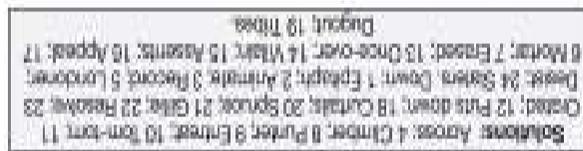
Quiz answers

**Of interest:** Richard I was the third of five sons of King Henry II of England and Eleanor of Aquitaine. All his brothers except the youngest predeceased their father. He is known as Richard the Lionheart because of his reputation as a great military leader and warrior.  
**Answer:** Lion  
**Of interest:** The title, middle name, or surname Singh means 'lion' in various South Asian languages. Traditionally used by the Hindu Kshatriya community, it was later mandated in the 18th century for all male Sikhs as well.

Language Crossword



Cryptic Crossword



Wordpuzzler solution

1. League	S	I	P	O	L	D	E	R	M
2. Sand	O	D	A	B	W	I	O	L	E
3. Coffee	S	I	N	C	O	F	E	S	
4. Tide	P	E	R	M	I	E	L	A	V
5. Water	R	N	A	P	L	A	O	G	U
6. Pool	E	T	W	O	G	R	O	U	N
7. High	A	S	A	N	D	I	V	E	R
8. Life	C	A	T	I	A	L	S	T	N
9. Bird	O	V	E	T	H	I	G	H	A
10. Round	B	I	R	D	A	I	L	O	R

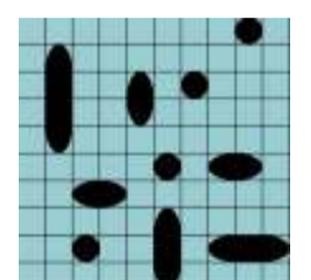
Sudoku solution

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

Circlegram

The letter represented by the question mark is E: Toddler, teenager, newborn, all stages of childhood.

Battleships



WHERE IS THIS?



A square dedicated to the Virgin

Last week: Archidona

The famous politician, notary and 'father of Andalucía' Blas Infante, is commemorated in Archidona by a bronze statue. Although he was born in Casares, he studied for his Bachillerato at a school in the town.



THE SUR IN ENGLISH CORNER

Costa del Sol characters

One of the most interesting aspects of living in this part of the world is that it is a real melting pot of different nationalities and cultures. People come here from all over the world and bring with them fascinating stories about how they ended up here. Others, meanwhile, lived quite ordinary lives beforehand and used moving to Spain as an opportunity to do something quite extraordinary.

At SUR in English, we are always interested to hear about

the unique individuals who form part of our community. Whether they have an incredible talent, do valuable community work or are simply a well-known 'character' - if you know someone who fits the bill, get in touch! They might be suitable for a profile in our In the Frame section.

You can send us an email at [surinenglish.su@diario-sur.es](mailto:surinenglish.su@diario-sur.es) or get in touch with us via social media. We are on Facebook (surenglish) and Twitter (@SUR\_English).



Pilar Moreno, Adela and Helena show off some of her designs outside the shop in Tolox. A. JIMÉNEZ

## The village tobacconist who brings African colour to Tolox

### TOLOX

When not running the shop, Pilar Moreno creates clothing for her Afrikaans brand, which her two teenage daughters model

ANDREA JIMÉNEZ



The tobacconist's shop in Tolox, the only one in the village, has been part of Pilar Moreno's life since she was a child. She inherited it from her father when she was eight years old, and started running it ten years later.

"I must have been one of the youngest tobacconists in Spain," says Pilar, who is known in the village not only as the owner of the shop in the Plaza de los Poyos but also for having her own clothing brand called Afrikaans, for which her two daughters are the image.

In fact, her interest in fashion began because of her daughters, Adela and Helena.

"When they were little, a friend told me they could be child models. I took them to Malaga, and when they were six and seven they were featured in an haute couture magazine," she told SUR.

From then on, the girls modelled for several well-known brands. "They have been in fashion shows in Madrid, Barcelona and Valencia, and have even been in the Italian Vogue maga-

zine," said Pilar.

Although they have been to many different places in Spain, they always come back to Tolox. "I like living here, the quality of life is good," said Pilar, who has always kept her tobacconists open. "My partner and I take turns to be in the shop, and it is next to my house. It's very convenient," she said.

Six years ago, after accompanying her daughters to different fashion events, she decided it would be a good time to start a new project: her own line of clothing.

"My partner is from Cameroon. His mother, the girls' grandmother, used to send us beautiful fabrics from there. They were very unusual, but they were African patterns and people were not used to seeing them here. One evening, when I was bored at home, I decided to use some of the material to create dresses in a more European style," she explained.

That is how Afrikaans was born. At first, she designed clothing for teenagers. "You see plenty of clothes for children and adults, but not so much for that age. I started designing for my daughters, and then we began to incorporate other garments and accessories, such as bags and belts," she said.

The name of the brand evokes

**The fabric Pilar uses for her designs comes from Cameroon, which is where her partner, the girls' father, is from**

its multicultural aspect. "There is a mixture of cultures in Africa, and my designs reflect that," she added.

### Urban collections

Her daughters' experience in modelling made them the perfect image for the brand, and Pilar's designs began to sell all over Spain. "They are casual, very urban collections. The fabric is 100 per cent cotton, combined with some Andalusian influences," she said. In fact, one of the collections created by Pilar and her team was called 'Aires de Andalucía', featuring lace and crochet.

All the designs are made in Tolox, with the help of several professional seamstresses. "I have a catalogue, although we usually sell most at fashion shows because when you see the garments in person they are much more striking," said Pilar, who also participates in charity events and has organised shows in Tolox to raise funds for children in need in Africa.

But that was not enough for someone with such an entrepreneurial spirit. As well as running the tobacconists and being a fashion designer, last December she opened a restaurant business in her village.

"Part of it is the restaurant, serving traditional dishes, and there is also an exhibition area where people can enjoy music shows and film screenings. We need more cultural and leisure facilities here," she said. The restaurant is run by her son Mario, and it has become very popular with the numerous foreign residents of Tolox, especially at weekends.

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