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## Costa hospital extension back on track as works go out to tender

The 51-million-euro project aims to increase the number of beds by 62 and double the capacity of the intensive care unit

The Junta de Andalucía has put the works to complete the expansion of the hospital on the Costa del Sol in Marbella out to tender. On Wednesday, it published the

conditions of the 51.7-million-euro contract for a project that will take 21 months to complete. Among other improvements, the plan aims to increase the number of beds by 62 and double the capacity of the intensive care unit. The work on the hospital extension has been halted for more than ten years and its completion will help relieve pressure on healthcare services on the western Costa del Sol. **P4**

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**The scarcity of basic services takes the charm off rural life** **P2-3**

## SPAIN ON ALERT FOR WEEKEND HEAT WAVE

While the Costa del Sol should escape the worst, temperatures are expected to soar across Malaga province on Monday **P10**



A bather cools off this week on the beach of Los Álamos, Torremolinos. **SALVADOR SALAS**



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# When rural life loses its charm: villages are gradually being left without basic services

28 of the 103 municipalities in Malaga province no longer have a bank; 74 have no health centre; and 16 lack a school

NURIA TRIGUERO



MALAGA. The quality of life is better in a rural village, people say. There are undoubtedly some advantages: the children can play

outside in the street, the air is pure, you are close to nature, you know who grew the tomatoes in your salad, you know your neighbours... but village life in 2021 can also mean someone having a heart attack and the ambulance taking half an hour to get there (if you're lucky and it is not out on another emergency). Or not having access to a bank or cash machine. Or your children going to school by bus every day, along a dangerous road. Or needing a car to go anywhere or do anything. Does all that sound like quality of life?

The pandemic has led many people to long for rural life, but the attractions of small villages are outweighed by a long list of incon-

veniences because so many services have been lost. Villages have no weapons to fight depopulation. Initiatives to attract inhabitants and employment, from cultural and artistic programmes to tax incentives or grants, can have no more than a modest effect when there is a lack of basic services such as healthcare, education, banking and transport.

A study carried out by the Valencian Economic Research Group (IVIE) in 2019 shows that the progressive disappearance of services is beginning to create situations of "vulnerability" for the residents of small villages, who now have to spend at least 20 minutes getting to the nearest health centre,

school or bank and even 45 minutes to reach a hospital. The situation is especially worrying in the Axarquía and Serranía areas of Malaga province.

According to the study, 28 villages in Malaga have no bank. Since 2008, the province has lost more than half its branches, the number of places without a bank has increased by 133 per cent and

**Malaga is the province where it takes longest to travel from a village with no bank to the nearest one: nearly 18 minutes**

more than 19,000 people now have no access to banking services.

The study looked at how long it takes someone who lives in a place with no bank to get the nearest one. The national average is 10.6 minutes, but Malaga has the highest rate in Spain: 17.8 minutes.

With regard to healthcare, no village in the province lacks this altogether but 74 of Malaga's 103 municipalities have no health centre, just a surgery that normally opens for a few hours on two or three days a week.

The IVIE shows that 16 towns or villages have no infant or primary school, although all of them apart from Cútar have at least one classroom at a rural school, shared by several municipalities. In 28, there is no secondary school.

The report did not look at public transport, but this is a major source of complaint for the residents of small villages. In many cases there is only one bus a day.

## Alleviating the problem

Natacha Rivas is the delegate for depopulation at the Diputación, the provincial government. She says the lack of facilities is just one of the reasons it is difficult to at-

## Municipalities that lack basic facilities

Municipality	Health centre	Banks	Schools*	Population
Alameda	0	4	1	5372
Alcaucín	0	0	1	2230
Alfarnate	0	1	1	1069
<b>Alfarnatejo</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>377</b>
Almáchar	0	2	1	1811
Almargen	0	2	1	1954
Almogía	0	0	4	3715
<b>Alpandeire</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>260</b>
<b>Árchez</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>385</b>
Ardales	0	2	1	2500
Arenas	0	0	1	1156
Arriate	0	2	1	4102
Atajate	0	0	1	168
Benadalid	0	1	0	215
Benahavís	0	3	1	8085
Benalauría	0	1	0	438
Benamocarra	0	1	1	3011
Benarrabá	0	1	0	455
Borge, El	0	0	1	930
Burgo, El	0	1	1	1800
C. de Aceituno	0	0	1	1677
C. de Albaida	0	1	0	716
Cañete la Real	0	1	1	1665
Carratraca	0	1	1	731
<b>Cartajima</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>253</b>
Casabermeja	0	2	1	3522

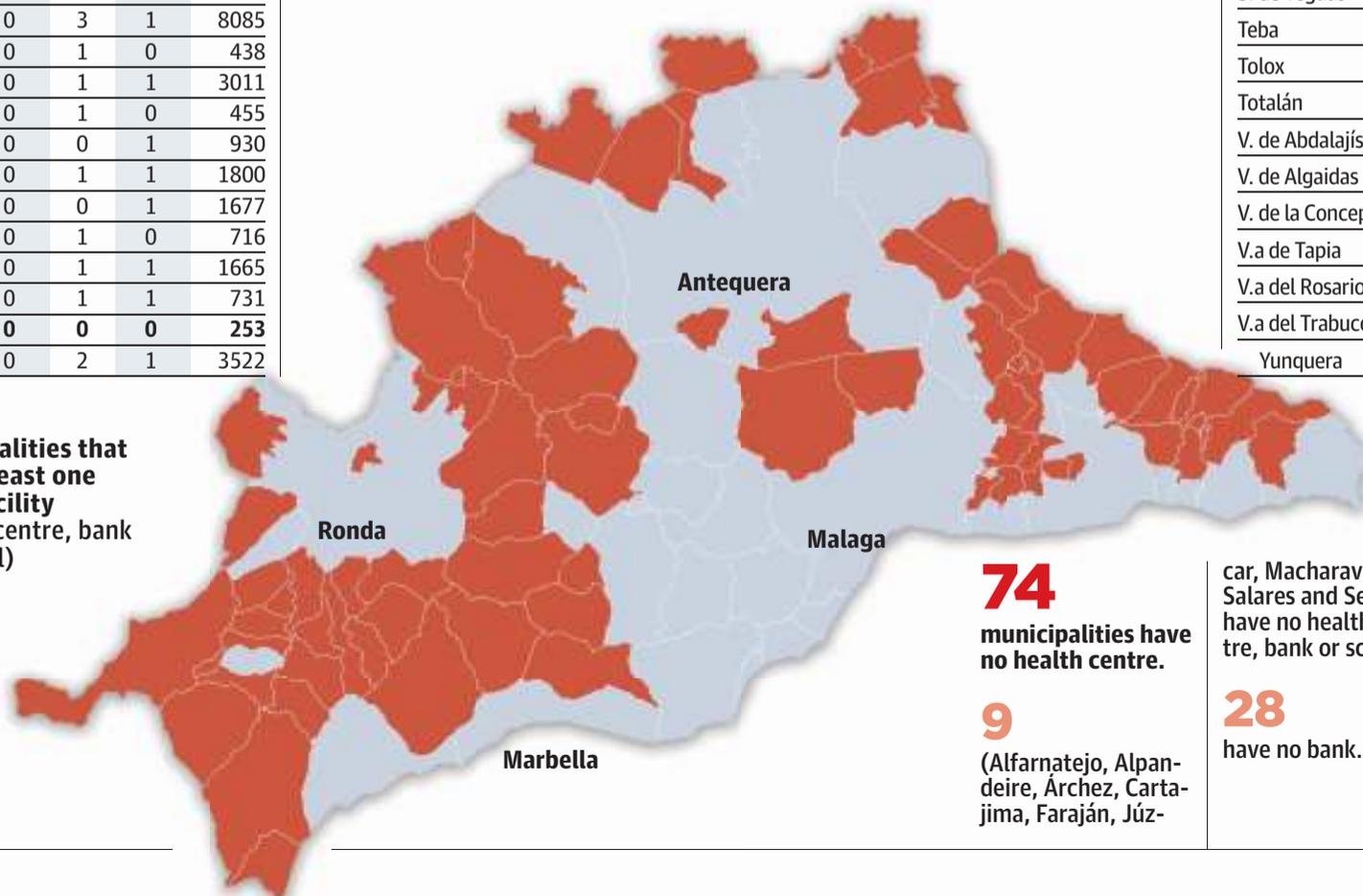
Municipality	Health centre	Banks	Schools*	Population
Casarabonela	0	2	1	2502
Casares	0	1	2	6515
Comares	0	1	1	1315
Cómpeta	0	3	1	3922
C. de la Frontera	0	4	3	3101
Cuevas Bajas	0	0	1	1395
C. de San Marcos	0	1	1	3648
C. del Becerro	0	0	1	1589
Cútar	0	0	1	607
<b>Faraján</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>253</b>
Frigiliana	0	3	1	3009
Fuente de Piedra	0	2	1	2596
Gaucín	0	1	1	1576

Municipality	Health centre	Banks	Schools*	Population
Genalguacil	0	1	0	410
Guaro	0	0	1	2260
Humilladero	0	2	1	3286
Igualaja	0	1	1	763
Istán	0	1	1	1469
Iznate	0	0	1	868
Jimera de Líbar	0	1	0	372
Jubrique	0	1	1	528
<b>Júzcar</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>232</b>
<b>Macharaviaya</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>480</b>
Manilva	0	10	3	15528
Moclinejo	0	0	2	1271
Monda	0	2	1	2594

Municipality	Health centre	Banks	Schools*	Population
Montecorto	0	0	1	593
Montejaque	0	1	1	964
Ojén	0	2	1	3702
Parauta	0	0	1	251
Periana	0	1	3	3048
Pujerra	0	1	0	301
Riogordo	0	1	1	2724
<b>Salares</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>169</b>
Sayalonga	0	0	1	1681
<b>Sedella</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>606</b>
Serrato	0	0	1	477
S. de Yeguas	0	2	1	3346
Teba	0	2	1	3760
Tolox	0	0	1	2107
Totalán	0	0	1	746
V. de Abdalajís	0	0	1	2542
V. de Algaidas	0	3	1	4176
V. de la Concepción	0	1	1	3296
V.a de Tapia	0	2	1	1476
V.a del Rosario	0	2	1	3356
V.a del Trabuco	0	3	1	5299
Yunquera	0	1	1	2864

\* Infant and primary schools

**Municipalities that lack at least one basic facility (Health centre, bank or school)**



**74** municipalities have no health centre.

**9** (Alfarnatejo, Alpandeire, Árchez, Cartajima, Faraján, Júz-

car, Macharaviaya, Salares and Sedella) have no health centre, bank or school.

**28** have no bank.

**55%** Since 2008, 55% of bank branches in Malaga province have closed.

**16** municipalities have no infant and primary school.

tract people to live in these places.

“Job opportunities are even more important. If there is work and people come, services will be reinstated,” she said.

Communications are also essential. “This year we are starting to improve the roads between villages, to reduce the time people have to spend getting to the bank, the doctor or the school,” she said. “And let’s not forget digital communications. We are talking to the operators about that.”

In the Serranía, the Diputación is also organising transport so that elderly people can get to the nearest banks. And in Cútar and Júzcar there is a pilot project so people can withdraw cash at pharmacies.

The mayor of Genalguacil, Miguel Ángel Herrera, is highly critical of the way small villages have been abandoned.

“We are the victims of the dismantling of services in villages and centralising all of them in the big towns. When it comes to giving out money, the administrations only think in terms of population numbers, and of course, votes,” he said.

Herrera has no faith in the projects announced by the Diputación to combat depopulation.

“I only believe in the budget. When we receive 500,000 euros instead of 300,000, then I’ll believe it. They are just doing more studies. I’d rather they stopped carrying out studies and repaired our road instead,” he said.

## Cútar, the village that ended up with no school when pupil numbers dropped

The children go to school seven kilometres away, a doctor comes twice a week, there is only one shop and a bar

EUGENIO CABEZAS

MALAGA. The school in Cútar is in the lower part of this tiny, pretty village in the Axarquía. It is unoccupied now. After more than 40 years during which it had up to 50 pupils, the numbers dropped progressively and by 2019 there were only two, so the Junta de Andalucía said it had to close.

“I really hope we can open it again soon,” said Mari Carmen Agüera, the Education councillor. “Several babies have been born in the past two years so maybe next year or the year after it will be possible.” The municipality has just 615 residents and they are spread out over seven outlying districts.

“There were a number of reasons. People with children that age preferred them to go to the school in Benamargosa, seven



The councillor, the mayor and residents outside the closed school. E. C.

kilometres away, because that’s where their friends were,” said the mayor, Francisco Ruiz.

“It’s a great shame that our school had to close, but the Junta has said that once we have three pupils it will open it again,” he explains. In the decade up to 2019, when it closed,

there were on average eight to ten pupils each year. At present there are around 50 children of school age in Cútar, but they go to schools in other places, not only Benamargosa but also Los Romanes, which is part of La Viñuela, 11 kilometres away.

Cútar does have a doctor, who

comes two days a week. Francisco Mérida, who is 60, has been running this surgery and the one in Comares, 17 kilometres away, for the past ten years. “It’s a lovely job, I don’t want to leave here until I retire. You have a closer relationship with people than you would elsewhere,” he said.

### “Safer here”

During the pandemic, people in Cútar and Comares seemed to feel safer than those in bigger places. In fact, a lot of people came back to the village when the lockdown came into force in March 2020.

“They felt more protected here for some reason, even though in some villages nearby, such as Almáchar and El Borge, there were several outbreaks of the virus,” said Dr Mérida.

There is one shop in Cútar, which opens in the mornings. It is run by Melodi Fernández, who also runs the village’s only bar. She opens that at weekends.

There is also a pharmacy, managed by José Antonio Colino, who moved to the village from Jaén seven years ago and “has barely left it since,” he said.

“It’s very picturesque, very quiet, with spectacular views. I send photos to all my friends and they’re envious. This is a lovely place to live,” he added.

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# Costa del Sol Hospital expansion plan goes out to tender for 51 million

The project will add 34,000 square metres to the healthcare facilities of one of the most populated areas of the province

JOAQUINA DUEÑAS

MALAGA. After more than decade of delays the Junta de Andalucía has put the works to complete the extension of Marbella's Costa del Sol hospital out to tender.

On Wednesday it published the conditions of the 51.7-million-euro contract just as the hospital is under its usual summer pressure, with tourists multiplying the population and the aggravation of Covid.

The works should take 21 months to complete, according to the tender, and bidders have until 25 August to submit their offer.

The regional government's

president Juanma Moreno unveiled the latest plans in May when he visited the hospital together with the Junta's minister of health, Jesús Aguirre, and the town mayor, Ángeles Muñoz.

At that meeting, Moreno said, "In a period of a year and a half, we will have this magnificent hospital facility at the service, not only of the residents of Marbella, but also of that floating population we have on the Costa del Sol."

The hospital serves a catchment area with a population of half a million, which has grown at a rate of three per cent in the last two years and doubles during holiday periods.

## Investment

The extension will add 34,000 square metres of space, resulting in a total area of 83,000 square metres. The complete project includes both the new building, as well as the refurbishment



The Costa del Sol Hospital where construction work on the hospital extension stopped ten years ago. JOSELE

**The number of beds will be increased by 62 and the intensive care unit will double its capacity**

of the existing facilities.

Outpatient clinics, day hospitals and diagnostic test departments will move to the new building. The number of beds will be

increased by 62 and the intensive care unit will double its capacity. Improvements will be made to the emergency department with six more consulting rooms, two observation rooms and 29 beds.

The extension will add four more operating theatres and one more room for haemodynamics, and another for interventional radiology will be set up in the old operating rooms on the second floor thanks to refurbishment of the surgical block that had be-

come obsolete. Some of the old operating rooms will be used to double the size of the intensive care unit, ICU.

Work has been halted on the extension site since 2010, when a dispute between the contractors and the authorities over the running of the underground car park came to a head.

Attempts to reach an agreement failed and finally in 2019 the regional authority terminated the contract at a cost of 12 million euros.

# Marbella to demolish its municipal stadium and build a new one

JOAQUINA DUEÑAS

MARBELLA. The Antonio Lorenzo Cuevas municipal stadium in Marbella is to be pulled down and a new sports facility built in its place.

The stadium was closed at the end of May for a technical survey after part of the structure of the stands came loose.

The town's mayor, Ángeles Muñoz, has now announced the decision to demolish after the study determined that a partial rebuilding project was not possible.

The new project will be devel-

oped along two lines. The space under the stadium formerly used as the municipal car pound (this was recently moved to new premises) will be rehabilitated to create a public car park. Meanwhile the new sports stadium will be constructed.

In September the contract for the car park project will be put out to tender and firms will also be invited to submit their designs to the contest of ideas for the stadium. The mayor said that the project would create a "modern, sustainable and efficient sports facility in

accordance with the town's needs", adding that she hoped it would be "an emblematic project".

The car park will have 156 conventional spaces, six for vehicles of people with reduced mobility, five for electric recharging and 14 for motorcycles. With an estimated budget of 3.5 million euros and a construction time of about twelve months, Muñoz hopes it can be finished in 2023.

## Athletics track

The old stadium has an athletics track that is not officially approved, although the town will have a certified outdoor track in the future Guadaiza sports complex. The mayor explained, therefore, that the new project must include an indoor track which would be located in the space available under the football pitch due to the incline of the street, along with a municipal gym and rooms for other sports.

This new project rules out the proposal presented a year ago by Best of You, the company that manages Marbella Fútbol Club, for a project that included hotel and commercial facilities and for which a modification of the town's urban plan would have been necessary.



Ángeles Muñoz during the presentation of the project. JOSELE

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# 4 key benefits of effective tax planning

By Kelvin Chambers, Partner, Blevins Franks

When it comes to your savings and investments, is your main objective to preserve your wealth, provide an income or generate growth? Perhaps it is all of the above? Whatever the answer, tax planning plays an important role in protecting and making the most of what you have.

While the tax tail shouldn't necessarily wag the investment dog, there are numerous benefits to strategic tax planning, especially for expatriates who have cross-border considerations. Here are four of them.

## 1. A reduced tax bill for you

Let's start with the most obvious advantage – reducing your overall liability for income tax, capital gains tax and other taxes on your savings, investments, assets and pensions.

If there is a more tax-efficient way to hold your capital and assets, shouldn't you explore if it could work for you? Yet many people fail to do just that and unknowingly end up paying more than they should. This may include income tax on bank interest you are not even withdrawing, or capital gains

tax when switching between investments.

Many expatriates are also caught out by not reviewing their arrangements for their life abroad. Once you are no longer UK-resident, certain assets that were tax-efficient back home, such as ISAs and UK investment bonds, become taxable in Spain.

Meanwhile, you could be missing out on alternative structures available here in Spain that can reduce your tax liability as well as providing other potential benefits, such as currency flexibility.

## 2. Less taxation for your heirs

Of course, the less tax you pay in your lifetime, the more you have to either spend now or pass on to your chosen heirs.

But with some investment structures you may also be able to lower the inheritance tax liability for your heirs. Ideally you want a solution that will limit inheritance taxes while also providing tax-efficient income and investment growth throughout your lifetime, so take personalised, specialist advice to explore your

options in Spain.

## 3. More estate planning flexibility

Strategic tax planning can also help make things easier for your family when you are gone. Many investment arrangements that provide tax efficiency also offer more estate planning flexibility and control.

Most UK pensions, for example, are only transferable to your spouse on death, but when transferred to a Qualifying Recognised Overseas Pension Scheme (QROPS) or reinvested in a suitable tax-efficient structure for Spain, you could pass funds on to other chosen beneficiaries, often without the need to go through probate.

## 4. Maximising real returns

Effective tax planning also plays a part in helping returns outpace the cost of living.

Ultimately, what counts when assessing the value of investments are actual returns – after all tax, expenses and inflation are taken into account. Property, for example, is often lauded for producing relatively

high returns over the long term, but with stamp duty, local rates, capital gains and potentially wealth taxes applied, the tax burden can be large compared to other assets.

With investments, the starting point should always be making sure your portfolio is well diversified and specifically designed to suit your situation, needs, goals, time horizon and risk tolerance. But without suitable tax planning, returns can be diminished by taxes that could have been avoided or at least significantly reduced.

## How to get the best results

It's easy to get DIY tax planning wrong, especially with the regulatory goalposts changing all the time. Expatriates have the added complication of having to deal with the tax rules of more than one country at a time when global tax scrutiny is at its highest. Getting it wrong can not only lead to an unwelcome and unexpected tax bill for you or your heirs, you could end up facing a tax investigation.

Your tax planning should not be done in isolation or as an afterthought, but

rather as a fundamental part of your investment, pensions, estate planning and overall wealth management approach. Schedule regular reviews so you can adjust your arrangements to keep up with any life changes or tax reforms that may affect you, including new opportunities.

For the best results, talk to an adviser with in-depth understanding of cross-border taxation, including how the Spanish tax regime interacts with UK rules. As well as offering peace of mind that your tax and wider financial planning is compliant in Spain, they can ensure it meets your income needs and goals in the most tax-efficient way today, without burdening your family with unnecessary tax headaches in the future.

*The 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 take personalised advice.*

# Tax-efficient solutions for expatriates in Spain

With advisers living locally and backed by teams of specialists, we can help you make the most of your wealth and living in Spain. Our holistic advice covers:

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**Estate planning** | helping ensure the right money goes to the right people at the right time.

**Investments** | designing portfolios to suit your circumstances and goals.

**UK pensions** | exploring your options to find the best solution for you.

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# Fifty hotels on the Costa del Sol are up for sale, a third more than a year ago

A real estate portal puts Malaga province just behind the Balearic Islands and Barcelona as the third location in Spain with the most properties looking for a buyer

PILAR MARTÍNEZ

MALAGA. The coronavirus pandemic has taken a heavy toll on Spain's hotel sector and the number of properties seeking buyers has increased considerably.

The Idealista property portal shows more than fifty hotels in Malaga province, including the Costa del Sol, that are advertising their sale on the platform. The figure is 33 per cent more than just a year ago. Most are small, boutique-hotel establishments.

The increase registered by the Costa del Sol is just above the national average of 30 per cent and Malaga province is in third place by the number of hotels for sale, only preceded by the Balearic Islands and Barcelona, with 67 and 60 establishments respectively.

The property platform also points out that Andalucía is the Spanish region in which the number of hotels offered for sale has grown the most this year, with 45 more establishments for sale than a year ago, followed by the Canary Islands, with 28 more hotels; Valencia, with 24; Catalonia, with 19, and the Balearic Islands and Galicia, with 17 each.

Idealista specifies that they have hotels listed for sale throughout the Spanish regions, although practically half of them are concentrated in Andalucía, which has 135 advertisements; Catalonia, with 113; and the Balearic Islands, with 67.

In the case of the Costa del Sol,



One of the hotels advertised on Idealista. SUR

most of the establishments seeking a buyer fit the profile of boutique hotels, with around twenty rooms. In terms of location, they are distributed throughout the province, although they are concentrated along the western strip of the Costa del Sol.

## Boutique hotels

Standing out is an establishment in the old town of Marbella, which is selling for 1.6 million euros, or another in Benalmádena, for 2.7 million, which is advertised as a “modern and luxury boutique hotel with 17 fully luxurious rooms, fully-equipped and furnished”.

This property is located 100 metres from the beach. Nearby, in Arroyo de la Miel, another establishment is advertised, which

## One of the most expensive offers, for three million euros, is for a four-star hotel in Mijas Costa

is not finished, and which has 22 rooms in the heart of the town. The asking price is 1.2 million.

One of the most expensive offers, for three million euros, is for a four-star hotel in Mijas Costa. There are 24 rooms, dining room, restaurant, business centre and spa, with heated pool, sauna and Jacuzzi, as well as green areas and a golf course.

Also, in Malaga city, for almost one million euros, you can pick

up a unique villa built in 1947, completely renovated in 2002 as a two-star hotel and that has views of the Gibralfaro and the city centre.

Several of the hotel owners, who do not want to be identified, agree that the impact of the pandemic has been the final straw that has ruined their business plans.

Idealista specifies that “on 1 August 1, 2021, a total of 639 establishments that recognised having a hotel license were listed on the portal [in Spain], while a year earlier that figure stood at 490. The increase has been noticed more strongly in the coastal provinces, registering 44 per cent more hotel real estate supply than a year ago, going from 323 hotels to 465.”

## Costa del Sol Tourism unveils a new language-learning campaign

P. MARTÍNEZ

MALAGA. The Costa del Sol is aiming to promote more language-learning tourism in the region.

The tourist board has produced an ‘ebook’ with all the information about what the destination can offer for anyone who wants to learn Spanish in Malaga province.

The CEO of Costa del Sol Tourism, Margarita del Cid, points out that “the region offers more than thirty specialised centres, with a long and accredited history in teaching Spanish to students” and the area can offer foreign students all the services they need during their stay in the province, including accommodation.”

The tourist board is focussing on the high interest in learning Spanish, which after Chinese, has established itself as the most widely-spoken language in the world and, after English, is one of the most important international languages in the field of business.

## Reasons

Costa del Sol Tourism has highlighted some the reasons to study Spanish in Malaga and lists, among them “a mild climate with 320 days of sunshine a year, great beaches, impressive landscapes, nature, monuments, a varied cultural and leisure offer, a first-rate hotel infrastructure, and prestigious Spanish schools accredited by the Cervantes Institute. A place full of light where leisure, fun and warmth go hand in hand to turn the visitor's stay into a unique and unforgettable experience.”

## Cruise activity increases in Malaga with one of the largest sailboats in the world due in soon

P. MARTÍNEZ

MALAGA. The port of Malaga is registering an increase in cruise activity again after the Covid-19 shutdown and will see six ships dock at its facilities this August.

This increase in movement follows the decision of the Windstar Cruises shipping company to make three stops in the city, and two of them will be with one of the largest sailboats in the world.

Malaga port has said these ar-

rivals are in addition to those programmed by German Aida Cruises.

## The company

Windstar is a cruise company with a long history in Malaga. On 12 and 20 August their Wind Surf vessel will dock in the city. It is a spectacular five-masted sailboat, considered one of the largest in the world in its class, and can carry 312 passengers.

In addition, on 21 August, the Star Legend, belonging to the same

shipping company, will visit the city. The 135-metre-long ship, with a maximum capacity of 212 passengers, will spend one night in port so that cruise passengers will be able to enjoy two days in the capital of the Costa del Sol

These operations are in addition to those already scheduled by Aida Cruises, two with the ship Aida Perla, on 10 and 24 August, and one more with the Aida Stella, which is scheduled to arrive on 23 August.



Wind Surf will sail into Malaga on 12 and 20 August. IDEAL



## Virus rate keeps falling but hospitals stay under pressure

Malaga province, including the Costa del Sol, still has high Covid infection rates but there are no tougher local restrictions planned this week

**SUR**

MALAGA. The Covid-19 rolling case rate in Malaga province, including the Costa del Sol, continued its slow downward trend this week, although the overall rate level remains high.

On Thursday the rolling case rate per 100,000 in the last 14 days in the province was 610,

down on 770 a week earlier. By provinces, Seville continues as the one with the most daily new cases with 926, followed by Malaga with 700, Cadiz with 562, Granada with 326, Almeria with 320, Huelva with 290, Jaén with 279 and Cordoba with 266.

Within local hospitals in Malaga province, the number of people with Covid-19 had dropped slightly to 450 on Thursday, down on 503 a week earlier. However, reports of pressure on hospital resources continued.

Nationally, Spain's Covid-19 14-day rate was 563 on Wednesday this week, down from 692 a



More than one million people in Malaga province are fully vaccinated. **sUR**

week earlier.

The Andalusian government was not expected to introduce any more local restrictions on top of those already in place this week, either on a municipal or provincial level, given the slow decline in rates. It said it would respect Friday's court rejection of its plan for people to show certificates or test results to enter

nightspots. Almost 60 per cent of people in Andalucía have now had complete doses of a Covid vaccine, with the number of fully vaccinated in Malaga province hitting one million this week.

**More information:** For the latest on case rates in each local municipality and an up-to-date map, see [www.surinenglish.com](http://www.surinenglish.com)

## Covid-19 kills 20-year-old Estepona woman after seven hospital trips

**JOSÉ MARÍA MARTÍN**

ESTEPONA. A 20-year-old from Estepona died early last Sunday infected with Covid-19. According to family sources, the woman went to Hospital Costa del Sol in Marbella on seven occasions to be treated but each time she was sent home, despite showing positive for coronavirus on a second test.

Last Saturday, the young woman asked her parents to take her back as "she couldn't take it anymore and she was dying".

The hospital said it followed correct procedures and the care was adequate. The woman had not been vaccinated and had risk factors associated with the illness, said the hospital.

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# Malaga Airport luggage theft gangs sent packing by police

Posing as passengers or airport workers, the suspects would prowl the arrivals area in search of vulnerable victims in order to steal their belongings

**SUR**

MALAGA. National Police have smashed two organised crime groups that specialised in thefts of luggage and travel bags from passengers at Malaga-Costa del Sol Airport.

Five people have been arrested - two of them alleged members of a Serbian gang and another three of a network of French-Algerian origin - who took advantage of distracted passengers while these were putting their luggage into rental vehicles or taxis by stealing their bags.

Airport police made the arrests after reports of half a dozen thefts and one robbery with force, and found, among other items, wigs, caps and hats which the suspects used to disguise themselves and avoid being identified. In addition, officers recovered lockpick-type tools which were allegedly used to commit the crimes.

While investigations continue, the courts have issued a restraining order forbidding the suspects from going within 1,000 metres of the airport facilities.



Hats, wigs and other items that were recovered by police. **SUR**

According to the investigators, the alleged thieves would prowl the airport arrivals area in search of vulnerable victims in order to steal their belongings. To do this, the police say, they pretended to be travellers with backpacks, handbags or other accessories, or posing as airport terminal workers.

While some of the gang members distracted the victims, others allegedly stole their belongings.

One of the groups, made up of members of French-Algerian origin, was found using a vehicle with French registration plates. Investigations led to the identification

of three members of the organisation with numerous records of theft and robbery. They were located and arrested in a Malaga hotel.

Two Serbian members of the other group were caught at the airport taxi area, mingling with passengers and looking for victims. Police found them carrying numerous hats and caps, two wigs, a pick to open vehicle locks, over 1,000 euros in cash, several mobile phones and travel bags. The arrested people have a record of crimes of a similar nature at Madrid-Barajas and Barcelona-El Prat airports.

## Homes burgled using keys left in parked cars at amusement parks

**Á. FRÍAS / F. TORRES** Police in Malaga are investigating thefts from two homes, while the families were away enjoying a day at a leisure park and, on both occasions, the robbers had gained access with keys that the victims had left in the parked vehicles at the attractions.

One of the families had visited Isla Mágica in Seville, while the

other travelled to Aquasierra in Cordoba province.

Due to the similar 'modus operandi', National Police officers are linking the two cases.

The victims suffered doubly - not only with damage to their vehicles when they were broken into in the car parks, but also when they returned to their homes, some hours later, to find

they had been burgled.

The police investigation suggests that the thieves forced the locks of several vehicles in the car parks at the leisure attractions until they found what they were looking for: cars in which their owners had left their house keys, as well as personal documentation or vehicle papers, where the owner's address could be found.

Armed with the keys and the address, the thieves headed to the selected homes where they stole cash, jewellery and electronic devices.



The rescue in progress. **SUR**

## Lifeguard injured as eight bathers are rescued on a Marbella beach

**EUROPA PRESS.** Eight bathers, including five children, were rescued on a beach in Marbella at the weekend after they became trapped in a rocky area by strong currents.

Municipal lifeguards on Cabopino beach spotted the group in difficulties at around 11.40am last Saturday morning (7 August).

Two lifeguards, employed by Socorrismo Malaga, entered the sea, while a third stayed on land to help get the bathers out of the water, helped by a member of the public.

Some of the rescued bathers suffered cuts and bruises and one of the lifeguards required treatment at the Costa del Sol hospital before being discharged.

During the operation, as reported by Marbella council, one of the lifeguards also suffered various injuries and minor bruises for which he was treated and later transferred also to the Costa del Sol hospital, from where he was later discharged.

## National Police officers save a man from drowning on a beach in Estepona

**Á. FRÍAS / F. TORRES.** National Police officers have saved the life of a man in Estepona after he got into difficulties and was carried some 200 metres away from the shore by strong currents.

The incident happened last Friday, 6 August, by the Andalucía Beach estate, east of the resort centre, when, at around 5.30pm, several eyewitnesses called the emergency services to say that there was a man drowning.

The National Police officers did not hesitate to jump into the sea and swim to the man with a buoyancy aid that was later used to tow him to shore.

## Police evict 370 people from a Covid rule-flouting event in Malaga

**E. P.** Local Police officers in Malaga evicted 370 people from an establishment last Saturday night, 7 August, and reported the business for failing to comply with Covid-19 containment measures. It was, therefore, a dangerous event in the current pandemic situation. Malaga City Council said the business, "did not comply with the authorised activity and lacked a music license," in addition to going over closing time.

The city's mayor, Francisco de la Torre, has once again asked the public to act responsibly and, on Sunday, reminded locals and visitors the Covid-19 rules are designed to contain the spread of virus.

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# Heat wave and local 'terral' wind threaten to send temperatures up to 47 degrees

While the Costa should escape the worst of the heat wave affecting Spain over the weekend, the 'terral' wind is likely to send thermometers soaring on Monday

FRANCISCO JIMÉNEZ

MALAGA. Spain's national weather agency, Aemet, has predicted that much of Spain will be affected this weekend by the country's first major heat wave of the summer. Temperatures are expected to soar across the entire Malaga province, although the Costa del Sol will escape the worst - until Monday.

While in Marbella, Fuengirola or Estepona the maximum temperatures are expected to remain around 32 or 33 degrees during the weekend, inland they will climb above 40 as of today, Friday.

In the Antequera and the Seranía de Ronda regions the daytime highs are likely to soar above 40 degrees and remain at that level over the weekend. Aemet activated a yellow warning for the Ronda area for today, Friday, going up to amber on Saturday, and Antequera is at amber both days, with more warnings expected for Sunday.

The most extreme temperatures are forecast to hit the Costa del Sol, Malaga city and the Guadalhorce Valley on Monday, however, when the warm air causing the heat wave around the country inland gives way to the local 'terral' wind. Then, 45 degrees could be exceeded in much of the



Young people cooling off in a fountain in Malaga. FRANCIS SILVA

province, and weather experts say the Guadalhorce towns of Pízarra, Coín and Cártama could see the mercury hit 46 or 47.

This combination of the first official heat wave of summer and the local terral wind is being

**A total of 31 provinces are on yellow and amber warnings due to high temperatures**

blamed for the scorching temperatures - which could also be accompanied at the weekend by a haze of Saharan dust, carried by the hot air mass from Africa.

Added to this, the nighttime temperatures are not expected to drop below an uncomfortable 25 degrees.

"Inland it's going to very hot [this weekend], while on the western Costa del Sol we expect it not to be so bad because we have the relatively cool Alboran Sea," explained the director of the Malaga Meteorological Centre, José María

Sánchez-Laulhé, adding that from Monday the terral effect could last for another day and a half.

## Heat wave across Spain

The first official heat wave of summer will see the temperatures soar in almost all areas of Spain, climbing above 40 degrees in many parts of the country, according to the State Meteorological Agency (Aemet).

A total of 31 provinces are on yellow (risk) and amber (significant risk) warnings due to high temperatures.

## Marine experts warn bathers to beware of jellyfish on the Costa del Sol's beaches

SUR

MALAGA. Bathers were warned to watch out for jellyfish on some Costa del Sol beaches this week.

The Infomedusa app, developed by the Aula del Mar marine conservation organisation in Malaga, reported a high presence of the invertebrates on several beaches in the Nerja area on Wednesday, including the shores of Burriana, El Playazo, Calahonda and La Turret.

By Thursday the experts predicted a greater concentration of jellyfish on the western Costa, with reports of their presence close to the shoreline in Fuengirola, Benalmádena and Marbella.

Bathers were advised to take care, to follow instructions given by lifeguards and observe the colour of the flags.

Since the beginning of August, jellyfish have been sighted at several points along the Malaga coastline although, for now, not with such an excessive presence as in previous summers.

According to Jesús Bellido of the Aula del Mar, over the next few days jellyfish numbers could increase due to the eastern and southerly winds.

"It's possible that they could keep approaching some beaches. We knew this was going to be a complicated summer as far as jellyfish are concerned," he said.

Yellow flags were raised due to jellyfish in Malaga and the Granada coastline earlier this week.

## Qatari luxury port hotel backers not put off by negative report

The Ministry of Culture says the 116m tower in Malaga would harm the nearby old town but the city's mayor and port authority also disagree

FRANCISCO JIMÉNEZ / SUR

MALAGA. The investors behind a planned luxury hotel for Malaga's port have said they remain committed to the ambitious but controversial project.

Confirmation of their continued interest came just a few days

after the national Ministry of Culture published a damning report on the 166-metre-tall tower which would house the 26-storey five-star hotel and conference facilities for 1,100 people.

Last week, representatives from Al Alfia, the Qatari-royal-family fund that wants to build, visited Mayor of Malaga Francisco de la Torre and Malaga Port Authority head Carlos Rubio, who are both also strong backers of the scheme, and said their interest has not waned. The investors have also renewed a bank

guarantee, believed to be about two million euros, deposited with port bosses, who control the land.

"We are 100 per cent convinced that the project can move forward with our total support and the support of those here in Malaga," said Joao Jose de Gouveia, representing the Qatari-royal-family fund

The 378-room-hotel has been designed by renowned architect José Seguí and would be built next to the cruise ship terminal, on the eastern edge of the docks. Recently the planned height was reduced by some 20 metres and the location moved slightly due to an issue with the future foundations and port walls. The expected cost has now risen to some 200 million euros.

The Ministry of Culture said in its critical report published



Artists' impression. SUR

last week that the tower would have a negative impact on Malaga's historic old town, which is a protected monument, and the relationship of the city with the sea would be affected.

In order for the project to go ahead, the Spanish Cabinet needs to allow a change of land use in the docks for a hotel and it is likely, but not certain, that ministers will be influenced by the negative conclusion.

## An illogical point of view?

Malaga city hall and the Andalusian regional government (that operates the port), both of whom are headed by the conservative PP, have said they are surprised by the PSOE-Podemos government report.

The mayor of Malaga said that he did not understand why large towers had been approved close to the historic centres of Seville and Barcelona in recent years while Malaga's plan had received negative feedback.

Malaga Port Authority has said it will look to appeal the findings.

# Environmentalists denounce use of jet skis in protected area

GENA - Ecologistas en Acción have sent a letter to the Junta de Andalucía calling for more vigilance to prevent damage to the Maro-Cerro Gordo cliffs

EUGENIO CABEZAS

MARO. Local environmental lobby, GENA-Ecologistas en Acción, have written to the Andalusian government about the "lack of control" of boats in the Maro-Cerro Gordo Cliffs protected area. The focus of their complaint is on the number of jet skis in the area shared by the towns of Nerja and Almuñécar, in Granada.

GENA stressed in a statement issued on Wednesday that the Maro-Cerro Gordo Cliffs, which belongs to the Andalusian Network of Natural Spaces, is currently part of the European Ecological Network Natura 2000, as a special area of conservation. As such it has an approved Natural Resources Management Plan, which includes the regulation of maritime navigation



Image of a jet ski near the Cañuelo beach. sur

and tourist activities linked to the natural environment. The regulation prohibits the use of jet skis for one nautical mile in the area surrounding the cliffs.

GENA also claimed to have found "at least four companies that rent jet skis, either for free use or

with an instructor. "All these companies offer jet ski trips to the site, or specify Cantarriján beach and Cañuelo beach."

A Guardia Civil patrol boat has been in the area recently, issuing fines and warning against using jet skis where not permitted.

# Growers fear heat wave could affect imminent mango harvest

E. CABEZAS

AXARQUÍA. The end of August will signal the start of the Axarquía's mango harvest. With an area of around 5,000 hectares of the fruit to be collected, growers are hoping to match the volume of last year's crop; 20,000 tonnes.

The Spanish Association of

Tropical Fruit Producers has expressed its "great concern" over the high temperatures that Spain has been experiencing since Wednesday and the effects that it could have on plantations that are reaching the optimum degree of ripeness.

Since July growers have already been warning that the hot

weather could reduce this year's crop by between 10 and 20 per cent. It is expected that the fruit will start with prices of around 1.5 euros per kilo, although at the end of the season, in November, it is predicted to drop to around one euro per kilo.

Thirty per cent of Spanish mangoes will stay in the country this year as consumption has grown in recent years.

"A well picked mango in Spain has a quality that a mango from a ship does not have," the Association pointed out.

# Residents and businesses raise concerns over smells and noise from sewage plant

NERJA

E. C. Residents' associations and businesses have raised concerns over "noise and bad smells" coming from Nerja's sewage treatment plant and the pumping station near Burriana beach. The concerns were raised at a council meeting last week, before being communicated to both the Andalusian and national governments, "given the passiveness of the ministry in providing a solution to these problems," the various collectives said.



A bather next to the goose. sur

# Police swoop in to stop wild goose chase on packed Torrox-Costa beach

TORROX-COSTA

E. C. A disorientated wild goose caused a stir when it landed on a packed beach in the Axarquía town of Torrox-Costa last weekend.

Bathers on the stretch of shore, near the Laguna Beach residential development, got into a flap after the bird landed on the busy sands.

Local Police, Civil Protection volunteers and Guardia Civil officers quickly swooped onto the scene after being alerted by witnesses.

The scared bird entered the sea and began to swim, but because it was disorientated and in danger, the Civil Protection volunteers, with the help of a boat, managed to safely capture it.

The wild goose, which didn't appear to be injured, was taken to the Don Animal rescue centre in Rincón de la Victoria where - once examined - it will be returned to its natural habitat.

# Town hall to raise awareness of glass recycling with help of environmental movement

R. DE LA VICTORIA

SUR. Rincon de la Victoria town hall announced on Monday that it had joined the 'Green Flags Movement', Spain's not for profit organisation responsible for managing glass recycling. The organisation aims to reward hotels and residents in coastal areas for their commitment to recycling. Environment councillor Borja Ortiz explained, "We are joining the initiative to continue with our objectives of raising awareness of the importance of recycling, separation and collection of glass containers."





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# A challenge to celebrate being alive

**Achievement.** Three cyclists from Malaga who have had accidents on the road cycled up the Veleta mountain to raise awareness among drivers

MATÍAS STUBER



Something happens, an accident, and life changes from one minute to another and there is nothing anyone can do about it. That was how Miguel Solís' story began: he was on the point of losing his life, doing what he loved best. But, first, back to the beginning.

For several seasons, Miguel raced with Campos Lorca, one of the most legendary cycling teams in Malaga, and was about to become a professional. He was 22 years old and had one dream: to join Banesto, Festina or Deutsche Telekom. The life he led was more like that of a Buddhist monk than a young man in his 20s. More abstinence than a detox centre. His type of meditation consisted of eating up kilometres as if his life depended on it.

"I grew up in the Fuente Olletas district, near where you go up to the Fuente de la Reina [in the Mon-

tes de Málaga]. Our neighbour was a cyclist. When I was a child he fascinated me, with his coloured outfits, his shaven legs... and that was how it began," he said.

Miguel is 44 now. He used to be one of Malaga's most promising cyclists, but his dream of being part of a team with Pantani or Ulrich was not to happen.

"I was in the Andalusian and Spanish amateur teams and all my colleagues went on to become professionals, except me," he said, although he is not upset about it now. He was at the time, though, and started to get rid of his bikes. "I was thinking that I needed to try other things, that cycling wasn't all there was in life," he explained. But for him, time has shown that actually, it is. "Well, nearly everything," he clarified.

When he was 28 he got on a bike again and was instantly reinfected with the cycling bug. He had no



Challenge completed. Miguel, Luis and Fabián, in the Sierra Nevada. SUR



problem returning to that field, and the contacts he had made earlier helped to open doors to competitions for him.

On the amateur circuit, the podium soon became his natural habitat. "I enjoyed what I did more than ever before because, for the first time, there was no pressure on me," he said. "Before, you were doing it to earn money and for the big teams to notice you. The money was good, and if you won two races a month you could earn a lot. But money, as always, destroys everything," he said, remembering that competitive atmosphere that ruined many friendships.

Despite enjoying the feeling of triumph on numerous occasions, when you ask Miguel now which stage of his life was the most im-

portant, he says it was the one he has just completed with two of his best friends, Fabián Canel and Luis Márquez.

Earlier this summer, the three of them left Malaga to cycle up the Veleta mountain in Granada, the highest climb you can do by bike on the peninsula.

"We had all suffered an accident on the road at some time. Although it's not something you focus on; you know that whenever you set off from home on a bike you are vulnerable," Miguel said.

Their feat took titanic effort: they spent 14 hours on the bikes and climbed more than 5,000 metres. "My idea was that this could be a good way to raise awareness among drivers," he explained.

## The accident

Miguel remembers the date of his accident because he has seen it written down a hundred times. In the hospital and police witness report, mainly. It was 9 July when a car hit him as he was cycling to

Torre del Mar. Everything else, he recalls clearly.

"It was a sunny day and thanks to the breeze it wasn't too hot. A perfect day to go out on the bike, in fact," he said. He knows the way he was going, along the road from Rincón de la Victoria to Torre del Mar, but has no memory of the accident itself.

"All I remember is that something banged against my elbow. The next thing I knew, I was in a hospital bed with three broken vertebrae," he said. A few more centimetres of bad luck and he would be in a wheelchair now. He was knocked off his bike by the impact and fell in a ditch, where he lay unconscious for a long time. It was a driver, who stopped when he noticed the bike on the ground, who raised the alarm and saved his life.

The doctors advised Miguel to forget about cycling. "I couldn't accept that," he said. "I kept thinking I had to try, at least".

While he was in hospital, he began to try to find replacement parts to repair his damaged bike. A year later, with his legs still shaking after cycling up Veleta, he has a message for drivers: "I can drive, so I understand that anyone can be distracted momentarily. But if you have an accident and just drive off, you could be responsible for someone's death. You must stop, and help them," he said.

**"I can drive, so I know that anyone can be distracted occasionally, but if you have an accident, don't just drive off," said Miguel**

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## HERE AND THERE

### ANTEQUERA

## August Fair cancelled due to the Covid pandemic

**ANTONIO J. GUERRERO** Antequera's mayor, Manuel Barón, has announced that there will be no municipal activities during the dates of the August Fair from 18 to 22 of the month, nor the previous weekend, as the town remains in a Level 3 health alert state. "See-

ing the evolution of the pandemic, we have decided to suspend the activities planned for the fair as well as the children's attractions and the concerts," said Barón.

"At Level 3 health alert we decided, responsibly, to suspend the August Fair."

Instead, the budgeted amounts for the celebrations will go towards supporting the vulnerable with electricity vouchers and the town's food bank.

### MALAGA

## More drinking water fountains

**PILAR R. QUIRÓS.** Malaga city council has already awarded two contracts for the installation of another 200 drinking water fountains in the provincial capital which can be used by both people and their pets. The installation will take around five months.



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# Police headquarters transfer to Plaza Picasso meets opposition in Torremolinos

Two associations denounce that the building is projected as a cultural space and ask that the City Council revoke its decision

ANDREA JIMÉNEZ

TORREMOLINOS. The Museum Forum Torremolinos Association and the Citizen Association for the Defence of Torremolinos have begun a collection of signatures on a petition to prevent the new Local Police headquarters from being located in the unused building in Plaza Picasso.

They allege that this space was designed for museum use. They are calling for the council to withdraw its decision and state that a town museum would be a tourist attraction and help encourage visitors all year

round.

“It is the only way to encourage culture in Torremolinos. Furthermore, locating the police there is unworkable, in a space where there is no security perimeter,” explained Emilio Souto, secretary of the associations.

The mayor, José Ortiz, announced recently that the unfinished building in Plaza Picasso would house the new police headquarters, currently located in the Calvario neighborhood.

The petition, which currently has about 170 signatures, emphasises that in 2007 the local government board approved the construction of this building, “planned as a Town Museum.”

They state that after the arrival of Ortiz to the mayor’s office, a project for a cultural space was presented to him. “We did not get a response, but we will continue fighting,” said Souto.



The building is in the central Plaza Picasso. SUR



Gonzalo and Rodrigo Benítez (c) at the town hall earlier this week. SUR

## Dental clinic launches charity initiative for the needy

TORREMOLINOS

TONY BRYANT. The B. Murri Dental Clinic has announced that the Emmaus soup kitchen in Torremolinos is the entity that will receive the Beca Solidaria Dres Murri, a social responsibility project launched earlier this year in conjunction with Torremolinos town hall.

Councillor for Social Services César Carrasco and the owners of the clinic, Gonzalo and Rodrigo Benítez, signed a collaborative

agreement to offer six people at risk of social exclusion free dental treatment to the value of 3,000 euros. The six people registered with Emmaus who will benefit from the project will be selected by the social services department.

The initiative will also include outreach campaigns to highlight the importance of oral health.

The dental clinic, which has been operating in the town for 11 years, decided to show its support for “the tireless social work” carried out by the volunteer-run organisation, which has been helping the needy in the town since 1996.

“We are eager to help those at risk. We will put at their disposal our knowledge and the clinic to solve their dental problems,” Gonzalo Benítez said.



Councillor for Health visits the municipal dog shelter in Fuengirola. SUR

## Free adoption scheme extended to solve problem of abandoned animals in Fuengirola

FUENGIROLA

T. BRYANT. Fuengirola town hall has extended its campaign for the free adoption of dogs to people who are registered in the municipality. The initiative, which includes free rabies vaccinations, microchipping and passports for all adopted animals, is aimed at reducing the problem of abandoned animals, which the council claim is at an all-time high because of the pandemic.

Councillor for Health Francisco Javier García Lara expressed the importance of the work carried out by the municipal dog shelter, which, over the last two years, has achieved a zero-sacrifice policy of the animals in its care.

During July and August 2020, the shelter received 15 abandoned pets, all of which were cared for until suitable homes were found. During the same period this year, the shelter has already found homes for more than 30 stray dogs.

“The programme was designed to highlight the problem of abandonment. We want people to understand that a pet is another member of the family.

“We also want to facilitate the adoption process in order to continue our zero-sacrifice policy,” the councillor said.

## Selfless deed raises over 500 euros for the Coín RBL Poppy Appeal

COÍN

T. BRYANT. The Coín Branch of the Royal British Legion has received a special donation of more than 500 euros raised for its Poppy Appeal campaign.

Earlier this year, branch members Stan and Susan Skinner began saving money to support the campaign. Sadly, Stan died in April, just a few months before his 70th birthday, an event the couple intended to celebrate with close friends and family. Undeterred, Susan decided to go ahead with the celebratory dinner to help bolster the fund in memory of her husband. Along with the 250 euros raised at the dinner, Susan continued to save five euros each week, accumulating 509.28 euros in total.

A representative for the Coín branch of the RBL said, “We offer our heartfelt thanks to Sue and Stan. May he rest in peace knowing their selfless deed will be long-remembered by all branch members.”

## Bioparc environmental project to educate children about conservation

FUENGIROLA

T.B. Bioparc Fuengirola will continue with its annual environmental education scheme along the beaches of the town throughout August. The initiative, which was launched in 2009, serves to make young people between the ages of six and 12 aware of the importance of taking care of the sea and its environment, while highlighting recycling and conservation policies.

The project also offers workshops and activities to educate children about the fauna and flora of the rainforests. In addition, all children who attend the initiatives will receive a free ticket to the park so they can further their education about life in the jungle.

The educational activities, held between 11am and 2pm on Sundays, will take place on the beach next to the Chiringuito Videra (15), on the Martín Playa (22), and in front of the Kamana beach bar in Torreblanca (29).

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# One man and his dog, on foot from London to Andalucía

**Ultimutt Walk.** Sam Leese will step out next month with galgo-mastiff Dave to walk from Battersea to Pruna, in Seville province, to raise funds for animal charities

LAURENCE CRUMBIE



Walking partners, Sam and Dave plan to cover more than 1,200 miles. SUR

Leeses found him. By keeping Sam's mother company while she was sick and dropping a stone repeatedly at his stepfather's feet, hoping he would play fetch with him, Dave managed to "woo" the couple and secure himself a new home.

"He's the dream dog," said Sam, who has decided to raise money for Spanish Stray Dogs as they help dogs that have undergone similar ordeals to Dave. His Ultimutt Walk will take him from Battersea, Dave's current home, to Pruna, Dave's future home, covering a total of 1,282 miles.

"Twelve weeks is my aim," said Sam. "That would be 15 miles a day, but I think I'll try and overshoot that a bit."

His itinerary includes passing through the Channel Tunnel, trekking down the French coast towards Bordeaux and then crossing the Pyrenees.

Sam expects it to be "heavy on the wild camping" from Pamplona to Madrid, which he will skirt round before embarking on the final leg to Seville.

"It will be a completely new experience for me, but I'm trying to prepare as much as I can," said Sam, who is going on 15-mile walks each day.

Sam has created a Virgin Money Giving page and already reached his target of 5,000 euros, but he hopes to raise plenty more yet.

As I walked out one mid-summer's morning... This September, Englishman Samuel Leese will walk from London to Seville - not with a violin, like Laurie Lee on his journey through Spain, but with his dog, Dave, to raise money for the charities Battersea Dogs & Cats Home and Spanish Stray Dogs.

Sam, a 30-year-old personal

trainer based in London, had planned his "Ultimutt Walk" for summer 2020, when his parents intended to move to Seville, but Brexit and the Covid-19 pandemic forced them all to postpone their plans.

The inspiration for the fundraiser was Dave, a dog that had been living on the street in Pruna, a village in Seville province, until

Sam's parents adopted him while on holiday there in 2016.

"He was owned for a year by a family in Estepona," said Sam. "He was microchipped. When they got to the kennels, the owners had to consent to Dave changing ownership or they could have taken him back if it had been a mistake.

"They first of all started saying

it was a mistake and he had got away on a walk, but I think they eventually admitted that he just got too big for the house and they took him up into the hills, chucked him out of the car and drove off."

Dave, a six-year-old galgo-mastiff (at least according to his passport), was "skin and bones and had ticks all over him" when the

  
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## Threatened with extinction



**R**ight wing Vox, the Spanish left's favourite punch-bag, is the only major party in Spain to have advocated the outlawing of a political party (specifically, Catalan pro-independence groups), right?

Wrong. On August 5th, a socialist, republican group called the Castilian Left received notification that the Ministry of the Interior, in a motion put before the National Court, aims to secure its "extinction". The reason given to the party for this nuclear initiative is that it "does not conform" to changes introduced in March this year to pre-existing legislation which regulates the financing of Spain's political parties.

The Castilian Left is naturally suspicious of the government's stated reason for the motion, especially because the Ministry of the Interior sent the initial notification to an incorrect address, thus keeping the party in the dark until it heard directly from the Court. On its website, Castilian Left claims that it has never used or even requested public funds, and that it relies on its own supporters and members. The party also says that it has suffered "permanent harassment" from Spain's establishment over the last decade or so, including a previous attempt to outlaw the party in 2008.

The government's cloak-and-dagger tactics shouldn't be surprising, though. Pedro Sánchez's coalition has already shown suppressive and censorious tendencies, especially during the pandemic last year, when it forced a nationwide lockdown now found to

have been illegal and did most of its governing by Decree - that is, by announcement.

At the end of 2020, the Socialist-led coalition also introduced legislation supposedly aimed at monitoring and, if necessary, dismantling "fake news" campaigns, especially those backed by hostile foreign powers. Yet these laws also entitle Spain's government to make "political responses" to things it deems untrue and to "correct" them. The government is seemingly empowered to suppress anything which contradicts its own narrative of events, and to shut down debate by dismissing contrarian claims as "fake news".

The latest move appears to be going even further, not only because the Ministry has declined to publicly provide any details about how exactly Castilian Left broke the tweaked financing regulations. Even if the party is found guilty of financial irregularities, and even if that's the actual reason for the lawsuit being filed, it's still unclear why the government seeks Castilian Left's obliteration, rather than a fine or some other punishment in proportion to the offence.

It also stretches credulity too far to believe that, in a country as corrupt as Spain, no other parties are dodgily-financed, or that they never misuse public funds. We know that a lot (even most) of them do, and that both the Socialists and the Conservatives have done so on a monumental scale. So why is it just the Castilian Left that's now threatened with extinction? Something very fishy is going on here.

## New remote-working visa planned to attract talent to Spain

The future law aims to streamline rules for digital nomads to get permission to work and also includes easier tax levels for new outside investors

CLARA ALBA / NEIL HESKETH

MADRID / MALAGA. Easier rules are on the way for those wanting to move to Spain for a few years and work remotely for a company or clients based in another country.

With the Covid-19 pandemic forcing people to work from home, the desire of many foreigners to set up in Spain with their computer has grown. But up to now this has been a legal grey area in terms of tax status and residency rules, especially for people outside the EU, which now includes the UK.

Just before their summer break, the Spanish Cabinet approved an initial plan for a digital nomad visa as part of a broader future law to make Spain more attractive to entrepreneurs and start-ups from other countries.

Currently, non-EU citizens must apply for a visa to live or work in Spain and work visas can traditionally be hard to get.

The new visa type would initially be given for one year and



Homeworking in Spain could become more attractive for foreigners. EFE

could be renewable for two years once the worker was in Spain. An applicant would need to prove the work they were doing and that they had qualifications or a minimum level of job experience, says the plan. Almost all the work would need to be done for people based outside Spain.

### Still to go through parliament

The law, which still has to go through parliament, could mean remote workers paying tax on earnings as non-residents for the first few years.

The initial report, called Anteproyecto de Ley de Fomento del Ecosistema de Empresas Emergentes, (Initial plan for developing an ecosystem of emerging companies), also foresees bringing in more flexible tax rules for firms wanting to open branches in Spain and a streamlining of some of the bureaucracy involved.

Observers have said that, while the shake-up would not be as radical as in some other countries, it would be a step in the right direction in making Spain more appealing to new talent.

## Cult burger chain Five Guys opens on the Costa at last

FRANCISCO JIMÉNEZ

MALAGA. Burgerlovers on the Costa will soon have a new place to try out in Malaga. The Five Guys chain, known as the favourite hamburger restaurant of former US President Barack Obama, opens its first branch in the province today, Friday, 13 August.

It will be at the McArthurGlen Designer Outlet, the luxury brand centre next to the Plaza Mayor retail park near the airport.

The chain says it intends to captivate locals and visitors with its 'better burger' quality-ingredients concept, as well as a background of rock and roll music.

Five Guys' bosses had been looking for the right premises for some time to start their Costa expansion. "We are especially excited to arrive in a city like Malaga," said the head of the chain in Spain and Portugal, Daniel Agromayor

"This province is suitable for several restaurants, but we are not in a rush. The challenge right now is this restaurant and working to make it a success," he added while overseeing training this week as the opening approached. There will be 35 employees.



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# 'Any scenario depends on us reducing emissions now; there is no other option'

**José Manuel Gutiérrez** Director of the Institute of Physics in Cantabria

## EARTH MATTERS

After participating as co-author of the UN report, he warns that climate change is "a fact" and it is down to politicians to take action

## IVIA UGALDE

José Manuel Gutiérrez, director of the Institute of Physics in Cantabria and CSIC research professor since 2009, is currently one of the greatest authorities in the world on climate change. In recent months he has been part of a team of scientists selected by the UN's Intergovernmental Panel of Climate Change Experts (IPCC) to draw up the report on global warming that has hit world headlines this week. He warns that environmental disaster "is already on our doorstep".

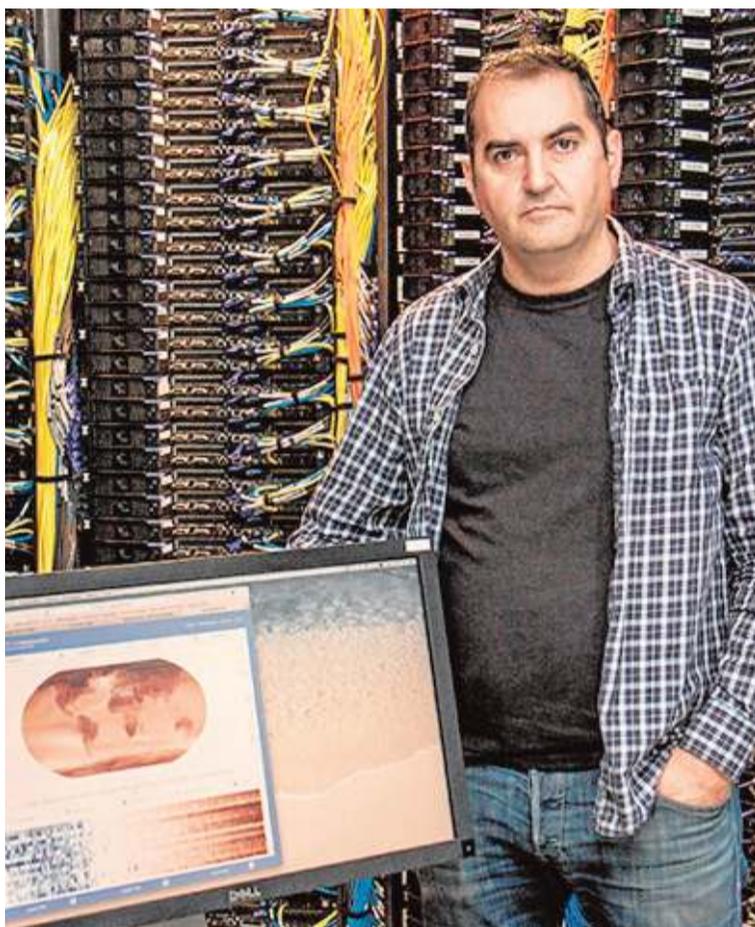
**–You have coordinated the chapter on regional climate change. What conclusions have you drawn?**

–Well, we can now find information for different regions of the world and there are different conclusions for each of them. But there is a common denominator, which is that they are all undergoing climate change. It is already on our doorstep, as we are seeing from what is happening this summer.

**–Is there any particular region that is going to suffer most?**

–There are important effects in all of them, but obviously some more than others. The Arctic is a hot spot because the temperature there is rising more than twice as fast as the rest of the planet. The Mediterranean is another, because there are clear signs that rainfall is dropping and it is already a vulnerable area in itself.

**–How much worse is the situation now compared with the last**



José Manuel Gutiérrez shows some of the effects of climate change. R. C.

## UN report in 2013?

–Every report from the IPCC corroborates what was said in the previous ones, and updates figures and parameters. In this one we provide more evidence and we have created an interactive map, so people can easily consult the data online.

**–The study says humans are responsible for climate change, which already affects the whole planet and causes increasingly more extreme and frequent meteorological phenomena.**

–Scientifically speaking, we are responsible. That's all there is to it. Previous reports always left a small margin for studies, albeit few in number, which might try to shed

some light on other causes. But after analysing 14,000 published articles on the subject, there is no evidence of any other robust factor. Climate change is a fact, and human activity is the main cause.

**–And what is causing such a fast deterioration?**

–The effects of greenhouse gases. That is our energy model, our model of consumption. For multiple reasons we are emitting more now than has been emitted in the past million years. That makes the radiation that arrives on the Earth higher and higher.

**–What can we do?**

–We have to flatten that curve, like with coronavirus, we have to do something similar so the warm-

ing does not pass the thresholds fixed by the Paris agreements, of 1.5 or two degrees maximum. The road ahead is clear. We have to emit five per cent fewer greenhouse gases. It's a challenge, but it is a chance to begin again and redirect a path that is not sustainable.

**–The floods in Germany, fires in the eastern Mediterranean, recent flooding in China and India, are they all a consequence of global warming?**

–Not every extreme phenomenon is due to climate change but the ones we have been seeing recently are in line with what we had predicted. We have plenty of evidence to think that these situations are going to become our reality now.

**–Are we in time to correct this deterioration? In the document you warn that some of the effects are already irreversible.**

–There are elements of the system which are slow. The ocean, for example, has an inertia that is slower than the atmosphere. The rise in the sea level is irreversible, it is going to carry on even if we stop now. What happens is that if we do that, the rise will not reach disastrous levels. Any future scenario depends on us reducing emissions now. We have to stop. There is no other option. Otherwise, nothing that is coming to us is going to be good.

**–What if the governments aren't interested in doing anything?**

–That isn't something I even contemplate. I prefer to think positively, that society is sufficiently aware and politicians already have tools to make decisions. I believe we are on the right path, but we need to speed up.

**–Is there something we can do as citizens? In California people are being asked to ration their use of water and electricity.**

–Everything helps. It is clear that the principal responsibility lies with the politicians, but we all need to add our grain of sand.

## Spain, in the red zone of the Mediterranean

## M. P.

The climatic model for the forthcoming decades, drawn up by the scientists on the IPCC, reflects exactly what is happening this summer, which is proving the most dramatic for decades in terms of natural disasters: flooding in the upper part of the

continent and suffocating heat-waves on the Mediterranean, much of which is in flames at present.

The study considers that this basin and the Arctic are especially "hot" areas. The Arctic is melting fast, to such an extent that by 2050 it will only retain just under one million kilograms

of icy surface compared with the seven million in the 1980s.

The UN report stresses that there are consequences to climate change that will not stop even if CO2 emissions are reduced, and they will continue for hundreds or thousands of years, such as the fusion of continental ice and glaciers.

On the Mediterranean the temperature will rise between two and three degrees in the next decades, with the most probability of this in north Africa, Turkey and the Iberian peninsula.

Spain is in the group with the

greatest risk of frequent climatic extremes, such as prolonged droughts and a substantial reduction in water resources through evaporation.

If there is no radical change in the emission of gases, the country will suffer 20 more days of extreme heat (between 35 and 41 degrees Celsius) a year and shorter winters.

The cold days will also practically disappear by the end of the century, turning Spain and especially a large part of the Mediterranean coast into a type of quasi-desert.

## Outrage after escaped bull is hit by a chasing car and killed

## J. M. L.

GUADALAJARA. The death of a bull last weekend after it got free from a bullfight in Brihuega in Guadalajara province has once again generated controversy and debate about this type of event.

The animal, named Campanito, managed to escape from a contest that was being held in the town's bullring. After a mad dash through the streets of the town, goring two people in the process, it lost its life when it was hit by a car that was chasing it at full speed.

PACMA, the Party against the Mistreatment of Animals, has filed a criminal complaint for what it considers "the brutal execution of an animal that only wanted to save its own life and was terrified in the middle of the night" and has called again for the banning of bullfighting "because it is full of violence, death and cruelty".

PACMA has questioned the safety of the bullring, also suggesting the bull's death could have been prevented if it had been immobilised with a sedative.

## Electricity prices continue to climb and are three times up on a year ago

## SUR

MADRID. The price of electricity on the wholesale markets has continued its recent rise. The rate this week in Spain reached record levels and was up over three times on a year ago at about 113 euros per megawatt-hour on Wednesday.

Electricity costs make up about a quarter of the bills received by homeowners and firms once other costs are added, such as supply costs, green levies and taxes. There are some 10 million on the PVPC variable tariff and not on fixed prices negotiated with energy companies, although the latter are going up sharply too for customers, said watchdogs.

The upward spiral is putting pressure on the coalition government of Pedro Sánchez who had promised before coming to power to keep more control.

The rise is blamed on summer demand, increases in natural gas cost and a strengthening US dollar.



The RAF delivered the first supply of the vaccine in January . RAF/MOD

## Gibraltar receives more vaccines to protect vulnerable 12 to 15-year-olds

### GIBRALTAR

**DEBBIE BARTLETT.** A further supply of the Pfizer Covid-19 vaccine has now been delivered from the UK to Gibraltar, and will be offered to vulnerable and high risk children aged between 12 and 15. This latest shipment takes the total number of doses of Covid-19 vaccines supplied to Gibraltar to approximately 80,000.

Although Gibraltar has a population of around 34,000 it has also been offering vaccinations to its

15,000 cross-border workers.

The number of active Covid-19 cases in Gibraltar has begun to fall, and on Thursday there were 180 (166 residents and 14 visitors). Seven people are in the hospital Covid ward, and one is in Critical Care. St Bernard's Hospital operational risk status remains on amber.

There was some other good news this week, too, as visits have been reinstated for people in Elderly Residential Services, under very strict conditions.

## Teenager arrested for brandishing a knife and demanding money in the town centre

**D. BARTLETT.** A 17-year-old male was arrested on Monday after several incidents in Gibraltar town centre, where he is reported to have brandished a knife and demanded money from local businesses.

The alarm was raised around midday, when the Royal Gibraltar Police control room received a report that a man with a knife was behaving violently at an establishment in Irish Town.

Shortly after, they received a report that the same man was just outside the Hindu temple in Engineers Lane, and the officers detained him there at around 12.19pm.

Subsequently, the police were advised of a third incident involving the same individual which had taken place in Bell Lane earlier.

The suspect was charged later the same day with two counts of attempted robbery, one count of affray and one count of possession of a bladed article in a public place.

### IN BRIEF



The Gibraltar team. RGP

### SPORT

## Policeman represents Gibraltar at basketball

**D. B.** A Gibraltar police officer swapped his police boots for basketball trainers to represent Gibraltar in an international competition for the first time this week. Detective Constable Callum Culross, who is 6'4" tall, was one of the players in the Senior Men's team in the match against rivals Malta which took place in Dublin on Wednesday.

Gibraltar got off to a good start and played well, but Malta finally won by 89 to 63.

### CLIMATE

## Hot weather for Gib, but not as bad as Spain

**D.B.** Although it will be hot in Gibraltar over the next few days, the Rock is not expected to be affected as badly as parts of Spain by the heat-wave which is forecast for this weekend and which could see temperatures of over 45C in many places.

According to forecasters MeteoGib, the hottest day in Gibraltar is likely to be Monday, when temperatures could reach the mid thirties.

### CRIME

## Stashes of fuel containers found

**D. B.** The Gibraltar police confiscated a large stash of fuel containers close to the old Clay Pigeon Shooting Club at Europa Point this week, found inside an old military tunnel. There were 82 full containers and 13 empty ones.

Altogether over 2,000 litres of fuel worth more than £2,000 were seized.

These containers are often taken out to sea to fuel Rigid Hull Inflatable Boats which are involved in drug trafficking.

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TO THE EDITORAn example of  
management

My sincere thanks to the entire team at the Torre del Mar Senior Residence with its director at the helm, Mr Enrique Checa, for the great professionalism and humane treatment they show to users and their families, in these difficult times of the pandemic, caring for and pampering each one so that they cannot be infected, as well as making up for the absence of family members so that they do not feel alone. It is a commendable job that can only be achieved in a company made up of good professionals and good people.

EDUARDO GONZÁLEZ BELTRÁN

## Messi's salary

These days, when Messi is talked about so much in the media, I have learned that the Argentine footballer earned 70 million euros a year. Clean of taxes, of course. And that the poor man was willing to cut his salary in half to continue at Barcelona. But it could not be. Sometimes I have the feeling that we are going crazy. There are those who say that he's worth it. And it is possible, but am I the only one who still seems indecent?

GEORGE RIDER

## Friendly Nerja

Last July we decided to spend a few days in Nerja. We have always liked that town very much, it seems ideal for a family with two children like ours. And I have to admit that we have been surprised by the kindness with which everyone, without exception, treats you there. Waiters, hotel employees, beach bar workers ... We did not meet a single person who was not kind in the four days we were there. I think there is something to be appreciated.

CALLIE SHAW

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## Just one more thing

Whenever anyone mentions the film *The Blues Brothers*, I find myself overcome by a vague sense of nausea. This isn't because it's a particularly bad film - although it is - rather the fact that, for reasons I still haven't been able to identify with any clarity, I chose it when it was my turn to pick something from the video rental shop for a family film night many moons ago. I was never quite forgiven for wasting everyone's precious time, although a cousin of mine selecting Tootsie when it was her turn a few months later, did take the heat off somewhat, I must say.

The paragraph above, to anyone under the age of Methuselah, probably reads like an ancient parable written on papyrus but such was our lot in 1981. Now, of course, we have Netflix offering choices

so wide-ranging that it's eminently feasible to spend a whole hour perusing all of the possibilities available before remembering that said possibilities are all really rather rubbish. Unless, that is, your preferred genre of entertainment is something with 'drug lord', 'cocaine' or 'cocaine drug lord' in the title, in which case you have a veritable cornucopia of delight at your fingertips.

A few days ago, owing to a couple of cancelled music classes, I found myself with an hour or two to spare and decided to give Netflix yet another chance. After forty five minutes of fruitless searching for something not set in Colombia, I gave up, vaguely recalling that there was a website I'd discovered during lockdown where you can watch episodes of the 1970's detective series, *Columbo*.

What an inspired idea. I'd forgotten just how clever these stories are. The basic premise is that some rich, spoilt person in Beverly Hills bumps off somebody else, usually motivated by greed and/or jealousy and then our scruffy, cigar-chomping hero shuffles onto the scene to pick away doggedly at their defences until they're left banged to rights and are ceremoniously carted off the slammer with their hitherto smug expression wiped cleanly from their face.

For all of their sweeping drone camera shots and post-production miracles, none of the current crop of series or films that I have seen can hold a candle to the simple, magical story-telling on offer in any given episode of *Columbo*.

If only I'd known that in 1981, my family might still be speaking to me.

## IDÍGORAS



**SUR** in English

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THE BOTTOM LINE  
RACHEL HAYNES

## Healthy figures

August is usually the height of the silly season, with very little serious news and politicians saving their announcements till everyone - including them - is back from the beach.

This year, like last, was inevitably going to be different with the Covid pandemic definitely not taking a break - but making the most of others dropping their guard on hot summer nights.

But alongside the daily infection rates, vaccine figures and hospitalisations, this month we've seen two major announcements conveniently related to this area's health services. Neither will be in time to

help save lives and during this pandemic - at least we certainly hope not - but any news of future healthcare improvements is especially welcome at times like these.

Last week we saw the major unveiling of the design of the future new hospital to be located in Malaga city, and whose facilities will be used by patients around the province. The figures were impressive: 810 patient rooms; 375 million euros; 42 operating theatres; 200 outpatients consulting rooms; 2,000 parking spaces, and so many square metres that will make it the biggest building in Andalucía.

The drawings of this 'futuristic' new

hospital were full of impressive detail, such as raised walkways between buildings and even linking to other neighbouring hospitals.

Work will start next year we're told, but of course the completion date is, at the moment, just an estimated 2027.

The second news revealed this week, a little more immediate than the last, is that the contract to resume the expansion works of the Costa del Sol hospital in Marbella has been put out to tender.

This comes as welcome news to everyone on the western Costa del Sol, especially those hospital users faced with the half-built new wing that has stood neglected for more than ten years.

Looking back it's hard to believe the story - that an initial dispute over the management of a car park could lead to such a negative delay for the local people.

The details are more complex, of course, but this August week we have

been given more facts and figures to be impressed by: 51 million euros, 62 extra beds, twice as many operating theatres...

And all this will take 21 months to complete, once restarted. It's still early days, of course, but now what we want to hear are figures that are equally as vital.

How many new health professionals will the Andalusian Health Service be taking on to bring these new facilities to life?

Will there be twice as many surgeons to fill those extra operating theatres in Marbella, for example? And enough staff to care for all the patients in all those 810 rooms in Malaga?

The last thing we need is to find ourselves lost in a maze of beautiful new buildings, and turn up late for an appointment that we've been waiting as many months for as we would now.

Maybe those figures will be forthcoming in another month of August, to stand out among the stories of heat waves and jellyfish.



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## IN THE FRAME

# A lifelong passion for painting, making music and writing

**The Arts.** Udo Burkhardt has escaped East Germany, his mother-in-law and the British weather, but he has always kept his creative talents alive

JENNIE RHODES



Udo Burkhardt has spent over 30 years settled in Malaga province, doing what he loves most, which is painting and making music.

However, the 74-year-old's life did not start in quite the same, idyllic way. Aged six, he and his family fled East Germany and they continued to move around throughout Udo's childhood as his father found work.

They stayed in refugee camps and Udo went to countless schools - in the Black Forest, Offenbach and other places.

He finished school in 1962 and went into window decorating. However, after a serious bike accident which resulted in nine months in hospital he was told he could "never climb a ladder again" and he had to look for another profession.

Showing his creative skills, Udo went into graphic design. "I was told I needed to find a job where I could sit," he recalls.

Udo comes from a creative family; among the four brothers are another graphic designer and a musician.

It was during this time that he started to make quite a name for himself in the local music industry and was best known

for a German cover of a Johnny Hallyday song. But he admits that his real passion at the time was British pop music. "The Beatles, the Rolling Stones and Tom Jones were all big then," he says.

Life took another twist when he met Margarita, his wife to be. Unfortunately his future mother-in-law didn't approve of this "singer-decorator" and Udo says it was a case of "either we split or run".

"You had to be 21 to get married in Germany at the time, but only 18 in England. In fact we could have gone to Gretna Green where you only had to be 16, but Margarita was 18, so England was OK," he remembers.

Through his music, Udo had contacts in Bournemouth, so the young couple eloped to the town, stayed there enough time to get married and returned to Germany. There, their elopement had caused "quite a scandal", not least with the disapproving mother-in-law, who, to make matters worse, also happened to be a marriage registrar there! "She didn't think it was so funny," laughs Udo.

Margarita and Udo opened a tea room in their village and it



Udo Burkhardt in his studio with two of his paintings, including the Picasso and Me portrait. SUR

was very successful. However, the long hours and stress led them to lease the business and go back to the south coast of England, where they had married just a few years before.

It didn't take long for the couple to get fed up of the English weather and, after a holiday to Fuengirola in the mid 1980s, they decided to move to the Costa del Sol permanently.

Since then, the couple have lived in Mijas, Alhaurín el Grande and Gaucín, and have been in Ronda since 2000.

Udo spends his time painting and recording music, singing in German and English. He admits he likes "ballads, romantic music" and confesses that he prefers to record music rather than sing live. "I'm not a showman," he acknowledges.

The artist has also held a number of exhibitions in the

**"I'm not the best painter or musician, I try to be diverse and that comes at the expense of success in life"**

province over the years and his work can currently be seen at in Ronda. The show is a collection of 22 paintings using acrylic and oils on plywood and canvas, as well as some of his graphic design.

One of the pieces is entitled Picasso and Me and is a portrait merging the Malaga-born iconic artist and Udo. "It's a bit cheeky," laughs Udo, "And I suppose there is a slight physical resemblance because we're both bald."

Laughing about how artists tend to become famous post-

humously, Udo says, "I'm not the best painter or musician, I try to be diverse and that comes at the expense of success in life."

Udo has also turned his hand to writing over the years and has penned four books including his own life experiences. He wrote Elope to help him cope when Margarita was diagnosed with colon cancer in 2013. She has since made a full recovery, Udo confirms.

Udo and Margarita plan to stay in Ronda and, now retired, the artist and musician says if they move again it will be to the nearby countryside with their cats, "And we might get some chickens," he concludes, laughing.

Udo's exhibition is open until 30 October at the Blanco y Negro café on Calle Pozo, Ronda, from Monday to Friday 7.30am to 2pm and Saturday until 1pm.



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COMMUNITY SPIRIT

MIJAS

Charity event raises essential funds for ACE

T. BRYANT. More than 70 people attended the charity fundraising afternoon in support of the ACE (Animal Care España) animal rescue shelter.

The event, which took place at Bar Tutu in La Cala de Mijas, raised over 1,700 euros for the Mijas-based charity, which is currently taking care of some 450 abandoned dogs and more than 100 cats.

Hosted by John Sharples, the afternoon included a fun quiz, a name-the-dog competition and rock and roll bingo.

There was also a raffle with



Guests enjoy an afternoon of fun. SUR

prizes donated by local businesses and individuals, along with a grand charity auction for an inflatable spa donated by local family-run business Favells.

FUENGIROLA

Age Concern announces hair-raising challenge

T. BRYANT. Age Concern Fuengirola has announced that 20 people have already signed up for this year's hair-raising charity challenge. The fearless senior citizens will head to Alhaurín de la Torre to undertake a zip wire flight on Friday 24 September. The new 1,350-metre-long zip wire, which opened earlier this year, will launch the high-fliers

in a superman pose at a speed of 100km per hour.

Registration and sponsor forms can be obtained from the charity's second-hand shop in Los Boliches, or from the Ibox Insurance office in Fuengirola.

Members of the charity are no strangers to daredevil challenges: previous activities have included the zip wire in Huelva in 2018, and a sky dive in Seville in 2017.

Secretary Steve Marshall said, "This will be the only large-scale event this year, so we are hoping more people will sign up for it."

OBITUARY

Reverend James Taylor 1938 - 2021

JENNIE RHODES

The Reverend James Taylor passed away on 4 August at the Good Samaritan care home in Nerja where he had been staying.

Born in England on 8 November 1938, Reverend Taylor spent over 25 years living in Malaga province.

On moving to Malaga, he became the first Protestant pastor to be ordained in the Chapel of the Good Shepherd in Malaga and went on to work closely with the Lux Mundi Ecumenical centres both in Torre del Mar and Fuengirola, where he will be greatly missed.

A love for Zarzuela music

Aside from his tireless work with Lux Mundi and the churches he was connected with, Reverend James Taylor loved nature, music and prayer.

In fact he was a fan of traditional Spanish Zarzuela music



Reverend James Taylor. SUR

and would fascinate audiences with his talks in English about its history and traditions.

Reverend Taylor's funeral took place last Friday, 6 August, at the ASV funeral home in Vélez-Málaga.

Lux Mundi hopes to be able to hold a memorial service for him when the coronavirus pandemic allows.

"James will always be remembered by Lux Mundi," the centre's president Gloria Uribe said.



Fish and chips night in aid of local breast cancer charity

A raffle, quiz and fish and chips night was held at Lew's Restaurant in Torrox Costa on 27 July. Participants raised 255 euros for Asociación Esperanza, the Vélez-Málaga-based charity that provides help for women with breast cancer. Erica Russell-Watson, a volunteer with the charity, attended the evening and accepted the donation on its behalf.

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DENISE BUSH



GARDENING

# Kennedia nigricans

Resistant to drought and some frost, this Australian native is a vigorous climber with dark-green, trifoliate leaves and unusual black and yellow flowers.

The Kennedia genus has fifteen recognised species and is named after John Kennedy, a partner in the Scottish nurserymen firm Lee and Kennedy, which was based in Hammer-

smith, London in the mid eighteenth century.

Kennedia nigricans, commonly called black kennedia, black coral pea or snake vine, is a woody vine which can reach up to four metres high and spread up to six metres. It is an ideal plant to cover an unsightly structure or scramble up a pergola but it is very

fast growing and can smother other plants nearby if not kept in check. Being resistant to drought, Kennedia nigricans can be used for xeriscaping and ground cover to control erosion. It thrives in extreme heat and will tolerate full sun although regular watering during the hottest months will keep it looking at its best.

The genus is a member of the pea family (Fabaceae) and has the typical pea flowers, although they are unique in that they are about as close to the colour black as you can get in the plant kingdom. The black flowers have a contrasting yellow lobe and attract lots of pollinating insects. After the initial flowering is over, it should be pruned back to keep it manageable and may flower a second time in the autumn.

After the flowers are over, velvety pods up to seven centimetres form containing flat, brown seeds. The seeds need scarifying before sowing to improve success rates. Propagation by cuttings can also be used to make new plants and is advisable if the plant is a hybrid as seedlings may not be true to type. A popular hybrid is K. nigricans Minstrel which has creamy-white lobes instead of yellow.

Aboriginal people use Kennedia nigricans to treat certain infections and the vine has been found to contain 39 species of endophytic Streptomyces bacteria - most plants have one or two. Eighty per cent of the world's antibiotics are derived from some of these species of soil-borne bacteria.



Kennedia nigricans and close-up of blooms (inset). FLICKR

READERS' PHOTOS



ANGELEEN PINKS

## Thirsty Zinnias

This photo was sent in by Angeleen Pinks who says, "These are beautiful blooms for August, called Zinnia California Giants and grown from seed planted late Spring, they like being planted in pots, and need a fair amount of water."



ANDREW SLOAN

## Desert rose

Andrew Sloan sent in this photo of an Adenium obesum. He says, "I grew this desert rose from seed. [It] has to be kept dry in the winter but gives lots of flowers throughout the summer."

PHOTOS

### Calling all gardeners

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

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



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## WHAT HAPPENED TODAY?

13 AUGUST 1917

# General strike takes place across Spain

Although the country remained neutral throughout the First World War, its effects were felt especially by Malaga's maritime trade

JENNIE RHODES

The Spanish crisis of 1917 came amid major international events: not only the First World War but also recruitment and shipbuilding crises across the Atlantic in Canada and the United States respectively.

Although Spain remained neutral throughout the First World War, the negative repercussions were felt across Europe.

Combined with ongoing political and social turmoil in Spain, the unrest abroad

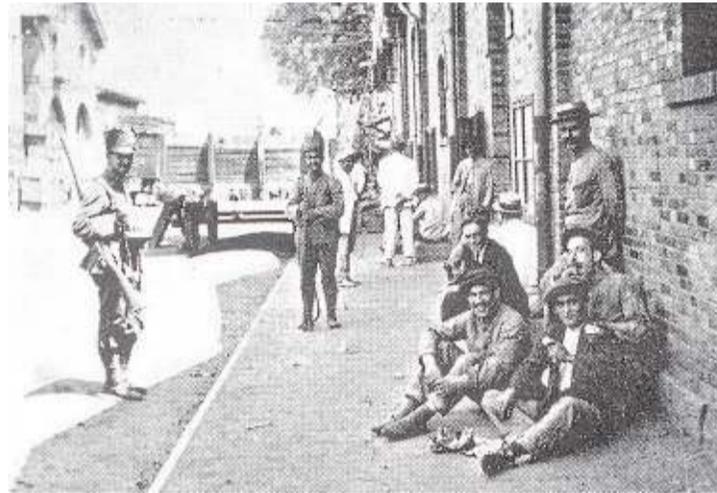
and at home culminated in the country's revolutionary general strike of 13 August 1917.

Malaga was particularly affected by the paralysis of maritime trade at the outbreak of the war and across Andalucía a rural exodus to the more industrial north was taking place.

The first group to call a strike were Valencia railway workers, who were affiliated to the UGT (Union General de Trabajadores) union, due to a labour dispute with the Compañía de los Caminos de Hierro del Norte de España.

The railway company was refusing to reinstate 36 workers who had been dismissed and the company's stance was supported by Eduardo Dato's Conservative government.

On 21 July the Capitán Gen-



Strikers and police outside Malaga train station in 1917. SUR

eral of Valencia declared a state of emergency.

The response from the UGT Railway Federation came through its secretary Daniel Anaguano, who announced that if the company did not give in, a sector-wide strike would begin on 10 August.

Later the UGT and PSOE po-

litical party declared a general strike for Monday 13 August.

On the morning of that day, a train derailed in Bilbao, killing five people and injuring 18. According to the newspaper El Nervión and the authorities, the strikers had lifted the tracks, causing the accident.

However, it was later found

## LANGUAGE FOOTNOTE

Huelga	Strike
Marítimo	Maritime
Comercio	Trade
Guerra	War
Trabajadores	Workers
Agitación	Unrest
Éxodo	Exodus
Despedido	Dismissed
Obrero	Labourer
Ferrocarril	Railway
Compañía	Company
Sindicato	Trade union
Tren	Train
Descarrilar	To derail
Readmitir	To reinstate
Autoridades	Authorities
Accidente	Accident
Muertes	Deaths
Herido	Wounded

that the accident happened due to the poor condition of the track and not the actions of the strikers.

The official toll of the accident and strikes together was 71 deaths, 156 wounded and 2,000 arrested. Four police officers were also killed during the strikes.

**Bilingual crossword inside back page**



UGT union logo. SUR

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# El Torcal by night: the gateway to heaven

**Astronomy.** Twinkling dots at infinite distances. The Milky Way alone has billions of stars. To discover the full beauty of the night sky, you don't need to travel to a desert island. In Malaga province there is a unique place to enjoy some fascinating sights

**Y**ou might not be lucky, but if it is a fine day and there are no clouds, it is like touching the gateway to heaven. Pitch black and so dense, the night almost takes form as it surrounds the visitor centre at the highest point of El Torcal. There is no light to pierce the darkness, except that from the torches. The air seems to crackle. You can hear the whistle of a bird or nocturnal insect. Somewhere, a mountain goat is bleating.

"If you want to see stars, this is the best place," says Francisco Gálvez, the manager of the Astronomical Observatory at El Torcal nature reserve in Antequera. Here, at 1,200 metres above sea level, there are no urban developments casting artificial light or any other emissions to cloud the view.

Most people who come here to stargaze do so with some hopes and expectations of what they will see. Many of them will be looking for the Southern Cross, the legendary constellation that explorers, adventurers and navigators used as a nocturnal compass to cross the oceans of the world. And also the Milky Way, with its more than a billion stars, stretching like the hand of a clock across the horizon.

It is a few minutes to midnight and the wind is blowing keenly between the thousand-year-old rocks of El Torcal. In perspective, they resemble the skyscrapers of an enormous city of stone. The air is dry and clear. The temperatures, while in Malaga city people are talking about heatwaves, are very low and, as advised, we are all wearing warm clothes.

A glance upwards reveals a captivating sensory spectacle of nature. Thousands of stars above you, following their fixed route and forming an enormous, far-reaching vault. It stretches across the infinite sky, making everything below it tiny.

"And at night I love to listen to the stars. It is like five hundred million little bells," reads a passage from the book *The Little Prince*. Here, in El Torcal, that passage begins to make real sense.

After a few minutes gazing into the infinite darkness, you gradually forget everything around you. The sky shines, the pulse quickens and the beauty of what you see makes you start to feel sentimental. The mind floats and the body feels lighter. However, seeing stars is one thing. Identifying the constellations is an impossible mission for the untrained eye.

That's why Francisco Gálvez is here. He has been leading astronomical observations from El Torcal for 25 years. Every Tuesday, Friday and Saturday this activity takes place, and it could almost have been created for the concept of social distancing.

"The only thing you need is a fold-

An image of the Milky Way, taken from El Torcal, in Antequera. S. SALAS

MATÍAS  
STUBER



ing chair and warm clothes. And it's better to have too many layers than not enough," he says.

Francisco has a degree in Mathematics and long hair. He bought his first telescope when he was 12 years old. "I spent my childhood in Mellilla. I saw it in a shop window and it was love at first sight," he recalls.

#### Clear explanations

He brings a vast amount of equipment with him, loaded into a van which he parks beside the visitor centre. It comprises telescopes, cables, cameras and tripods that come with counterweights. Once they are set up, the two telescopes are as high as a person. They have lenses the size of well-trained quadriceps and are connected to a projector which makes visible what is normally hidden from the human eye.

"The majority of people who come have never seen the Milky Way and when they do, they are fascinated by it. It's awe-inspiring," he says. But what is the Milky Way, really?

"It's our galaxy, seen from within. It is the biggest astronomical object that we can see with the naked eye and it is made up of over 150 billion stars," says Francisco, displaying the passion he feels for the night skies.

The explanations he gives are clear and easy to understand. Unlike what is transmitted by the human eye, the telescope reveals a reality that is not static. The Milky Way proves to be dynamic and animated, crossed and wandered through by a myriad of stars. Even in the part of it that draws the characteristic curves in the sky, like spiral arms, the stars are surprisingly fleeting. Through the telescope you can see how they suddenly disappear, and then re-emerge somewhere else.



A group listens to Francisco Gálvez's explanations. S. SALAS



Villanueva de la Concepción y Málaga, desde El Torcal. SALVADOR SALAS

#### This week, perfect for seeing the Perseids

Astronomy enthusiasts love the month of August, because it gives them a chance to see one of the most popular sights of the year, the Perseids shower, also known as St Lawrence's tears, because the phenomenon occurs around the day dedicated to this saint, which is 10 August. The night of 11/12 August was expected to be best to see it this year, because there was a crescent moon and therefore no additional brightness. However, the highest number of Perseids are due to fall in the early hours of Saturday 14 August. Even better, you don't need equipment such as a telescope or binoculars to see them, but the best chance of a good sighting will be in places with the minimum light pollution. El Torcal, in Antequera, is definitely a good bet.

To this we must add that the Milky Way doesn't exist on its own. Like street lamps attracting insects, it is surrounded by small companions. These mini-galaxies have an impact on the core itself. "We shouldn't see the Milky Way as something isolated. Together with the satellites, it forms a complete system in which each element has an influence on the other," says Francisco.

Technology is also a help at El Torcal. The image of an astronomer spending entire nights clamped to instruments and monitors in a control room, his only journey being to the kitchen for more coffee, belongs in the past. Automation means that what you see can be controlled through a single computer. Francisco takes screenshots which he then shares with the people who are attending these sessions.

At El Torcal it is very probable that you will be able to enjoy some views that others only dream about. If it isn't the Milky Way, there are other options. The Moon, seen through a telescope, looks different: pale grey like cement, with craters intermingled on the surface, looking like a hollowed cheese. It is silently fascinating.

Apart from that, the following lesson applies: the sky is alive, and how! The weak lights of the satellites are visible to the naked eye from here. Suddenly, the ISS appears: that's the crewed international space station. It disappears just as quickly. The speed at which it travels, nearly 30,000 kilometres an hour, makes it only vaguely discernible.

Venus, with its impressive silhouette, also moves off towards the western side of El Torcal. Then a shooting star passes through the sky above. But it is fast, too fast even to make a wish.

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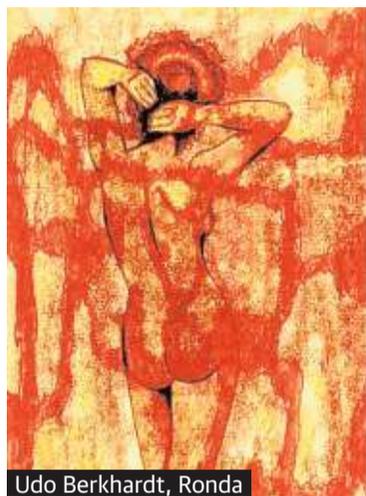
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Udo Burkhardt, Ronda

## EXHIBITIONS

## Udo Burkhardt

**RONDA.** Until 30 October. Cafe Blanco y Negro, C/Pozo. An exhibition by German artist Udo Burkhardt.

## Indalecio Pérez

**ESTEPONA.** Until 28 August. Casa de Las Tejerinas, Plaza de las Flores. Exhibition of sculptures by artist Indalecio Pérez entitled Fragmentos.

## Sholeh Abghari Gallery

**MARBELLA.** Until 31 August. Sholeh Abghari Gallery, Avda Ricardo Soriano, 72A.

The art gallery is exhibiting a Summer Art Show with works by a selection of artists.

## María José Paneque

**MIJAS.** Until 30 August. Casa Museo de Mijas.

An exhibition of paintings by María José Paneque.

## Legends of Sport

**FUENGIROLA.** Until 19 September, Tues -Sun 6-10pm. Museo de Fuengirola.

The exhibition includes around 500 items linked to legendary sports personalities including a Ferrari racing car driven by Alonso.

## Acuamálaga

**BENALMÁDENA.** Until 31 August. Castillo El Bil Bil.

Ten local artists members of the Association of watercolourists of Andalucía (Acuamálaga) are holding an exhibition of their works.

## Picasso Casa Natal

**MALAGA.** Until 25 October. Museo Casa Natal Picasso, Plaza de la Merced.

The museum has been through all its stored documents and photographs to create this new exhibition of Picasso's connections with the literary world.



María José Paneque, Mijas

## Chema Cobo

**MALAGA.** Until September. Casa Gerald Brenan.

An exhibition by Cadiz artist Chema Cobo. He will also be giving guided tours of his works and of Gerald Brenan's house, as well as workshops.

## Impresionistas

**MALAGA.** Until 5 September. Muelle Uno.

An immersive exhibition organised by Art Apart which displays the most famous works of impressionist artists on gigantic screens. It includes works by Monet, Cézanne, Manet, Gauguin, Renoir, Van Gogh, Morisot, Degas, Monet, Pissarro and Toulouse-Lautrec. The exhibition is in Spanish and English. Tickets: <https://impresionistasexpo.com/>

## Javier Garcerá

**MALAGA.** Until 16 October. Galería Isabel Hurley.

Y En Mi Jardín is an exhibition by Valencian artist Javier Garcerá. Each of the works are made from silk using techniques that, depending on where one stands, invite you to view the works from different perspectives.

## Octavio Colis

**MALAGA.** Until 15 September, Salas Mingorance, Archivo Municipal, Alameda Principal, 23.

Forty-seven works including paintings, drawings, sculpture etc make up this exhibition by Octavio Colis. One of the paintings is dedicated to the colours of Malaga wines.

## Carmen Thyssen Museum

**MALAGA.** C/ Compañía, 10. 10am - 8pm Tuesday to Sunday.

Collection. Until 15 September. To celebrate the tenth anniversary of the Museum there is an exhibition of works by Rusydael, Canaletto, Friedrich, Corot, Degas, Toulouse-



Octavio Colis, Malaga

Lautrec, Pissarro, Picasso, Matisse, Munch, Nolde, Goncharova and Stepanova among others.

## Noelia García Bandera

**MALAGA.** Until 3 September. Estudio de Ignacio del Río, C/San Lorenzo.

Malaga photographer Noelia García Bandera is showing a selection of her work in this exhibition entitled El Jardín.

## LIVE CONCERTS AND MUSIC

## Theatre and musicals festival

**BENALMÁDENA.** Until 29 August.

Municipal auditorium. [www.audito13-15august.com](http://www.audito13-15august.com). The Marvellous Wizard of Oz.

**17 - 18 August.** Michael Jackson tribute - Michael's Legacy.

**20 - 26 August.** Jekyll & Hyde the musical.

## Thursday concerts in the museum

**VÉLEZ-MÁLAGA.** 8pm. Free.

**19 August.** Los Tres Tenores. All concerts by invitation email: [mvel@velezmalaga.es](mailto:mvel@velezmalaga.es)

## The Hall

**MALAGA.** Calle Héroe de Sostoa, 65. 10€.

**14 August, 9.30pm.** Oana Laura Quintet with special guest Rale Micic.  
**15 August, 10pm.** Fernando Brox, Dani Andrades, Francis Posé and Rajiv Jayaweera.

## Cazbah Live Lounge

**MIJAS COSTA.** Doors open 8pm. Avenida de Rota.

**13 August.** Movie night with the Coopers.

**14 August.** Five Minutes of Memory. Facebook: [www.facebook.com/TheCazbahLiveLounge](http://www.facebook.com/TheCazbahLiveLounge) Call or Whatsapp 602535710

## La Costa de la Música

**MARBELLA.** Until 28 August, 10pm.

Parque de la Constitución auditorium. **14 August.** Wild Side & Friends a Funk & Beyond.

**21 August.** Daniel Casares accompanied by Jorge Pardo. Piano recital.

**28 August.** Pilar Esteban 'La Pili', singer.

Tickets from [www.mientrada.net](http://www.mientrada.net) or from the ticket office from 7pm.

## Municipal band

**ESTEPONA.** Sundays until 29 August, 9pm. Plaza del Reloj, Templete Maestro Manuel Navarro Mollor.

## Europe's best heavy metal bands to perform at Marenostrom

The Metal Paradise Festival will offer a weekend of thrash, death and black metal music

## TONY BRYANT

FUENGIROLA. Some of Europe's top heavy metal bands will come together at the two-day Metal Paradise Festival in Fuengirola on Saturday 28 and Sunday 29 August. Part of the Marenostrom programme, the festival will feature thrash, death, black and glam metal, genres characterised by distortion, extended guitar solos and a raw, sleazy sound with an increasing emphasis on speed.

Kreator, Destruction and The Ocean Collective, three of Germany's most influential metal bands will perform at the event. Kreator, a band that formed in the middle of a European tour. The group has enjoyed an impressive career, producing 14 albums and playing at some of the biggest metal festivals in Europe.



German metal band Destruction will perform in Fuengirola. sur

Destruction, considered the German pioneers of the thrash metal, will perform songs from their latest album Live Attack; while The Ocean Collective, one of the most visual live bands in modern heavy music, are known for their immense, mind-expanding live shows.

Other celebrated rockers include Lépoka, a Spanish group whose music is described as folkoholic metal; and progressive metal four-

piece Jinjer, who, in 2012, were named Best Ukrainian Metal Band.

Ticket prices for the festival, which will begin at 4pm each day, vary depending on the area selected, and are available from [marenostromfuengirola.com](http://marenostromfuengirola.com) (maximum of eight tickets per purchase). Masks must be worn inside the auditorium and covid protocol observed. Under 16s must be accompanied by an adult.



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The concerts are dedicated to the province of Malaga with compositions by Alfonso Guerra as well as classical works, film tracks and zarzuelas.

**Orquesta La Tentación**

**ALMUÑÉCAR.** 15 August, 10pm. *Parque El Majuelo.*

The orchestra returns to El Majuelo with its Tour Kiss which includes music from the 60s to present day.

**100% Estepona**

**ESTEPONA.** Until 9 September. *Various venues.*

The festival this year will feature eight concerts by Estepona musicians. A full agenda can be found on [www.estepona.es](http://www.estepona.es)

**Jazz and Blues Nights**

**TORREMOLINOS.** Until 3 September, 9pm. *Parque de la Batería.* Free.



Alberto Vela, Estepona

**13 August.** Hot Nasho Y Los Culpa-bles.

**20 August.** Rachel Malka & The Jazz Makers. <https://www.torremolinoscultura.es/>

**Parque El Majuelo**

**ALMUÑÉCAR.** 20 August, 10.30pm. *Mais Que Nada, Samba and Bossanova.*

**24 August, 10.30pm.** Yin Yazz jazz fusion.

**Siente Málaga**

**MALAGA.** From 14 August until November. *Various venues.*

The festival Siente Málaga will offer seventy shows around the city centre, the majority of which will be free. There will be copla, flamenco and verdiales concerts as well as theatrical processions about the tradition of the Malaga Feria. More information about the acts can be found on the [www.malaga.eu](http://www.malaga.eu) website.

**Concert Music Festival**

**CHICLANA DE LA FRONTERA.** Until 23 August.

The festival includes concerts by David Bisbal, Ara Malikian, Oreja de Van Gogh, Pablo Alborán, Miguel Poveda, Melendi, Sara Baras, Raphael, Vanessa Martín, Manuel Carrasco and tribute acts God Save The Queen and Abba Mania among others. Tickets from [www.ticketmaster.com](http://www.ticketmaster.com) or El Corte Inglés. More information: <https://concertmusicfestival.com/>

**Marenostrum**

**FUENGIROLA** Until 25 September.

The Marenostrum festival continues until the end of September with live music and shows. A full programme of events can be found on: <https://marenostrumfuenjirola.com/>

**Starlite**

**MARBELLA.** Until 4 September.

The Starlite Festival is back this year with a wide variety of live concerts including flamenco, fusion, Latin, rock and pop. International stars such as Tom Jones, Bonnie Tyler, David Bisbal, Ara Malikian and many more will be performing on one of the two stages at the event. More information and tickets: <https://starlitemarbella.com/en/>

**Alberto Vela**

**ESTEPONA.** 14 August, 10pm. *Plaza García Caparrós.* Free.

The Madrid musician, Alberto Torres, will be in concert.

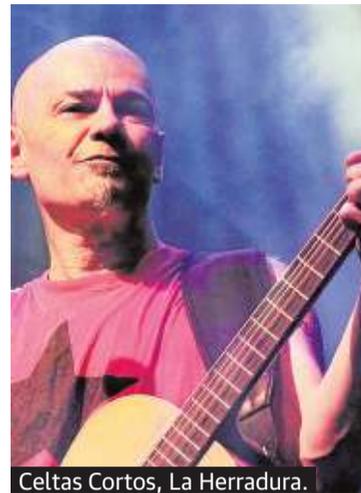
**Brisa en Tu Barrio**

**MALAGA.** Until 22 August. *Various venues.*

The festival Brisa en Tu Barrio is spread around the different zones of Malaga city and features concerts by a total of eleven Malaga musicians. A full list of performers and the venues can be found: [www.brisafestival.com](http://www.brisafestival.com).

**Festival del Castillo**

**LA HERRADURA.** 19-22 August, 10pm. *Castillo de La Herradura.*



Celtas Cortos, La Herradura.

**19 August.** La Blues Band.

**20 August.** Pitingo.

**21 August.** Celtas Cortos.

**FLAMENCO**

**La Caña Flamenco**

**ALMUÑÉCAR.** *Parque El Majuelo*  
**14 August, 10pm.** La Mala Rodríguez  
**21 August, 10pm.** Dorantes.

**Flamenco dance show**

**ALMUÑÉCAR.** 22 August, 10pm. *Parque El Majuelo.*

The Sinsar Malaga dance company will be performing a flamenco and classical Spanish dance show.

**Ciclo Flamenco**

**TORREMOLINOS.** *Various venues.*  
10pm. Free with invitation: [cultura@torremolinos.es](mailto:cultura@torremolinos.es)

**14 August.** Cuadro Flamenco Fermín

Calvo Mora. Casa de los Navajas.

**THEATRE AND DANCE**

**The Season of Dance**

**ESTEPONA.** Until 4 September, 9.30pm. *various venues.*

**17 August.** La Milana, Gemma Sánchez. *Parque El Calvario.*

**Spanish opera**

**ALMUÑÉCAR.** 16 August, 10pm. *Parque El Majuelo.*

The Teatro Lírico Andaluz will be performing the Zarzuela, *Manojo de Rosas.*

**Zarzuela concert**

**MALAGA.** 21 August, 9pm. *Gardens of the English Cemetery, Avs de Pries.* The Ultimo Trovador will be performing a Spanish opera. <https://bit.ly/3yxUslB>

**CHARITY**

**Charity Golf Tournament**

**ALHAURÍN EL GRANDE.** 14 August. *Alhaurín Golf.*

Registration is today, 13 August, for the Fourball Stableford Pairs tournament organised by Benjamin Kamu to raise funds for Cudeca Hospice. Registration is 59€ for adults, 54€ for juniors and 35€ for members. The price includes green fee, shared buggy, prize giving and fundraising auction. There will also be a tasting at the Restaurante La Lucha at the end of the tournament. Email: [info@figueroagolf.com](mailto:info@figueroagolf.com) or call: 674482 777 / 628583169.

23/7 <b>IRINA KOLESNIKOVA</b> EL LAGO DE LOS CISNES	24/7 <b>NOTAS DE CINE</b> Colaboración especial: Antonio Banderas			26/7 <b>PABLO LÓPEZ</b>	2/8 <b>MORAT</b>
3/8 <b>DAVID OTERO, DESPIASTOS &amp; JAULA DE GRILLOS</b>	5/8 <b>RAPHAEL</b>	9/8 <b>ESTRELLA MORENTE &amp; JOSÉ MERCÉ</b>	13/8 <b>TOMATITO</b> Artistas invitados: Duquende, Israel Fernández & Antonio Reyes	14/8 <b>BONNIE TYLER</b>	16/8 <b>TOM JONES</b> Surrounded By Time
21/8 <b>ANTONIO JOSÉ</b>	23/8 <b>DAVID BISBAL</b>	26/8 <b>ROZALÉN</b>	28/8 <b>ARA MALIKIAN</b>	1/9 <b>THE BOOTLEG BEATLES</b>	3/9 <b>LOLA ÍNDIGO</b>

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#### FIESTAS AND FERIAS

##### Fiestas Patronales

**ALMUÑÉCAR.** Until 15 August. The town of Almuñécar celebrates its patron saint La Virgen de la Antigua with concerts, processions, flamenco and other events. It finishes on Sunday with a concert by the Municipal Band at 10pm in the Parque El Majuelo.

#### MORE IDEAS

##### Drag Queen show

**TORREMOLINOS.** 14, 21, 28 31 August. Torremolinos auditorium. Gran Hotel de las Reinas is a drag show with humour, dance and live music, it stars Paca la Piraña, (from the series Veneno), as the hotel receptionist and with guests Arantxa Castilla La Mancha, Carmen Farala, Dovima Nurmi, Drag Vulcano, Hugaceo Crujiente, Inti, Killer Queen, Pupi Poisson, Sagittaria and The Macarena.

##### Night Market with live music

**ALCAUCÍN.** Every Friday from 7.30pm. Scirocco, Cruce de Periana, Puente de Don Manuel.

Live music with Johnny Unplugged and friends at Luna Chill ecological and artisanal market. There is a children's area and food and drinks are available. Musicians are invited to join in.

#### 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



Zarzuela, English Cemetery

**MALAGA.** Centro de Ocio, Plaza Mayor, Avda Alfonso Ponce León. Tel: 902902103. [www.yelmocines.es](http://www.yelmocines.es).

**Stillwater:** 12.25 (Sun), 20.05 (Tues).  
**Snake Eyes: GI Joe's Origins:** 12.45, 13.15 (Sun), 22.25 (Tues).

**The Boss Baby Family Business:** 19.15 (Tues).

**The Suicide Squad:** 14.15 (Sun); 20.00 (Tues).

**Super Concert in Taipei:** 19.30 (Thurs).

#### Yelmo Cines, Rincón

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

**Stillwater:** 18.45 (Tues).

**The Suicide Squad:** 20.10 (Tues).  
**Snake Eyes: GI Joe's Origins:** 22.15 (Tues).

**Super Concert in Taipei:** 19.30 (Thurs).

#### Yelmo Cines, Vialia

**MALAGA.** Centro Comercial Vialia.

Tel: 902220922

**Stillwater:** 22.15 (Tues).

**The Boss Baby Family Business:** 17.00 (Tues).

**The Suicide Squad:** 20.45 (Tues).  
**Snake Eyes: GI Joe's Origins:** 22.40 (Tues).

**Super Concert in Taipei:** 19.30 (Thurs).

#### Cinesur Miramar

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

**Snake Eyes:** 16.45 (Mon and Tues).

**Spirit:** 16.45 (every day).

**Peter Rabbit:** 17.00 (every day).

**Stillwater:** 22.25 (Mon and Tues).  
**Old:** 17.15 (every day).

#### Cine Albéniz

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

**Moonrise Kingdom:** 18 August, 10pm.

**Ernst Lubitsch: Heaven Can Wait:** 19 August, 8.30pm.

**Ernst Lubitsch: To Be Or Not To Be:** 26 August, 8.30pm.

**Ernst Lubitsch: Merry Widow:** 2 September, 8.30pm.

**The Black Narcissus:** 3 September, 5pm.

**Rancho Notorious:** 3 September 10pm.

**Red River:** 4 September, 7.25pm.

**Dracula: Prince of Darkness:** 4 September, 10.30pm.

**Ride the High Country:** 5 September, 5pm.

**The Mummy:** 5 September, 10pm.

**An Affair to Remember:** 6 September, 7.30pm.

**They Died With Their Boots On:** 7 September, 4.30pm.

## The 80s revisited with Spanish tribute band Green Covers

Green Covers are currently touring Spain with their Depeche Mode and The Cure tribute show

#### TONY BRYANT

**BENALMÁDENA.** Celebrated Spanish tribute band Green Covers will perform at the municipal auditorium in Benalmádena on Saturday 18 September. The four-piece band are dedicated to performing the best of British pop and indie rock. Currently on tour in Spain with their tribute to Depeche Mode, The Cure and their spectacular 80s classics set, the band have built up a large following because of their authentic sound and stunning, visual stage show. The three-hour musical extravaganza will reproduce the iconic songs that changed the face of modern pop music in the early 1980s.

Depeche Mode, an English electronic-synth band formed



Green Covers perform the best of British pop and indie rock. **SUR**

in Basildon in 1980, have sold more than 100 million records worldwide. Their biggest hits, like Master and Servant, Lie to Me and Blasphemous Rumours, focus on sexual politics, adulterous relationships and arbitrary divine justice. English pop band The Cure, fronted by gothic singer Robert Smith, became famous with hits such as Love Cats, Boys

Don't Cry and Lullaby, and these hits, along with numerous others of that era, will be reproduced during a show that recreates the nostalgic post-punk period.

Tickets for the show, which starts at 9.15pm (doors open at 8pm) cost 20 euros (23 euros on the night) are available from: [www.ticket-source.co.uk/bigmpromotions](http://www.ticket-source.co.uk/bigmpromotions)



The artist (second left), along with Rincón mayor, Francisco Salado, and other councillors with his bull painted in graffiti. E. CABEZAS

### THE EXHIBITION

- ▶ **Title.** Anarquía Geométrica.
- ▶ **Works.** Nineteen abstract sculptures from the Sinergia Tubular collection, created in 2008 and Entre Acordes, figurative pieces made in 2011. There is also an opportunity to use spray paint to add graffiti to a two-metre bull.
- ▶ **Place.** Casa Fuerte de Bezmiliana, Avenida del Mediterráneo, 149, Rincón de la Victoria.
- ▶ **Opening hours.** Until 17 de September, from Tuesday to Saturday, 11.30am to 1pm and 6.30 to 10pm. Sundays from 11.30am to 1pm. Mondays closed.

**J**osé Luis Gutiérrez Repullo, also known as 'Chico Repullo', admits that he has always been artistic and that even as a child he was particularly good with clay.

Despite studying Economics at university, he has spent most of his life working in the hotel and catering industry, running the legendary Baluma nightclub in La Cala del Moral for more than two decades, until it closed in 2007.

It was then that he decided to turn to his artistic passion, sculpture, he divulged before the opening of Anarquía Geométrica, his first major retrospective exhibition, which can be seen at the Casa Fuerte de Bezmiliana in Rincón de la Victoria.

#### The exhibition

The exhibition consists of a selection of 19 pieces and is the 64-year-old artist's first since 2011 when he held an exhibition at the Sala Mare Nosttrum in La Cala del Moral.

"For me it is an honour to be able to exhibit in my town," Repullo said.

He went on to say that his pieces are "abstract and eclectic, contemporary, I play with sharp edges, emptiness and matter."

Repullo works with different

# Repullo's geometric anarchy at Bezmiliana

**Sculpture.** The local artist will be showing a collection of 19 retrospective, abstract and figurative pieces until 17 September, in his first exhibition since 2011.

**EUGENIO CABEZAS**



types of steel, brass and iron and mixes other elements such as wood or recycled pieces.

"It was really from 2006 onwards that I devoted myself more fully to sculpture, I have experimented a little with paint-

ing, but I prefer sculpture", he explained.

Visitors to the exhibition have the opportunity to paint a two-metre long fibreglass bull sculpted by hand by Repullo, with coloured graffiti paints.



▲ Pieces on display in the Casa Fuerte de Bezmiliana. e. c.

Malaga's Faculty of Economics. Entitled Economistas en el Arte, the exhibition has toured several venues in the province.

In addition, last year Repullo donated a sculpture of the Boquerón de Plata (silver anchovy) awarded by the town hall to outstanding personalities.

In 2020 the award went to the Malaga actor and comedian Salva Reina and this year it went to the Madrid film director Salvador Calvo.

#### Baluma nightclub

Repullo is well known in Rincón de la Victoria for running the old Baluma nightclub for more than two decades.

"There are still many people who stop me in the street and ask me to reopen it", he said about the venue.

On the subject of the pandemic, Repullo admitted that it has not been a good time to create new artistic work,

"I need to keep my mind very calm and with the confinement and all the tension I did go back to my roots, and I've started restoring old motorbikes. I have several projects in mind."

The exhibition can be seen from Tuesday to Saturday until 17 September.



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# Impresionistas

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# Water water everywhere...

ANDREW J. LINN



**D**o we need telling yet again that bottled water is a con? Apparently yes, as its sales grow year on year, and if we ask someone in a supermarket why their trolley is groaning under the weight of plastic bottles, a defensive reaction often sets in.

The marketing that goes into

persuading us that we should buy mineral water never tells us that we should drink the stuff, rather it points out its various qualities, like 'sourced from ageless glaciers' and 'the purest of the pure'. We are encouraged to develop visions of flowing streams and lush forests, rather than the reality

of landfills full of plastic rubbish and underground springs running dry.

When we make the decision to stop drinking tap water and start buying the commercial product, we never look back. Interestingly, the boom in bottled water was only made possible by the invention of PET (polyethylene terephtha-

late) containers in 1973.

These lightweight, unbreakable bottles made it viable to transport container-loads of water on ships and by road, with never a thought to what happens to them when they are empty.

In the USA 75 billion are used yearly, and the much-vaunted promises of the producers to recycle the plastic makes little difference. Much ends up in the oceans, which is disastrous. The strange thing is that so long as it comes in a plastic bottle, we don't give much thought to the real source. A large proportion is sourced from the tap.

**Strange but as long as it comes in a plastic bottle, we don't give much thought to the source**

## WINE OF THE WEEK

### Castillo de Miraflores Verdejo

There is not a large appetite for semi-dry wines in hot climates, but we do them an injustice. Well-chilled, even to a temperature below that recommended on the bottle, they can be very agreeable, and many cheese lovers prefer them to red wines as an accompaniment. This Rueda is excellent for the purpose, as you will appreciate when you try it. Around 7€.



# Classic bars that offer an unforgettable experience

## TRADITIONAL TAVERNS

Torremolinos boasts numerous old taverns that serve Malaga's characteristic sweet dessert wines

TONY BRYANT

**TORREMOLINOS.** Torremolinos has long been known for its excellent selection of traditional bars and eateries, several of which have enjoyed more than 50 years of service. Those seeking a more authentic experience will find the most traditional Andalusian style taverns and bodegas tucked away in the tranquil plazas and winding side streets, like La Campana in Calle La Cruz, the town's oldest and most iconic tavern.

Founded by Narciso Pérez Texeira in 1957, the bar was one of a franchise that bore the name of La Campana. Pérez Texeira, a former Malaga-based bodega, once owned 21 bars in the province of Malaga and two in Madrid, and they quickly gained a reputation for out-

standing quality. Everything that was sold, with the exception of mixers and Victoria beer, was supplied by the Pérez Texeira winery in Malaga, but, like nearly all of the bars, the winery no longer exists. Today, only four of the bars survive: two in Malaga; one in Torre del Mar and one in Torremolinos, although they are all now privately owned.

One of the few bars left in the area that still chalks the bill on the counter-top, La Campana is renowned for the quality of its wines and sherries, and also for the variety of seafood tapas. Twelve oak barrels containing some of the most famous wines of the province line the eight-metre-long bar, and these include Pedro Ximénez, Abocado, and Pajarete, a wine that is unique and very popular in the province of Malaga.

Just a short stroll from here, in Plaza La Fuente, one will discover another of the town's old establishments. La Rreja is a family run tapas bar that opened in 1969 and it is still run by the same family today. Decorated with the emblematic Andalusian tiles and walls



The town's oldest tavern, La Campana, is renowned for its selection of local wines and seafood tapas. **T. BRYANT**

adorned with images of the Semana Santa processions and local ferias, this little gem offers a wide selection of rustic tapas. The tapas menu offers a mixture of Iberian products, along with a variety of rice and pulse-based dishes or platos de cuchara, as they are known.

Boquerones (fresh anchovies) and calamaries (fried squid) are a speciality of the house, as is the homemade ajo blanco, (chilled almond soup).

Bodega Guerola, which clings to the corner Calle de las Mercedes

## Torremolinos boasts several traditional bodegas and taverns that have enjoyed more than 50 years of service

and Calle San Miguel, is a beautiful and inviting old tavern that was founded in 1962. Mediterranean cuisine and variety of wines in a cozy atmosphere with a touch of distinction are what makes this

bar popular. However, the large barrel-type tables outside are the best place to watch the world go by.

Scallops, stuffed mushrooms, asparagus with Serrano ham and sautéed artichokes are just a few of the mouthwatering tapas they offer, but their speciality is the king clams that come directly from the shores of Malaga.

There is also a good choice of Malaga's characteristic sweet wines produced from the Pedro Ximénez and Moscatel grape varieties.

ORTHOPAEDIC CLINIC

# One of the most often wrongly used diagnosis: Disc Prolapse

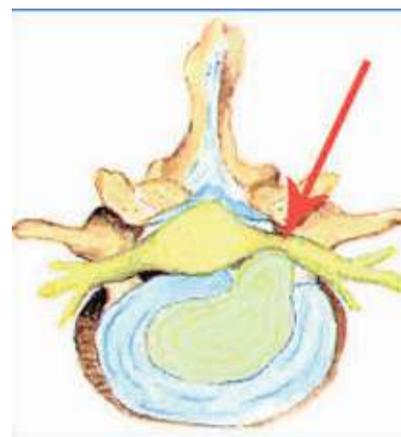
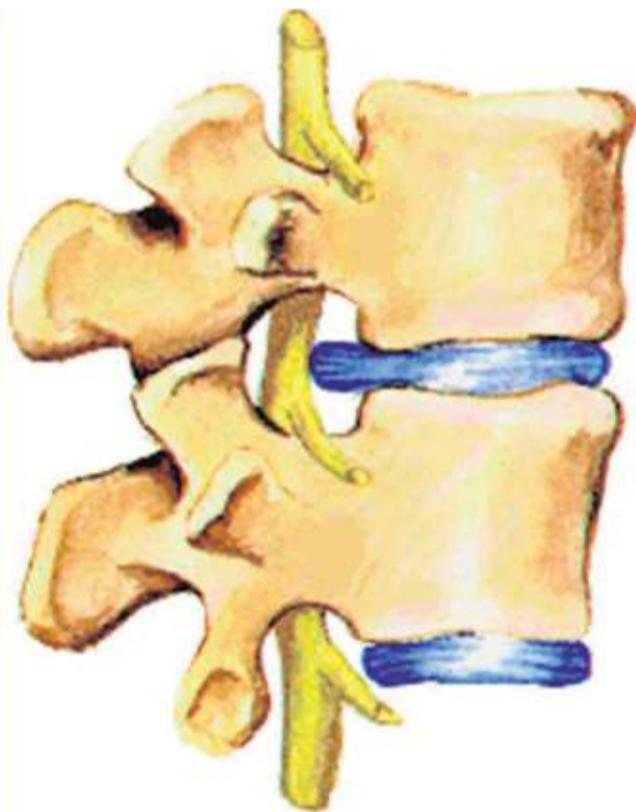
**BENALMÁDENA**

**Sandalf.** Most of us probably know the situation: The sudden pain at the lower back after a rapid movement or after lifting some weight. Within days this pain starts radiating through gluteus and back of the upper leg, even all the way down to the calf. A constant sharp pain that could also wake you up in the middle of the night. And usual pain killing medication like Paracetamol doesn't work. So you see your doctor or an orthopaedic surgeon who, in many cases, would send you for an MRI scan (magnetic resonance image) of the lower spine straight away, most often without a clinical exam. This scan will most certainly show a disc prolapse at L5/S1, possibly also at L4/5 level. So there is the apparent reason for your pain, and in the worse scenario you will be advised that surgery is the only option to help you.

This diagnosis is unfortunately very often wrong, and the detected disc prolapse is misleading, has nothing to do with the pain and was only found accidentally. Many international studies have shown that up to 80% of people over 40 have a disc prolapse, although they don't have any symptoms. If we talk about the pre- prolapse stage, the bulging disc, this can be found in 80% of people from the age of 20 onwards.

Lower back pain is the most frequent reason for sick leave, and there are many reasons for lower back pain. Most often it would be an inflammation of the sciatic nerve, but also muscular contractures could be responsible for the pain, as well as advanced arthritic changes of the hip joint.

The first step to find the correct



Disc prolapse (arrow), the apparent reason for your pain, and in the worse scenario you will be advised that surgery is the only option to help you. Sandalf

**Many international studies have shown that up to 80% of people over 40 have a disc prolapse, although they don't have any symptoms**

**The first step to find the correct diagnosis would be detailed questioning of the patient (anamnesis) about when and how the pain started**

diagnosis would be detailed questioning of the patient (anamnesis) about when and how the pain started, the type of pain – sharp, dull, burning -, how often and exactly where it is felt, how it could be provoked or even released. This would be followed by a thorough physical exam, in which Dr. Alf Neuhaus always includes exam of the middle spine as well as both hip and knee joints. This could show where the pain comes from, where does it go to, are neurological symptoms present. In a patient above 40 he would also take radiological images of the pelvis and the lower spine, using the digital X-ray facility available in his clinic, to exclude any bony

pathologies as possible reason for the pain. The appropriate treatment, which could include physiotherapy, acupuncture, oral medication and even direct infiltrations of the inflamed nerve root, could be initiated immediately, and would in most cases lead to complete relieve of the pain within days. Only if the treatment does not show the desired effect, or neurological symptoms like lack of reflex or significant loss of muscular power, were found during the physical exam a MRI scan should be performed.

Please don't hesitate to get in touch with Dr. Alf Neuhaus at Clinica SANDALF, should you have any further questions regarding

disc prolapse, or any other orthopaedic problem.

**The appropriate treatment, which could include physiotherapy, acupuncture, oral medication and even direct infiltrations of the inflamed nerve root, could be initiated immediately, and would in most cases lead to complete relieve of the pain within days**



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# When medicines suffer from the heat

**Storage.** At more than 25° it can become less effective or even toxic, causing a range of problems

ROCÍO MENDOZA

The relationship between medication and high temperatures is a delicate one.

Any drug can deteriorate when the thermometers shoot up in the summer, unless it is

kept in the correct conditions.

The consequences of failing to do this can be important: the effects of the active ingredient could be reduced (so the medicine is less effective in the body and in combating the illness) or, on the contrary, the effects may be increased, with the subse-

quent risk of toxicity.

If you take into account that it can easily be over 30°C in Spain in summer and that medicines should always be kept between 15° and 25°, the problem is obvious.

If you need to take drugs on holiday, the Spanish Society of

Primary Healthcare Pharmacists (SEFAP) says precautions are necessary.

Cristina Casado, the coordinator of SEFAP's Patients and Citizens Group, says tablets should be transported in their original packing (people often remove them from their boxes

## How could my medication affect me in hot weather?



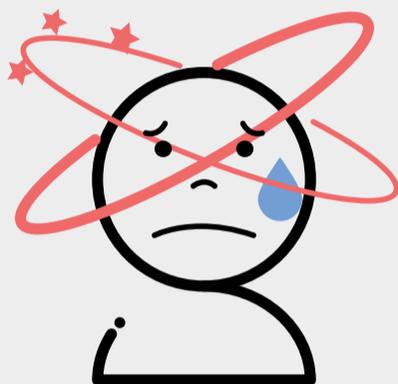
### 1. EXHAUSTION & DEHYDRATION

**Some symptoms:**

- Excessive sweating
- Cramp
- Dizziness, nausea

**Types of medication:**

- Diuretics
- Anti-inflammatory medicines
- Antidepressants



### 2. HEAT STROKE

**Some symptoms:**

- Feeling very thirsty
- Dry mouth
- Dry skin

**Types of medication:**

- Diuretics
- Anti-inflammatory non steroids
- Neuroleptics or antidepressants



### 3. HYPERTHERMIA

**Some symptoms:**

- Dizziness
- Alterations in consciousness
- Delirium
- Diarrhoea
- Shivering

**Types of medication:**

- Neuroleptics
- Antidepressants



### 4. EFFECT MODIFICATION

**Main side-effect:**

- Toxicity

**Types of medication**

- Medicines in patch form: heat could cause an overdose due to absorption speed or reduced efficiency if the patch peels off.
- Dehydration could cause an increase of the amount of a drug in the bloodstream.



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## How should I store my medicines?

**SOME MEDICINES MUST BE KEPT BETWEEN**

**2-8°C**

- NEVER put them in the freezer
- Don't put them against the sides or in the door of the fridge
- Avoid breaking the cold chain

**THE MAJORITY OF MEDICINES MUST BE KEPT BETWEEN**

**15-25°C**

- Keep them in their packaging
- Don't store them in the kitchen or the bathroom
- Use a portable cooler to transport them

when travelling) and they should never be left in the car or in a handbag in the sun.

"The best thing is to take a thermal bag or coolbox without a cold accumulator, because these isolate them from the outside temperature and help to

**Precautions are necessary when transporting medication during the summer; don't leave it in the car in the sun**

**For most medication, "room temperature, in a cool, dry place away from sources of heat and direct light is ideal"**

conserve them," she said.

Medication that needs to be kept cold carries a warning to that effect.

When at home, Casado says medicines should never be kept in the kitchen or bathroom (that's a common mistake) or in

the door of the fridge.

"Room temperature, in a cool, dry place, away from sources of heat and direct light is ideal," she said.

If they are damaged, they can have some undesirable effects on the patient.

## Your eyes could get sunburned too, warn local experts

Not protecting vision can increase the risk of cancer, and using good sunglasses and a wide-brimmed hat are among ways to avoid damage

### SUR IN ENGLISH

**COSTA DEL SOL.** A local expert in eyecare is warning that it is not just our skin that can be damaged by the sun's powerful UV rays.

A Costa del Sol-based opticians firm says that many people don't realise that our eyeballs can burn when exposed to sunlight too.

Tom Little, general manager of Specsavers Ópticas Marbella, explained, "Sunburned eyes, which can also be known as photokeratitis or snow blindness, happen when you are overexposed to harmful UV rays without the correct eye protection. This can occur when sunlight reflects off concrete, sand, water and snow. The overexposure to your eye damages the cornea's outer layer, temporarily causing it to become inflamed and sore.

"As well as potentially damaging your vision, sunburn also in-

creases your risk of skin cancer."

Little added: "When your eyes are sunburned it can feel quite painful. Your eyes will go red or appear bloodshot and may also water. While they will feel very itchy it is important not to rub or scratch them as this could worsen the problem.

"Depending on the extent of the damage and sunburn, symptoms should ease within 24 to 48 hours. Moisturising eyedrops can also help with the healing process.

"Other symptoms also include blurred vision, sensitivity to light and the feeling of grit or sand in your eyes."

In terms of treating sunburned eyes, the expert's advice is to swap contacts for sunglasses to avoid further irritation, and sunglasses will help to protect eyes while they

**Stay indoors while symptoms subside and place a cold compress or a fresh, damp cloth over closed eyes**

heal.

Further tips include staying indoors while symptoms subside and placing a cold compress or a fresh, damp cloth over closed eyes to help cool the eyes down and ease symptoms.

And finally, if none of this helps and eyes continue to feel sore for more than 48 hours, the advice is to see an optician to check your eye health.

### How to avoid exposure

"The best way to protect your eyes from the sun is through wearing a good pair of sunglasses with UV protection," said Little of Specsavers Ópticas. "Look for glasses carrying the CE mark, or the British Standard (BS EN ISO 12312-1:2013), as this ensures they match up to the appropriate safety standards. We recommend polarising lenses for full UV protection."

"Wearing a wide-brimmed hat can also help shade your eyes and protect your face. It is also really important that when you are spending time outdoors that you never look at the sun directly as this can damage your eyes," he said.



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Juande and Recio in the preseason match against Granada. RAMÓN L. PÉREZ

## Malaga CF prepare for first league match after an inconclusive preseason

Without managing to defeat any Segunda rivals and relying on youth support, they are still very much in training with several signings pending

PEDRO LUIS ALONSO

**MALAGA.** The rehearsals are over. Malaga kick off the new season when they welcome Mirandés on Monday, although the Segunda (second division) championship actually begins today, Friday, with the Huesca-Eibar and Zaragoza-Ibiza clashes.

As the transfer market deadline and the league launch itself are not in sync, any analysis of the team is relative at the moment. Early results and preseason football should not lead to hasty conclusions, even less so when the squad lineup has been relying on its amateur youth contingent.

In any case, it has been another summer of uncertainties - although fewer of course than the previous one - marked by the reduction of the wage bill to form a squad of nineteen professional players. Without getting over excited, with some names yet to be signed, at least this Malaga will have more full-time players. And now with the arrival of a new coaching staff, they are starting off with a clear premise: to put on the pressure upfront.

It is worth noting that eight of the current professional players on the team have seen so little action so far. Calero, Chavarría and Ramón are coming out of injuries; Ismael Casas faced an untimely self-isolation which ended just a few days before he was injured on his debut in the Granada friendly; Dani Martín, lacks pace, after undergoing knee surgery in January, and has barely played in two years; the newcomer Peybernes

is also on the list; and key man Escassi spent several games taking it easy, which has led him to be on the field for only 137 minutes.

The eighth on the list is Hicham, whose form is still not clear; after a lost year having not fully recovered from muscle injuries, he has played just 90 minutes - with

no more than 45 consecutively - and cannot seem to shake off the 'fragile player' label.

Head coach José Alberto has not been too concerned about playing quality friendlies, in which he could have tried out a team similar to that of the league debut, and he chose to share out the greatest possible number of min-



One of the stands at La Rosaleda during the Malaga-Tenerife game. Ñ. SALAS

## Covid jab certificate requirement scrapped for team's new season debut

BORJA GUTIÉRREZ

**MALAGA.** Malaga CF hope that around 7,000 supporters will cheer on their team during the first league match of the season at the La Rosaleda stadium on Monday, 16 August.

Last Saturday only around a thousand fans watched the game against Tenerife, but the club

hopes to far exceed that figure on Monday, with an 8pm kick-off.

For the league match the club has decided to scrap the requirement to present a coronavirus vaccination certificate or a negative Covid-19 test to get into the ground, as was required last weekend.

After discussions with the

Junta de Andalucía, this measure, has been dropped. Now the only thing that is required is to respect social distancing guide-

lines and to wear a FFP2 face mask.

In a statement, the Malaga club has also explained it is not

### THE DATA

# 19

is the number of professional players that Malaga has at the moment. But there are several signings to make. The first will be the left back Cufre, with the departure of Cristo. Although the priority is a striker, a position in which Brandon has had to be used.

utes to each of his players.

Malaga has 19 in total on the professional squad; that is, there are several names still to come. The first will be the left back Cufre, with the departure of Cristo. But the priority is a pure striker. With Chavarría injured, until now José Alberto has to settle for Brandon, who is not a 'nine', and the young Roberto and Loren. What's more, it is foreseeable that another defender will arrive, to bring four specialists to the centre of the field, in addition to the versatility of Escassi.

### Bad, then better news

As much as the results are not too important at this point, it is disappointing to see that Malaga were not able to win any of their three games against future rivals.

Although it is true that a limited number of full-timers were used to take on Alcorcón (0-3) and Almería (1-1) - the latter game being the better performance - the first half against Tenerife at home at La Rosaleda was worrying, although in the final half hour they tried hard to tie (0-1).

The good news is that no significant injuries have been added this preseason. Some muscular mishaps, like those of Benkhemassa and Ale Benítez and little else. Long-term recoveries (Calero, Chavarría and Ramón) are going well.

This summer there has been room to see many homegrown players. Perhaps the central defenders Andrés and Moussa and the attacker Roberto have left the best impression. Kevin has been able to enjoy more minutes than most on the pitch (228) and the feeling is once again that there is talent among the junior ranks.

in a position to sell season tickets yet, so the only way to attend will be with single tickets.

"The club cannot put season tickets up for sale until it can guarantee the permitted capacity, something that will depend on the health regulations imposed by the authorities," it explained.

Tickets for the game on Monday went on sale earlier this week to members of the club's Fiel Malaguista scheme, before any remaining seats are offered to the general public today, Friday.



# PostMessi period in La Liga

We'd all like to witness Messi's majestic skills week in and week out in a Barcelona shirt, but it was impossible to keep him

The football world hasn't stopped just because we've entered the post-Messi period in La Liga despite what you read, hear, and possibly feel.

There are parallels with my first season commentating on La Liga back in 1996: Johan Cruyff's legendary career as player and coach had reached a bitter conclusion; Atletico had won La Liga; Real Madrid were in transitional turmoil; and nobody could see beyond the Dream Team.

Bobby Robson needed all his diplomacy to win over the fans and calm the situation. He brought in a Brazilian teenager called Ronaldo and a player he knew well from his time in Portugal, Luis Figo.

Fast forward 25 years and it

does feel familiar. Lionel Messi like Cruyff does appear to be irreplaceable. As a player it appeared that Cruyff was the ultimate. Messi and Cristiano Ronaldo redefined greatness and, a few years later, Pep Guardiola emerged as a coach. It can be argued he took the club to an even greater level.

There will never be another Messi, yet football evolves. There were few signs of the magical Argentinian's abilities diminishing; however, the dependency on his superpowers was greater than ever. Barcelona were leaning on a 34-year-old who was becoming more demanding and dominant.

The modern greats, Xavi, Andrés Iniesta and Carles Puyol, all left at the peak of their powers. We still felt they had an-



Messi in Paris. EFE

other season when they waved an emotional goodbye to the Nou Camp. We'd all like to witness Messi's majestic skills week in and week out in a Barcelona shirt. Last season, he went the full 90 minutes on 36 occasions. His brilliance kept Barcelona in the hunt. It was peak Messi.

It was just impossible for Barcelona to keep him. To meet his demands, even at a 50% reduction, the deal was needed to be spread over five years. He'd still be drawing €500 million per week at the age of 39s. Even personal round-the-clock stadium tours for billionaires couldn't justify that outlay.

La Liga appears to be one of the very few organisations taking the Financial Fair Play rules seriously. Even without Messi, Barcelona's wage bill ex-

ceeds the earnings: the ratio is reported to be 110%. Without fans in the stadium, visitors to the museum, customers in the megastore, finances have been decimated in the pandemic.

And so, like in 1996 when Sir Bobby inherited a downbeat club, Barcelona need a stocktake. Pedri is the most exciting teenager in world football. Ansu Fati is much heralded and was carving an exceptional reputation before his injury. We all know how good Antoine Griezmann can be; we just haven't seen it consistently in Barca colours. Frenkie de Jong is approaching his peak years. Philippe Coutinho may yet come good.

Messi is a loss. Like Cristiano Ronaldo, he is irreplaceable as an individual. It's time for teamwork rather than reliance on one man's brilliance.

Real Madrid regrouped and a couple of years later they rarely reminisce about their greatest ever player. In fact, Juventus would be happy for someone to take the legend off their payroll.

In a couple of years, when Barcelona's books are balanced and the team is settled, will Messi still be justifying the crippling wages at PSG?

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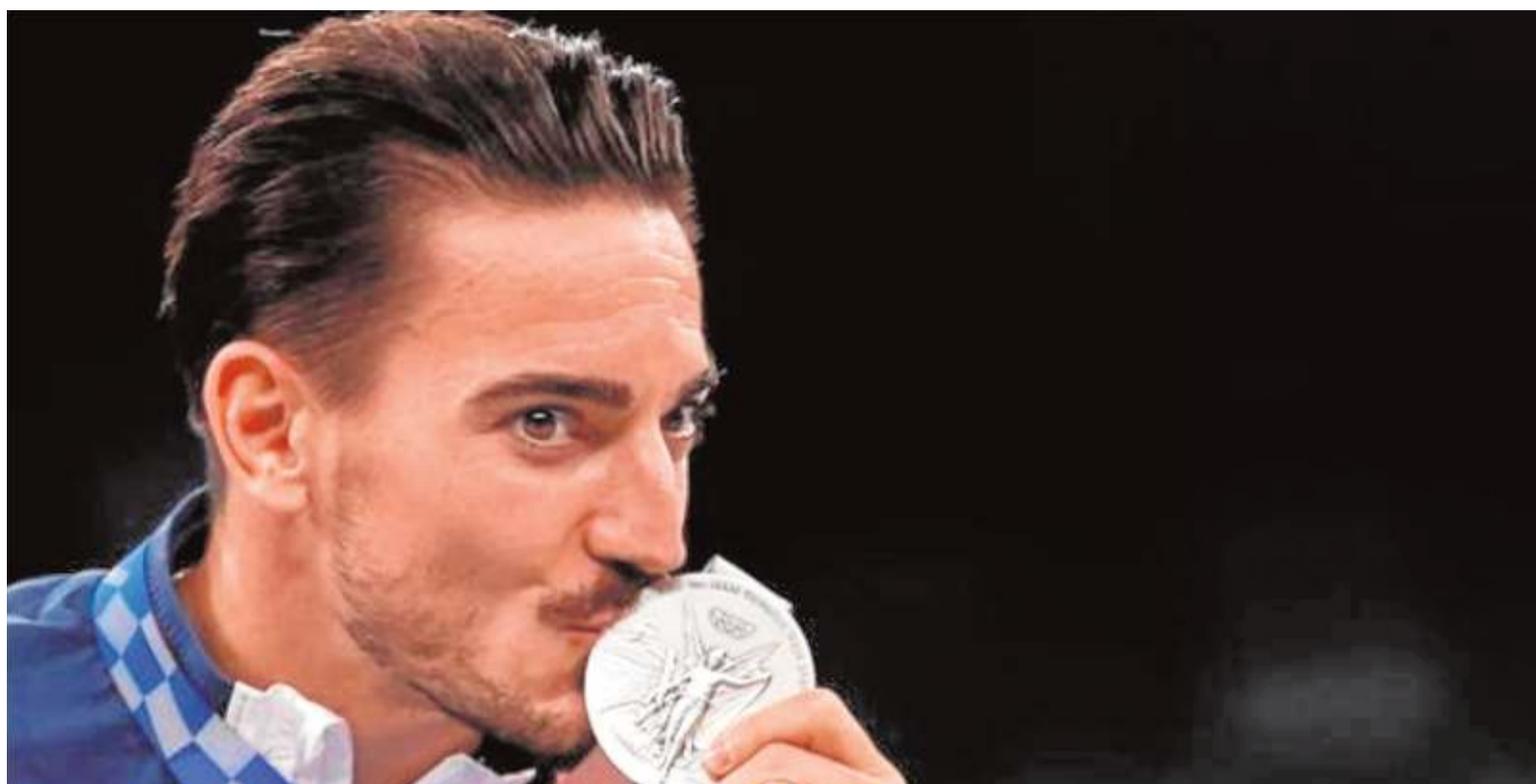
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# Same medals but less sparkle

**Good final days.** After a difficult Games due to injuries and the pandemic, Team Spain won a total of 17 medals in Tokyo - but only three of them were gold

EMILIO V. ESCUDERO

The 2020 Olympic Games, which were postponed by a year due to the pandemic, came to a slightly disappointing end for Team Spain. Although it won as many medals in Tokyo as it did in Rio de Janeiro 2016, a mere three of these were gold – two fewer than in Rio and 10 fewer than in Barcelona 1992. It may have reaped more medals had not some of its fiercest competitors – including badminton player Carolina Marín and hurdler Orlando Ortega, who both won golds in Rio – suffered unexpected injuries prior to the Games. Nonetheless, Team Spain still celebrated some superb achievements this year.

## Damián Quintero, silver in karate for the man from Malaga

Few will forget Damián Quintero's smile when he stepped onto the podium to accept his silver medal. The 37-year-old, who lives with his family in Torremolinos, Malaga, has won golds in the World and the

European Championships, though unfortunately he lost out in the Olympic final to Japan's Kiyuna, who had the advantage of fighting on home soil.

## Sandra Sánchez, gold in karate, new discipline

Sandra Sánchez took first place in a sport that made its first Olympic appearance in Tokyo and will not be on the programme in Paris 2024, granting her the bittersweet honour of being the only winner of an Olympic gold in karate.

## Galvez and Fernández, gold in mixed team trap shooting

Years of practice went into securing this medal, which was Team Spain's first at this year's Games. The success of Fátima Gálvez and Alberto Fernández, who won the final by a single point (41-40), inspired other Spanish Olympians into winning medals of their own. The pair will now be looking to defend their title in Paris 2024.

► **Alberto Ginés López.** The 18-year-old took the first ever Olympic gold medal in sport climbing. **EFE**



► **Sandra Sánchez.** She took gold in a sport that made its first Olympic appearance in Tokyo. **EFE**



## Alberto Ginés López, gold in sports climbing, new discipline

The 18-year-old from Cáceres took the first ever Olympic gold medal in sports climbing after a jaw-dropping performance. Along with other disciplines such as skateboarding and surfing, the Olympic Committee included sports climbing to attract a younger audience.

## Portela, silver in canoe sprint and first medal after six Games

"Whoever persists, succeeds," said Teresa Portela after claiming silver in the canoe sprint, her first ever Olympic medal. The 39-year-old Galician has competed in more Games than any other Spanish woman, and her achievement this year is the crowning jewel of a scintillating career.

## Zapata, silver in artistic gymnastics but nearly gold

After disappointment in Rio, where he did not even make the final, Ray

Zapata missed out on winning gold in Tokyo by the narrowest of margins. Nonetheless, the 28-year-old was delighted with his second-place finish, which he dedicated to his daughter, Olympia.

## Chourraut, silver in canoe slalom to complete the set

One of Spain's most experienced Olympians, Maiaalen Chourraut successfully navigated herself through the rapids and onto the podium yet again. Her silver medal completes the set as she won bronze in London 2012 and gold in Rio 2016.

## Cerezo, silver in taekwondo to open the account

It was the first day of competition in Tokyo, but this immense pressure did not get to the 17-year-old, who breezed through qualifying and only lost out on gold in the last three seconds of the final. Her silver medal is now in her grandmother's house, as was her wish

◀ **Damián Quintero.** The 37-year-old, who lives in Torremolinos, won a silver medal in karate. **EFE**

before leaving Spain.

## Silver in Men's Kayak Four 500m; fifth medal for Cravio

Team Spain also took silver in the men's team kayaking, securing a fifth Olympic medal for Saúl Cravio, who is now equal with David Cal as Spain's most decorated Olympian. If all goes according to plan, he will be challenging that record within three years in Paris.

## Silver in Women's water polo; back on the podium

It was déjà vu for Team Spain in the water polo as they finished second to the United States, a repetition of the final in London 2012. However, with many young players in the team who performed excellently in their first Games, the future holds much promise.

## Silver in Men's football; beaten in extra time

Team Spain broke its 21-year run of failing to climb the Olympic podium in the men's football, though it was Brazil that took the gold medal home after the match went to extra time. Still, an excellent summer of football for Spain.

## Pablo Carreño, bronze in tennis after beating Djokovic

It was one of the greatest and most unexpected highlights of the Spaniard's career: a straight-sets victory against world number one Novak Djokovic to claim the bronze medal in Tokyo.

## Ana Peleteiro, bronze in the triple jump

The Galician scored a personal best in the triple jump (14.87) to secure her place on the podium.

## David Valero, bronze in mountain biking

The Spaniard fought back from 20th place to earn the bronze medal, marking his best finish in an international competition.

## Bronze in Two Person Dingy sailing

Jordi Xammar and Nicolas Rodriguez Garcia-Paz joked before landing in Rio that they had spent the five previous years living in a five metres' squared boat. In Tokyo, that dedication rewarded them with a bronze.

## Cardona, medal number two

The Spanish sailor won his second bronze medal in Tokyo after claiming his first in London 2012. However, this discipline will not be included in Paris 2024.

## Bronze in Men's handball

There was an emotional end to the bronze medal match for Spain in the men's handball as the team lifted their captain, Raúl Entrerrios, aloft in tribute to his impressive career.

# Agustín Tapia and Pablo Lima win the World Padel Tour in Malaga without losing a set

The number 3 duo in the world ranking get their second consecutive title, while Salazar-Triay win in the female category

## IVÁN GELIBTER

MALAGA. Five years after the last time Malaga's José María Martín Carpena arena hosted a World Padel Tour event, the capital of the Costa del Sol crowned its new champions last Sunday in a brilliant tournament - and with spectators inside once again.

That 25 per cent capacity allowed into the stands was more than covered: some 2,500 people, who mostly wanted to see Andalusian Paquito Navarro and his Argentinian partner Martín di Nenno win, but they had to make do with the runners-up place.

They were beaten by Argentinian player Agustín Tapia and Brazilian Pablo Lima, who started as favourites, and soon lived up to expectations.

World padel has been very even in recent years, but if there is a player who has returned or added spectacle to the game, it is Agustín Tapia. When the Argentinian is inspired, rivals tremble because he is capable of filling more than half the court.

## Firm in defence

The South American duo were very strong in defence, which made it difficult for Navarro and especially Di Nenno to close the points. A 'break' at 2 - 2 gave the advantage to Tapia-Lima, and two games later they repeated the feat and claimed the first set. In the second, however, it was different when Di Nenno and Navarro totally changed their style of play.

After a couple of 'breaks' and 'counterbreaks', the second set went to sudden death, but Tapia made his shots from his line unattainable for his rivals and claimed victory.

## Female category

In the female category, the newcomer couple of the year formed by Argentinian Delfina Brea and Spain's Tamara Icardo failed to take their third title of the season as their rivals and number 1 in the world ranking, the Spanish

Spectators were back in Malaga's Martín Carpena arena for the first time after a long break, filling the stands to the 25% limit



Argentinian Agustín Tapia was the best player in the men's final. WPT

pair, Alejandra Salazar and Gemma Triay, already had their eyes on it.

Although the points were long and contested, Triay was more inspired than ever, an advantage that combined with the high level of being the player with the best 'drive' in the world.

With this result, the couple strengthen their position at the top of world padel.

## Local competitors played a low-key role

The best padel in the world returned to Malaga, but the celebration was not complete due to the discreet role of the local players. Álex Ruiz reached the quarterfinals, but lost in a very

tough match played in three sets. Bea González in the female category, despite her good play, could not defeat the couple who are playing the best padel this season. Both Malaga players now look forward to the tournaments in September.

## Charity golf tournament organised in aid of gall bladder cancer research

### TONY BRYANT

ALHAURÍN EL GRANDE. The Alhaurín Golf Club (Alhaurín el Grande) will host a special charity golf tournament in aid of cancer research this Saturday, 14 August. The event has been organised by Benjamin Kamu, a professional golfer who, after the recent death of his mother, has decided to dedicate his life to raising funds for gall bladder cancer.

Registration for the tournament, a four-ball stableford pairs, costs 59 euros (54 euros for members) and can be made by e-mail (info@figueroa-golf.com), or by phone: 674 482 777. Registration includes green fees, shared buggy and entry to a fundraising auction.

Participants will also enjoy a buffet after the tournament served by Restaurante La Lucha, one of the collaborators of the tournament.

Prizes will be awarded for the couple with the best scratch result and the for longest drive.

Benjamin's mother, a keen golfer, was being cared for by Cudeca when she died.

"Without the help of the Cudeca Hospice my mother would never have found peace and tranquillity at the end of her life," Benjamin said.



# Nordic walking, with a Marbella accent

**Kike Villanueva.** Twice Andalusian champion, recently competed in the national championship. "It looks easy but it uses 95 per cent of your musculature," he says

JULIO RODRÍGUEZ

He was destined to practise Nordic walking, but didn't realise it until four years ago. Nobody would have thought that Danish-born Kike Villanueva Heimann, who has lived in Marbella since he was two months old, would become the 'king of the walking poles' at the age of 45. However, a few months ago he became the Andalusian champion for the second time (the first was in 2019 and there was no competition last year due to the pandemic), and he has just competed as part of the Andalusian Nordic walking team in the Spanish individual and regional federation championships. The team won the men's category and was runner-up in the women's.

Kike Villanueva used to be known as a five-a-side footballer, winning the Andalusian championship with Marbella FS and fifth in Spain, but he was also a successful trail runner.

After a number of years, because he was getting older and wanted to avoid injury, enjoy nature and discover new places to walk, he joined the Marbella Climbing Club (CEM) - or its Nordic walking section, to be exact.

In the past three years he has won numerous medals at a regional and national level. His most recent success, in A Coruña, was shared with four other members of the CEM from Malaga: Sonia Téllez, María Maestro, Fina Ruiz and Juan Carlos Cabello also took part and did well.

## Different from race walking

Villanueva doesn't only compete in the master category, but also in the absolute general category with athletes twice his age.

"I learned to use the walking poles to compete in ultra-marathons and mountain races. This is a very social sport, it's inclusive, and you see many more people using poles nowadays," he says.

Nordic walking is very similar to race walking but there are some important differences. The main one is the use of the poles, which are similar to the ones used by skiers.

To move, you step with a marked rhythm: left foot - right stick, right foot - left stick. The race technique requires you to roll the foot from the heel to the ball with each step, maintaining a correct arm movement, and the judges penalise any walker who jumps, runs or crouches.

"From the outside it looks like an elegant, very aesthetic sport, although you can't swing your hips in Nordic walking as you would in race walking," explains Villanueva.

More and more people are taking up this sport nowadays, because age and physical condition do not matter. It only became a competitive sport six years ago.

"I consider this to be one of the most complete sports there are. You work with 95 per cent of your musculature, including your tongue because you can talk to the person next to you when you walk - well, not in a race, you can't," he jokes.

The impact of this exercise is practically nil. It's like ordinary walking, but with an inertia, a speed that burns up more calories than if you just take a walk.

"Everyone can do it, even people who are overweight. However, at a competitive level it's true that you do have to work hard on your technique and you need endurance," he says.

The visibility of the Marbella Club de Escalada and Kike Villanueva's recent successes are raising awareness of this sport. Marbella council has even included him in its Marca Marbella sponsorship programme, which is reserved for outstanding athletes in national competitions, something which has made him feel very proud. He is also proud of the fact that in 2019 the Junta de Andalucía officially classified him as a High Performance Athlete.

Many people think this sport demands very little physical effort, but the statistics show otherwise. For example, the recent Spanish Nordic Walking Championships consisted of a 14-kilometre circuit, a first lap of five kilometres and another three laps of three kilometres each. There was a strong wind, which slowed the competitors down.



Kike Villanueva, on the Guara-Somontano ultra-trail. SUR



Nordic walking on the seafront in Marbella. J. R.

erwise. For example, the recent Spanish Nordic Walking Championships consisted of a 14-kilometre circuit, a first lap of five kilometres and another three laps of three kilometres each. There was a strong wind, which slowed the competitors down.

He finished fifth overall and in third place in the Veterans A category.

## A sport that began in 1930 and arrived in Spain in 2015

Nordic walking has only recently become a regulated sport in Spain. It was accepted by the General Assembly of the Spanish Mountain Sports and Climbing Federation (FEDME) on 27 June 2015, and incorporated on that day in the federative statutes as an official sport.

However, it actually dates back to 1930, when the Finnish skiing team started training in the summer by simulating the actions of their sport, walking and running, but adapting the exercise by using poles.

The first documented classes in walking with poles took place in 1966, and this form of exercise was included in Physical Education lessons in Finland. In the year 2000 the International Nordic Walking Association was formed.

The sport consists of walking with two poles, usually made of fibre, with the aim of optimising one's own physical effort during the biomechanical movement of the body when walking. It is a simple, natural and effective way of improving physical condition and toning the muscles in both the upper body (arms, shoulders, back) and the lower (buttocks and legs). Age, weight and height are immaterial.

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### Coronavirus information

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**THE STARS**



**Aquarius**  
January 21st - February 19th  
As Venus enters Libra, bonds might be forged, especially when you move out of your comfort zone and are in new territory.



**Pisces**  
February 20th - March 20th  
The Sun/Jupiter tie could coincide with a brilliant idea that makes life easier and happier if you're willing to have a go. An attitude of gratitude will bring more good things your way.



**Aries**  
March 21st - April 20th  
As Venus swings into Libra, negotiations will be easier and difficulties smoothed out in key relationships. But organizing could be a priority too.



**Taurus**  
April 21st - May 21st  
You'll be at your creative best next week, with all kinds of ideas bubbling up to the surface. A feisty Mercury/Mars link can inspire you to break the ice with someone you admire.



**Gemini**  
May 22nd - June 21st  
You'll be busy on the home front next week, and this can be a good time for planning and creating order out of chaos. Funds may arrive out of the blue



**Cancer**  
June 22nd - July 23rd  
Keen to beautify your home? As Venus moves into your domestic sector you may be smitten with the desire to give your place a makeover.



**Leo**  
July 24th - August 23rd  
Relationships with others may be on a roll this week as opportunities for collaboration, romance and new friendships open up for you. Need to purchase a big-ticket item? Plan for it.



**Virgo**  
August 24th - September 23rd  
With six days left until the Sun moves into your sign this coming weekend, there is time to work on deep-seated issues that need a solution. Even so, you'll enjoy the process.



**Libra**  
September 24th - October 23rd  
As Venus enters your sign you'll enjoy being completely yourself as you reach out to others, negotiate, play the diplomat and allow your romantic and creative qualities to show up.



**Scorpio**  
October 24th - November 22nd  
You seem to be in demand socially, and this can lead to you making some sterling connections. Be prepared for one encounter to be a total game-changer.

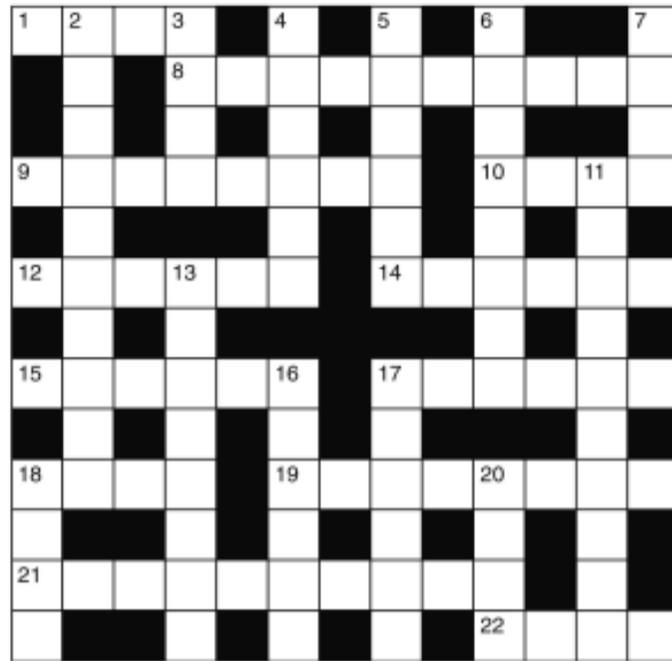


**Sagittarius**  
November 23rd - December 21st  
New friendships beckon, and if there have been any falling-outs then Venus's move into Libra can provide the diplomatic assistance to resolve them.



**Capricorn**  
December 22nd - January 20th  
As Venus sashays into a prominent zone, her presence encourages positive relationships with those at work or in authority. Need something? A little give and take can go a long way.

**CRYPTIC CROSSWORD N° 11474**



**Across**

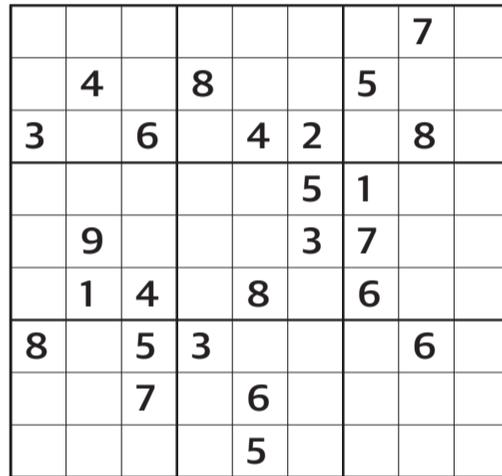
- 1 Uncultivated land to tie one's boat up to (4)
- 8 Use a quince, the only one of its kind (6,4)
- 9 Tolerate Irishman but refuse to change (5,3)
- 10 Neat substitution of dunderhead for learner in 7 (4)
- 12 Moderate state of anger (6)
- 14 Fears losing head - makes mistakes (6)
- 15 Very unusual escape route? (3,3)
- 17 Subjects in charge in backward spot (6)
- 18 Leave out container for rubbish (4)
- 19 Monocle with which to look at tumbler? (8)
- 21 Dilutes wine as rowing, for example (5,5)
- 22 In which a really fast animal is concealed (4)

**Down**

- 2 Having made a start, but not on target (3,3,4)
- 3 Destruction of one in unbroken succession (4)
- 4 Cured fish having a sleep? (6)
- 5 Turn that makes one capsize (6)
- 6 A fall for detectives is sweet (4,4)
- 7 One side went away (4)
- 11 He makes prediction of return on rebuilt terraces (10)
- 13 Does he help the cast be quicker to act? (8)
- 16 Twice set about disease-carrying insect (6)
- 17 The name of their leader picking up a pirate (6)
- 18 Proverbial sayings with teeth? (4)
- 20 Turning machine endlessly to produce thin strip of wood (4)

**SUDOKU BY HANZO**

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



**THE WORDPUZZLER**



Can you identify the words that may be made from the letters of MENDELSSOHN from the clues listed below?

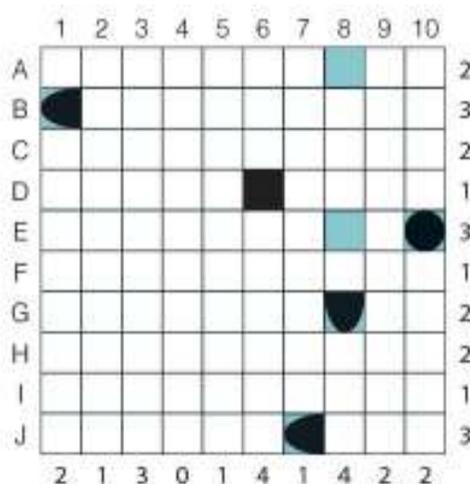
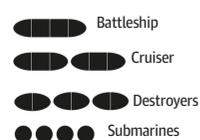
- 1. Network
- 2. Require
- 3. Distribute
- 4. Ages
- 5. Lustre
- 6. Sharpen
- 7. Not more
- 8. Portent
- 9. Untidy state
- 10. Plant ovule

**THE SEVEN DIFFERENCES**

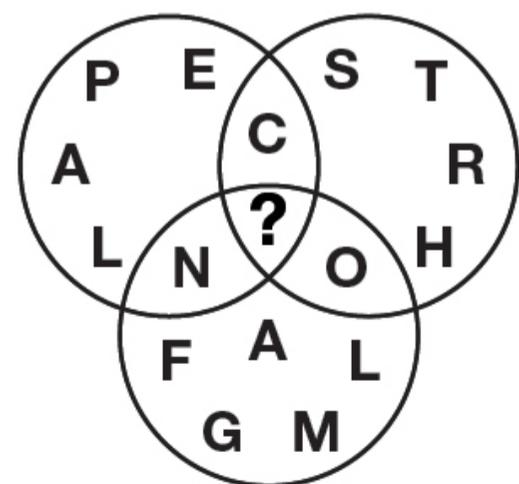


**BATTLESHIPS**

**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.

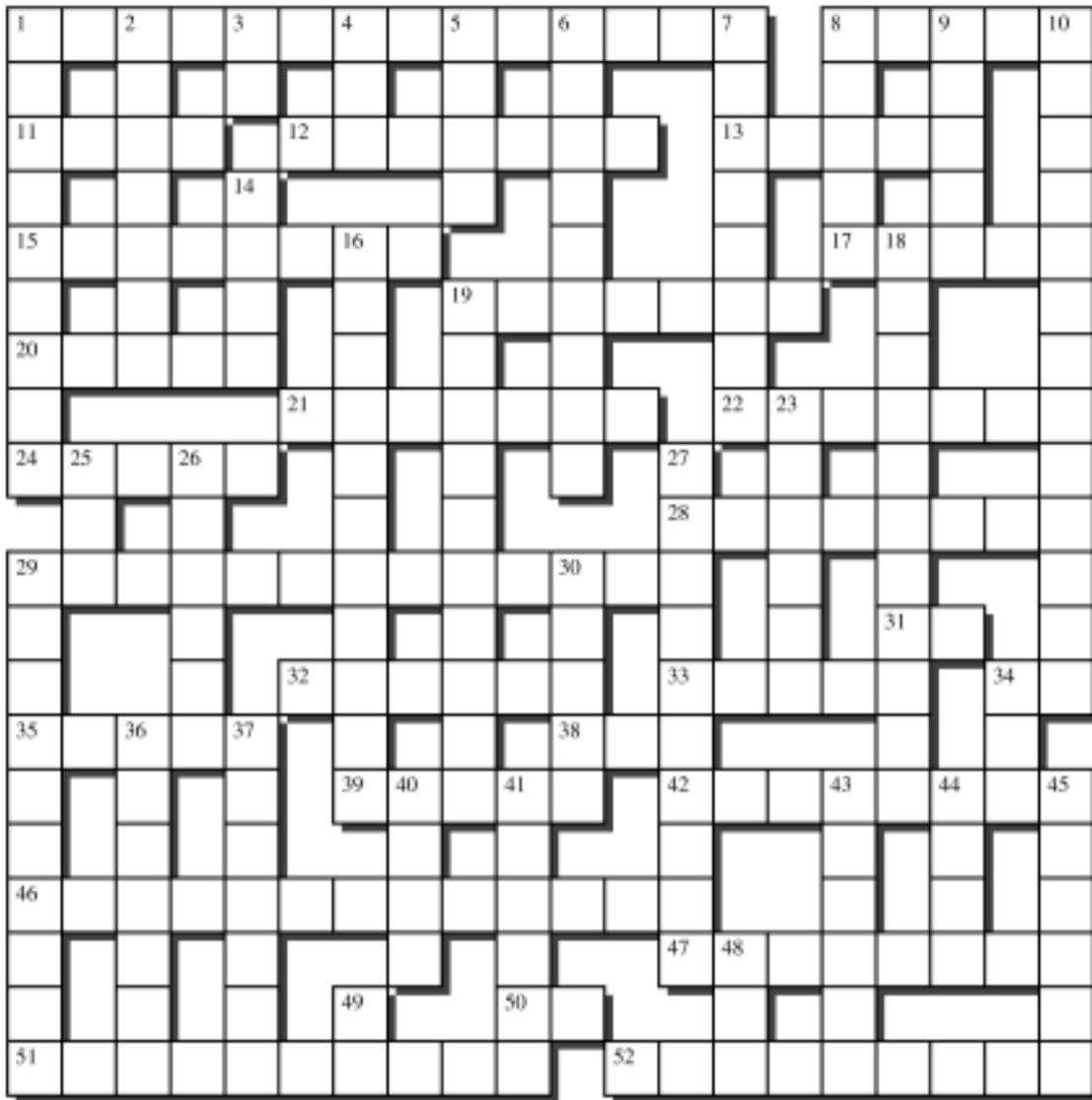


**CIRCLEGRAM**



**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) Revolutionary (f) (14)
- 8) Support (5)
- 11) Yesterday (4)
- 12) Challenge (7)
- 13) I added (5)
- 15) Slaughterer (8)
- 17) They hate (5)
- 19) Rucksack (7)
- 20) You cough (5)
- 21) Previous (pl) (7)
- 22) Attacked (f) (7)
- 24) Gust (5)
- 28) Awaited (m) (8)
- 29) International (13)
- 31) To go (2)
- 32) Large (6)
- 33) Horse mackerel (5)
- 34) Ace (2)
- 35) To spread (5)
- 38) Aunt (3)
- 39) I cry (5)
- 42) Trade (8)
- 46) Recruitment (13)
- 47) Northwest (8)
- 50) To the (2)
- 51) Trade unions (10)
- 52) Dismissed (m) (9)

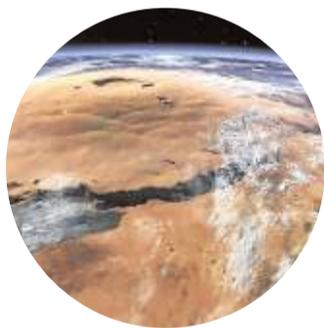
Down

- 1) To reinstate (9)
- 2) Winds (7)
- 3) The (f) (2)
- 4) He falls (3)
- 5) Odes (4)
- 6) Unrest (9)
- 7) Assembly (8)
- 8) Shortcut (5)
- 9) I omitted (5)
- 10) Organisers (13)
- 14) Three (4)
- 16) Railway (11)
- 18) To derail (11)
- 19) Movement (10)
- 23) To go out for tapas (6)
- 25) Even (3)
- 26) Strike (6)
- 27) Relaxation (10)
- 29) Industries (10)
- 30) Grandson (5)
- 34) Like that (3)
- 36) They chop (7)
- 37) I appealed (7)
- 40) Slogan (4)
- 41) Wheels (6)
- 43) He chooses (6)
- 44) Chaos (4)
- 45) Labourer (m) (6)
- 48) You hear (pl) (3)
- 49) She goes (2)

QUIZ

Olympus Mons is the highest mountain on which planet?

- 1. Moon 2. Venus 3. Mars
- 4. Jupiter



Nur Sultan is the capital city of which country?

- 1. Kazakhstan 2. Montenegro
- 3. Albania 4. Georgia

What is a statistician who assesses risks for an insurance company called?

- 1. Biostatistician 2. Actuary
- 3. Econometrician 4. Advocate

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ANSWERS

Quiz answers

**Of interest:** An actuary is a person who analyses the financial consequences of risk using mathematics, statistics, and theory to study uncertain future events, especially those of concern to insurance and pension programmes.

**Answer:** Actuary  
Nazarbayev.  
president Nursultan

renamed after former Kazakh Astana, Nur Sultan was **Of interest:** Until 2019 called

**Answer:** Kazakhstan height of Mount Everest.

two-and-a-half times the enormous shield volcano over Olympus Mons on Mars is an **Of interest:** The highest mountain in the solar system,

**Answer:** Mars  
ostrich, flamingo, all large birds.

Circlegram

The letter represented by the question mark is I. Pelican, 19MOCHILA 3TOTOS 2IPREYOS 22ATACADA 3HACHA 3ESPRESO 29INTERNAZIONALE 3IRE 3GRANDE 3MUREL 34AS 35UNJAR 38TA 39LLORO 42COMBRO 46RECTUTAMENTO 47NOROESTE 50AL 51SINDICIOS 52DESEFIDDO

Cryptic Crossword

**Solutions:** Across: 1 Moor; 8 Unique case; 9 Stand pat; 10 Delt; 12 Temper; 14 Errors; 15 Way out; 17 Topics; 18 Skip; 19 Eyeglass; 21 Water sport; 22 Here; Down: 2 Off the mark; 3 Run; 4 Kipper; 5 Turtle; 6 Acid drop; 7 Left; 11 Forecaster; 13 Prompter; 16 Tense; 17 Trevor; 18 Saw; 20 Lath.

Wordpuzler solution

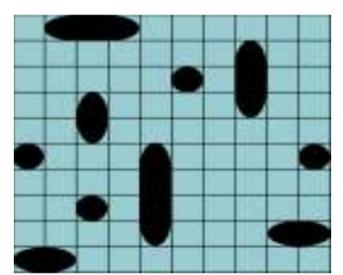
1. Mesh H E M S O D E N O M  
2. Need O S E I O M E N S  
3. Dole D O L M E L O S S E  
4. Eons E D O M E S H E D  
5. Sheen L H O N E S H E L  
6. Hone S E L O S E D S E  
7. Less E N E M S S E L L O  
8. Omen E O N S O H N E D  
9. Mess H M O S O D N S  
10. Seed S E S E H O M E S

Language Crossword

**ACROSS:** 1 REVOLUCIONARIA 2 BARRO 3 LAYER 12 DESARRO 13 ANAK 15 MANTARRE 17 DIAN 19 MOCHILA 20 TOS 21 PREYOS 22 ATACADA 23 HACHA 24 ESPRESO 29 INTERNAZIONALE 31 RE 32 GRANDE 33 MUREL 34 AS 35 UNJAR 38 TA 39 LLORO 42 COMBRO 46 RECTUTAMENTO 47 NOROESTE 50 AL 51 SINDICIOS 52 DESEFIDDO

**DOWN:** 1 LEANTRER 2 VENTOS 3 LA 4 CAE 5 ODAS 6 AGITACION 7 ASANBLEA 8 AYUD 9 OMITI 10 ORGANIZADORES 11 TRES 14 FERROCARRIL 15 DISCARRILAR 16 MOVIMIENTO 17 APARE 18 ALIN 19 HUELA 20 RELACION 21 INDUSTRIAS 22 HUELA 23 APARE 24 ALIN 25 HUELA 26 RELACION 27 APARE 28 ALIN 29 HUELA 30 RELACION 31 APARE 32 HUELA 33 APARE 34 HUELA 35 RELACION 36 APARE 37 HUELA 38 APARE 39 HUELA 40 APARE 41 HUELA 42 APARE 43 HUELA 44 APARE 45 HUELA 46 APARE 47 HUELA 48 APARE 49 HUELA 50 APARE 51 HUELA 52 APARE

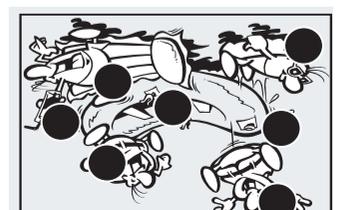
Battleships



Sudoku solution

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

The seven differences



**A**rtist Kitty Harri's sculpture garden has relocated and downsized to La Herradura. Casa ArteMus still houses some of the much-loved work on display in the original garden in Jete, Granada province, and is open to visitors.

Kitty and her partner Nick have already started to run mosaic workshops and are hoping to get some small-scale music sessions going too.

The couple sold the house and garden in Jete last year after deciding to downsize, through a combination of the pandemic leading to no visitors or volunteers to help maintain the place and their "advancing years" - although nobody would ever guess that Kitty is making plans for her 70th birthday in September.

Casa ArteMus is perched high up on the Punta de la Mona, overlooking Marina del Este and Almuñécar and while much smaller than the property and grounds in Jete, there is still plenty of space for a collection of Kitty's sculptures and many that were on display in Jete by international artists they hosted over the years.

While they no longer have the space to offer artists' residencies, they are still keen to be able to display other people's work.

"It was so difficult to choose what to bring," they both lament. Some pieces were simply too big, or were anchored into the ground in Jete. They also had to downsize on household goods and machinery they had used for their art, like Kitty's stone carving tools.

Some of the well-loved pieces that did make it into the final choice are Kitty's seven-metre high wooden totem pole that welcomes visitors as they arrive, the angel that swings round in the wind, a bronze figure of a man who looks like he's looking out to sea ready to warn the couple of pirates or invasion and a diver who's using the



The iconic angel has a new home, looking out to sea. J. R.



A diver about to take the plunge. J. R.

## A change of scenery for Kitty Harri

**Sculpture.** The artist's scaled-down sculpture garden, now in La Herradura, is again open to visitors who will be treated to wonderful views over Marina del Este while enjoying the art

JENNIE RHODES



swimming pool perhaps to practice for the next Olympics. The next Tom Daley, perhaps?

There's also a stunning wood carving of a native American, which was done by a Canadian artist using a piece of wood found by Nick.

There's stone, marble and

bronze carvings of all shapes and sizes, in every nook and cranny of the stunning garden and the views are unbeatable.

Along with the Canadian artist, Nick and Kitty have reflected their own very international backgrounds in their choice of artists, from Hungarian, to

Dutch, Swiss, Danish, British... the list goes on!

Kitty has a studio for her art and the kiln came with them too. The artist, who is originally from Sweden, but has spent much of her life in Spain, admits she is mainly painting now and is hoping to start some ce-

ramic work soon.

Nick has plenty of room for his musical instruments, including the iconic harpsichord which he made and had shipped over from Canada when he came over to start a life with Kitty in 2014.

Kitty says she's also still writing and has recently published *The Fault*: a psychological thriller set in Gibraltar, to add to her collection of other books, many of which have been translated into 14 different languages.

They both say they are "very happy" in the new house and that they have "traded mountains for sea views".

As in Jete, they are keen to continue with the guided visits of the garden and offer mosaic workshops too. Both are by appointment only, with minimum groups for the guided visits of four people.

Nick is also keen to meet local musicians interested in joining him and his wide range of instruments - from the harpsichord to Scottish bagpipes and a lot in between - for informal music sessions.

**i Further information and reservations:**  
[www.casaartemus.com](http://www.casaartemus.com)



▲ Kitty and Nick next to one of their joint projects. Kitty made the bird from chicken wire, while Nick welded the chain J. R.

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