



Andalusian health service goes back to in-person appointments with the doctor

This region is the first in Spain to restore the service since the pandemic began

The Junta de Andalucía regional government announced this week it is bringing back the opportunity to see a doctor in person at its public health centres from 1 October.

Regional president, Juanma Moreno, said that Andalucía was the first region in Spain to reinstate the service. However, he added that the option to have a telephone consultation instead would remain, as some prefer it or are still worried about Covid-19 contagion.

Regional Health Service officials believe it makes sense for repeat prescriptions and results of tests to be dealt with over the phone in the future.

Unions have backed the move but urged that safety measures in health centres should stay in place. **P2**



A passenger snaps P&O's giant Iona, in port as part of a cruise from Southampton

MIGUE FERNÁNDEZ

Cruise ships are back in the frame

Malaga welcomed four vessels on Thursday this week, the most in a day since 2020. **P3**

UK students trying to get into Spain are still caught up in a red tape nightmare

Brexit has changed the rules and those due a year abroad now need hard-to-get visas

A year abroad studying or working is a key part of a university languages course. But this year British students are having to rely on endless patience, creative solutions or risking an illegal stay to continue their degree in Spain. **P8**

Around one in three Chinese-run firms have closed locally during Covid **P15**

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Big step towards normality locally as Ronda area is first to move to new Level 0

More relaxed rules for Health Districts with under 50 Covid-19 cases per 100,000 come in today; the rest of Malaga province, still on Level 1, is not too far behind

SUR

MALAGA. With Covid-19 case rates locally continuing to fall, the Junta de Andalucía regional government announced this week a new Level 0 for when different Health Districts reach below an average of 50 cases per 100,000 in the previous 14 days. The Ronda area is the first part of the province to reach Level 0 from today (Friday, 1 October), when the new rules come into force.

Level 0, when reached, means the end of almost all restrictions on capacity and opening times in shops, bars and restaurants, although experts still have the final say on moving down a level and it is not automatic.

Of the five Health Districts into which Malaga province is divided, two slipped under a case rate of 50 this week. Malaga district (covering Malaga city and nearby Rincón de la Victoria, Almogía, Macharaviaya and Moclinejo) reached 49.4 on Thursday, the day local experts met to decide whether to apply the Level 0 rule. However, in the end it was decided to keep that Health District at Level 1 due to local hospital case numbers and some other measures still being higher.

It was better news for the Seranía de Ronda Health District, (the mountain area and villages



So near yet so far - Plaza de Flores in Malaga. The city has not been moved to Level 0 restrictions yet. **M. FERNÁNDEZ**

around Ronda), where the 34.5 average 14-day case rate put its residents into the new, more relaxed Level 0 from today.

The other three Health Districts of Malaga province were still above 50 this week, and with a little a way to go to get to Level 0. These are: La Vega, (the Antequera area) at 78.1; Costa del Sol, (which includes just the western Costa from Torremolinos to Manilva) at 66.5; Axarquía (including the eastern Costa) at 59; Guadalhorce at 61.4.

Under the new level rules (for when Health Districts get to a 50 case rate,) there are no more lim-

its on closing nightclubs or bars earlier because of Covid-19 nor those seated at tables or bars.

Indoor masks to stay

Areas still in Level One, which is most of Malaga province, maintain restrictions on numbers at tables in bars and restaurants and on closing times.

But Level One areas were given some good news this week, with the decision to allow full capacity again in theatres, museums, stadiums and concerts.

Despite the further easing in Health Districts that move to Level 0, the Junta has reminded the

public that the use of face masks indoors and in crowds will continue to be mandatory and basic pandemic sanitary measures will have to be respected, such as hand washing and social distancing between people.

The average 14-day case rate per 100,000 for all Andalucía on Thursday was at 50.1.

There has been no change in Covid-19 rules inside schools in Andalucía.

More information: For the latest on case rates in each local municipality and an up-to-date map, see www.surinenglish.com

In person doctors' appointments in public health centres start again from today

ALBERTO GÓMEZ / SUR

MALAGA. The president of the Junta regional government, Juanma Moreno, announced this week that Andalucía will start allowing in-person appointments again in public health centres from today (Friday, 1 October). Some telephone consultations will continue however.

"Whoever wants to see their family doctor face to face can do so, and whoever wants a telephone call [instead] can do so," Moreno explained.

Health officials say phone calls could still be useful to get the results of tests or ask for repeat prescriptions, and so they will introduce the option of a phone call from now on.

"It is understandable that many people don't want to travel due to lack of transport, caution or fear of contagion, and we respect them," Moreno added, highlighting that Andalucía is the first region in the country to guarantee a face-to-face appointment again if required.

The Medical union in Malaga has indicated that it is in favour of going back to face-to-face appointments again.

"In fact, this didn't completely disappear during the pandemic. We demand that measures controlling access and separate 'Covid routes' [within health centres] are maintained, to guarantee safety for both patients and staff. For the same reason, we are in favour of keeping phone consultations (20% of activity), the union said.

About 18,000 people in Malaga province refuse outright to be Covid-19 vaccinated

ÁNGEL ESCALERA

MALAGA. Despite scientific evidence showing that vaccines work, some 18,000 people in Malaga province have categorically refused to have a Covid-19 vaccine so far, say officials. The number across Andalucía as a whole is 93,000.

In Malaga province (including the Costa del Sol) there were 1.25 million people with full vaccinations and 1.28m with at least one dose this week. But convincing those who do not want to be jabbed is difficult and health professionals are redoubling their efforts to try and achieve it.

People who are reluctant to be vaccinated are usually called by doctors and, mainly, nurses, who have solid arguments to try to persuade them.

They explain that the vaccine is safe and with minor side effects. In addition, they emphasise that, in most cases, patients admitted to hospitals with the virus were not vaccinated. They say that not only is a jab an 'individual protective shield' against SARS-CoV-2 but it also benefits society as a whole.

The responses given by the people who are anti-Covid vaccines and called by telephone (sometimes up to four or five

times) are varied. Some reply emphatically, but in a polite way, that they do not believe in the vaccine, that they do not want to be jabbed and ask that they are not called again, after they have refused several calls to try to get them to a vaccination point. Others, on the other hand, get angry, shout and demand that they do not want to receive any more calls.

There are also people who say that they are thinking about it, that they are still not sure. Other people, given the reasoning given by the healthcare professional who call them, agree to be vaccinated - but don't show up at the appointment, often saying that



A mother comforts her son during a routine vaccination earlier this year. **N.S.**

something unexpected came up. "They have excuses, one after another," said the sources consulted.

Around 10 per cent of those

called by medical centres or health districts finally agree to be given the injection that protects them from the virus.

The World cruises back to Malaga

International tourism is gathering steam again and four ships sailed in this Thursday, the most since the pandemic started

PILAR MARTÍNEZ / SUR

MALAGA. The signs of international tourism getting up steam again on the Costa are growing, and not least in Malaga's port, where the quaysides have been bustling with thousands of overseas visitors again this week.

On Monday, the very exclusive - and aptly named - The World sailed into port and this was followed on Thursday with four ships simultaneously tied up at the cruise terminals.

The World was in port for three days as part of its cruise designed by the millionaire owners of the residences themselves and before continuing its journey to the Americas. The almost 200 select passengers will stay an average of three or four months on board.

The ship features 165 luxury residences. Passengers have to



The World has luxury apartments that are actually owned by the passengers and there is a waiting list. S. SALAS

be part of the community of owners - an apartment can cost between one and more than six million euros, excluding travel and maintenance costs - and there is a waiting list. It was last in port in 2015.

On Thursday it was the turn

Among the four in port was Iona, owned by P&O and considered the third biggest cruise ship in the world

of the city to welcome passengers from four separate international ships - some 4,500 visitors in total, the most since the Covid-19 pandemic started.

Among the four in port was Iona, owned by P&O and considered the third biggest cruise ship

Easier rules for travelling from Spain to the UK start on 4 October

SUR

MALAGA. The British embassy reminded visitors and residents in Spain this week that the Covid-19 restrictions for travelling to the UK are changing from Monday 4 October at 4am.

Eligible fully vaccinated travellers will need to book, pay for and take a day two test and fill out a passenger locator form ahead of travel but no longer need to take a pre-departure test when travelling to England. Predeparture tests are also being scrapped in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. Full details are on the gov.uk website.

in the world. Launched in 2020, it can carry up to 5,200 passengers, although this capacity is currently restricted.

The vessel was in Malaga as part of a cruise starting in Southampton in the UK that is sailing around the Iberian Peninsula.

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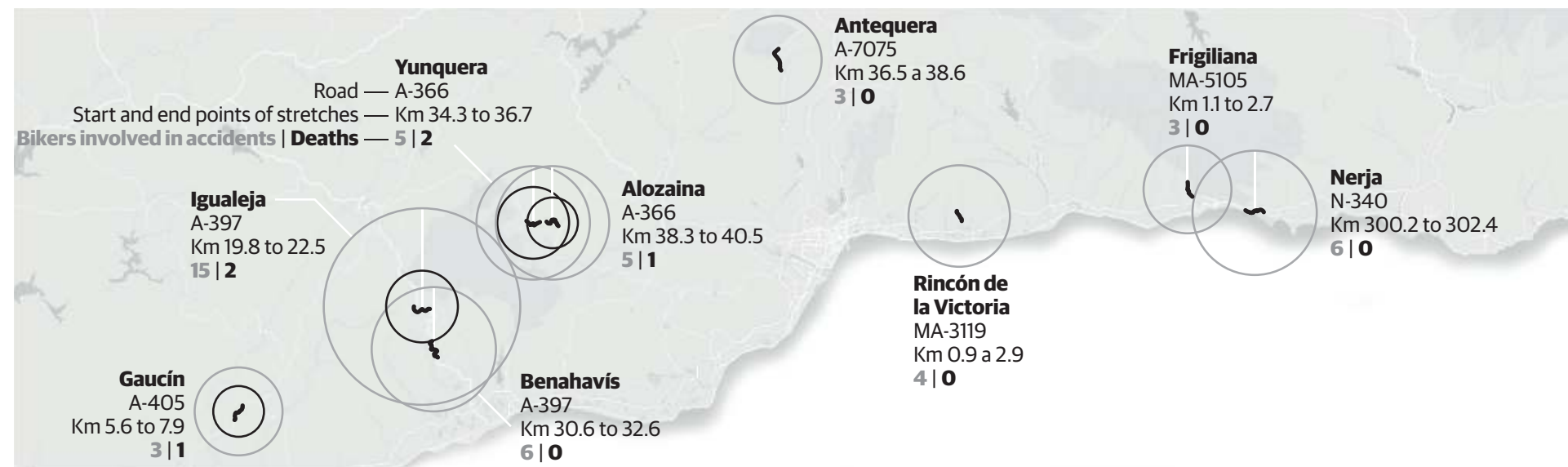


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Location of the nine accident black spots for motorcyclists

○ Bikers involved in accidents ○ Deaths



Source: Directorate-General for Traffic (DGT)

INFOGRAPHIC: ENCARNI HINOJOSA

The nine most dangerous sections of road for bikers in Malaga province

The selected sections are mostly located on mountain roads except for one on the N340 in Nerja

The DGT roads authority has unveiled new signage on roads which reminds motorcyclists of the number of accident victims in the last five years

FRANCISCO JIMÉNEZ



MALAGA. Nine sections of the road network in Malaga province are included among the one hundred in the whole of Spain that are considered the most dangerous for motorcyclists, both due to the high accident rate recorded in the last five years and the number of bends on the route.

The General Directorate of Traffic (DGT) roads authority has identified the stretches and installed special surveillance systems on them, but now it is

also warning motorists with new signage which, in addition to warning of the measures, also shows the number of motorcyclists involved in serious accidents in the last five years.

One of them is on the MA-3119, the road that connects Moclinejo with Benagalbón.

The deputy delegate of central government in Malaga, Javier Salas, and the provincial head of the DGT, Aída Vilaret, travelled there on Wednesday (28 September) to publicise the initiative.

"We have nine high-risk sections of roads for motorcyclists in the province, a number that is only exceeded by Santa Cruz de Tenerife and Las Palmas de Gran Canaria. With this new signage we intend to raise the awareness about the danger of these roads," said Salas.

Mountain roads

The sections selected by the DGT are mostly located on mountain roads, with the exception of the



A sign installed on the MA-3119 near Benagalbón. F. J.

one located between kilometre points 300.1 and 302.4 of the N-340 in Nerja, where there have been six victims in the last five years.

The stretch with the highest accident rate, with 15 motorcyclists involved in accidents, is

located in Igualeja between kilometre points 19.8 and 22.4 of the A-397, a road that is especially dangerous with another section listed as it passes through Benahavís (30.6- 32.6).

Human error

The list also includes two sections of the A-366 in the municipalities of Alozaina and Yunquera, as well as the A-405 as it passes through Gaucín, the MA-5105 in Frigiliana and the A-7045 in Antequera.

According to Vilaret, "human error is the main cause" of accidents, although not the only one.

Awareness and monitoring

"These sections have been selected taking into account criteria such as sinuosity, as well as the accident rate in recent years," said the deputy delegate of the Government, who stressed that "when faced with a road safety problem, the first thing to do is to inform and raise awareness among users and then monitor and control compliance with the rules that affect them."

So far this year there have been seven fatal accidents involving two-wheelers on Malaga province roads. During the first nine months of 2021 there have been 142 injury accidents on the provincial roads.

IN BRIEF

ESTEPONA

Work begins to transform plot into a cultural and social area

JOSÉ MARÍA MARTÍN. Work has already started on clearing the land near Estepona lighthouse ready for a development which will include a balcony overlooking the Mediterranean, social / cultural facilities, shops and restaurants.

The project has been prepared by architect and urban planner

Salvador Moreno Peralta and will include the urbanisation of the surrounding area, integrating this area into the town and creating a direct connection with the sea.

In front of this area will be a large pedestrian zone with parks and squares staggered between the avenue and existing promenade, connecting the marina, the La Rada beach and the lighthouse.

The roof of the complex will form the balcony, which will not only offer views of the sea but can be used for cultural and social events.



The plot where the Balcón al Mediterráneo will be built. J. M. M.

MARBELLA

Marbella offers courses to people in tourist sector

JOSÉ MARÍA MARTÍN. Summer is just about over and the tourism sector has been able to identify areas that lack qualified personnel to perform professional jobs. Waiters, cooks, cleaners and customer service staff, as well as staff with other languages, are some of the specific positions that are lacking. To solve the problem, Marbella town hall is offering a total of two hundred free courses to provide the training needed.

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The Crown turns Puerto Banús into the south of France

Marbella. San Pedro was turned into a production hub for crews working on the Netflix series as scenes were being shot on the Costa del Sol for the fifth season of the show

JOAQUINA DUEÑAS

San Pedro, Marbella, has become the logistics centre for the Netflix blockbuster series *The Crown* this week.

The esplanade known as Cielo de San Pedro has seen the coming and going of 40 trucks, numerous vans, tents, tables, chairs and dozens of crew members.

Despite the numbers of people and amount of movement in the area, little is known about the production due to the non-disclosure agreements signed by crew.

The production had already chosen Malaga for filming, having used city centre sites to recreate the Australian city of Brisbane in the fourth season.

Now, with filming of season five under way, Puerto Banús and its surroundings became the French coast in which Lady Di and Dodi Al-Fayed enjoyed their

last romantic summer before the fateful traffic accident in Paris that cost the couple their lives.

The San Pedro base camp was the epicentre of production, where the team included fifty drivers, sets, actors, extras and a medical team to perform daily antigen tests to guarantee the health of cast and crew.

The action began even earlier than half past five in the morning and vans and trucks started to parade towards the locations chosen for filming.

Tate Aráez the Malaga professional responsible for organising the exterior shots in Spain for the series, has been nominated twice for the Location Managers Guild International Awards (LMGI) - considered the Oscars of the profession.

In the exclusive marina they were reproducing the scenes where Diana of Wales enjoyed ro-



Filming took place in Puerto Banús for season five of *The Crown*. JOSELE



The second day focused on the yacht Titania. JOSELE



Equipment. JOSELE

The actors involved include Elizabeth Debicki, who plays a mature Diana, and Khalid Abdalla as her partner, Dodi Fayed.

Actor Salim Daw is cast as the billionaire and former owner of Harrods, Mohamed Al-Fayed, Dodi's father.

Despite the large scale of the production, it barely disrupted the usual workings of the port where tourists and employees continued to go about their daily lives, apart from a few curious onlookers and some photojournalists trying to reproduce those legendary photographs of Prince Charles' ex-wife.

The first signs that filming was being carried out came in the form of members of the production crew, coming and going through the port, equipped with their credentials and walkie-talkies, and the signs that marked out the catering service for the workers. On Tuesday filming centred around scenes at sea.

Crews from the series could be seen in Jerez on Thursday, where they have set up an operations hub for filming in Andalucía. Preparations were being made around the city's Alcázar fortress ready for the next stage of filming.

romantic moments with her partner, businessman Dodi Al-Fayed.

From that summer, the iconic photographs in which the mother of Princes William and Henry appeared sitting on the edge of a yacht with a certain kind of melancholy, were produced.

To recreate that moment, the producer rented the yacht Titania, which is 73 metres long with capacity for twelve passengers in its seven cabins and 20 crew members.

A boat built in 2006, it is estimated that the cost of rent could have amounted to 600,000 euros.

HBO takes over the Guadalhorce Valley to shoot *His Dark Materials*

COÍN

The international series has chosen rural areas in the region to film several scenes for its new season

ANDREA JIMÉNEZ

The sound of clapperboards could be heard in the Guadalhorce Valley this week.

The municipality of Coín is one of the locations chosen by the production team of *His Dark Materials*, an international HBO series that is in the middle of

filming its new season.

Around 200 people are working on the set, including technicians and security personnel, as well as the entire production company Babieka Films, who are in charge of filming.

The set locations are centred around beauty spots, such as Barranco Blanco and Llano de Matagallar, rural areas where filming has gone virtually unnoticed, although many locals saw the set being constructed.

His Dark Materials premiered in 2019 as a fantasy series based on Philip Pullman's award-winning trilogy of the same name,

which is considered a modern masterpiece of imaginative fiction and has sold more than 18 million copies worldwide.

So far, the series has had two successful seasons, and the shooting taking place in Malaga is for its third and final season, made up of eight episodes.

The season does not yet have a premiere date.

After passing through the Sierra de Grazalema and Ronda, the film crew moved on to Coín.

The next stop was due to be Ardales, where scenes from the series will also be shot, specifically in the El Chorro area, this



Filming of *His Dark Materials* in Coín. SUR

newspaper learned this week.

After hosting this international production, Coín is preparing to continue boosting its Ciudad de Cine facility with the arrival of new productions, such as the Canal Sur series *Unknown*, which plans to start be-

fore the end of 2021.

"We want to place our town on the map of the film industry," said the mayor of Coín, Francisco Santos, who visited the *His Dark Materials* team on the set to welcome them to the area.

Crime increased by 17.5% in Malaga in the first six months of this year

There were more robberies, offences against sexual freedom, criminal injuries and vehicle thefts between January and June

ANDREA JIMÉNEZ

MALAGA. The crime rate in Malaga increased in the first half of 2021 compared with the same period in 2020, a year in which the figures were at a record low because of the pandemic and lockdown. The easing of restrictions has led to an increase of 17.5 per cent in crimes in the province.

According to statistics from the Ministry of the Interior, there were more crimes against sexual freedom, injuries, robberies, thefts and

vehicle thefts, while the numbers of sexual assaults and attempted murders decreased during those six months.

The biggest increase was in homicides and murders which were actually carried out, as these rose from three to eight between January and June this year (116 per cent more than in 2020). However, attempted murders dropped by 31.8 per cent from 22 to 15, and kidnappings also dropped from four to three.

There was quite a high increase in robberies, which went up from 6,248 to 7,390 (18 per cent more), while vehicle thefts rose by 32 per cent and drug trafficking by 18.8 per cent.

With regard to criminal injuries, these rose by 23.7 per cent, with a total of 376 offences compared

with the 304 that took place between January and June last year.

There was another significant increase, which was offences in contravention of sexual freedom, which went up by 32.5 per cent, from 203 to 269. Other offences such as indecency and crimes against liberty also went up by 40.2 per cent, from 174 to 244.

The numbers of sexual assaults decreased in Malaga in the first half of this year, with a total of 25 compared with the 29 in the same period of 2020. This is a reduction of 13.8 per cent.

Meanwhile, robberies with violence and intimidation increased by 14.5 per cent to 560, although robberies with the use of force dropped by five per cent in establishments and by six per cent in private homes.



The scene of the accident. POLICÍA LOCAL DE CASBERMEJA

The man who died in motorway toll booth smash was a Guardia Civil officer

Á. FRÍAS / JUAN CANO. The 33-year-old man who died on Tuesday (28 September) after his car slammed into one of the Las Pedrizas toll booths on the AP-46 motorway in Malaga, was a serv-

ing Guardia Civil officer. He was travelling from Melilla, where he was born, to his base in Guadalajara – a journey he did regularly in his red Mercedes.

It happened at 5.15pm when the vehicle entered the toll payment area at kilometre 6 of the AP-46, heading towards Antequera, at a high speed. Despite the fact the toll booths are protected by large concrete blocks, an employee working inside one of them was injured.

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Malaga hospital opens an internal investigation into the death of a four-month-old girl

ÁNGEL ESCALERA

MALAGA. The Andalusian Government's delegate in Malaga, Patricia Navarro, has offered her condolences to the family of the four-and-a-half-month-old girl who died in the intensive care

unit at Malaga's Materno Infantil last week.

Before, finally, being admitted to the ICU, the child had been treated and discharged on several occasions from the Quirón-Salud Málaga and Materno Infantil hospitals.

"I want to do it as a government delegate but, above all, as a mother. I cannot imagine the pain of losing a four-month-old child," said Navarro.

The Andalusian Government's delegate said that the matter is being investigated and in the hands of the courts. "When an incident like this happens, the hospital opens an internal investigation that runs in parallel with the complaint filed by the family."

Court investigates death

The death of the baby is being investigated by a court in Malaga after the family filed a complaint which explains that the girl was taken several times, over a five-day period, to the emergency departments of the Quirónsalud Málaga and Materno Infantil hospitals where she was treated and discharged. Her paediatrician also saw her.

The girl had presented with a high fever, rash, respiratory infection and vomiting. She died overnight (September 23 to 24) in the Materno Infantil's intensive care unit where he had been admitted in the morning.



A meeting demanding justice for Valentina. SALVADOR SALAS

IN BRIEF

MARBELLA

Intercepted 250 bottles of laughing gas

JUAN CANO. Local Police officers in Marbella have intercepted a van loaded with 250 bottles of nitrous oxide (each weighing two kilos) that was on its way to an alleged illegal party at a villa on the town's Golden Mile.

The incident happened a few days ago when the local police's 092 control room received a call that an illegal party was being held in the town. When officers went to the scene, they verified it was true, and started by iden-



Some of the gas bottles seized. SUR

tifying the people who opened the door. Two of them were foreigners and the third, Spanish, aged between 22 and 31 years old.

FUENGIROLA

A woman dies and a man falls ill after taking drugs

J. CANO / Á. FRÍAS. National Police officers are investigating the death of a 20-year-old woman who died after allegedly taking drugs while on holiday in Fuen-

girola. The young Finnish woman had only arrived on the Costa del Sol for a holiday a few days earlier, accompanied by her 24-year-old boyfriend.

The unconscious pair were found by the girl's mother, who owns a property in the Los Pacos area, which is where they were staying.

British students caught in post-Brexit visa lottery

SUR in English explores the trials and tribulations for UK youngsters trying to obtain the coveted passport sticker to study legally in Spain

NEVE MATTHEWS

MALAGA. The prospect of a year abroad is an exciting and necessary part of a university degree for many students.

However, this year for British students the complications triggered by Brexit have meant that what was previously a straightforward process to study in the EU has been tainted for the first time by the stress of attempting to secure a study visa.

With many having to delay or cancel their plans entirely due to bureaucratic delays, this process is proving to be both financially and emotionally taxing.

Katie Watson (not her real name) who is studying Spanish at a university in the south of England and wishes to remain anonymous, unsuccessfully explored multiple avenues in her attempt to obtain an internship visa to work in Spain.

Beginning the application process in April, she was one of the first students at her university to apply for the documentation.

Lack of information

She told SUR in English, "The information on the [Spanish] consulate website, particularly surrounding the requirements for a visa application, was significantly lacking," which was coupled with a distinct lack of support from her uni-

versity in the UK.

It was an expensive and lengthy process which Katie estimates cost her 500 pounds (about 580 euros).

One element was particularly troublesome to obtain: proof that she did not have a criminal record in the UK, a request unheard of pre-Brexit.

The document demanded a sworn translation and legalisation, which took weeks to come back.

Then began the obstacle of obtaining a 'resolución de autorización para prácticas', which the Spanish authorities stated was needed for work experience but didn't say what it was or where to get it, she said.

Eventually the application was submitted but was rejected due to "invalid" health insurance (though Katie maintains that it was perfectly valid).

Given 10 days to appeal, her updated documents were sent on the ninth day, however she received an email saying they were submitted too late.

She then asked to appeal that and was told that they would be looking at appeals from January next year.

Drained, and faced with the possibility of not being able to make it abroad at all, Katie was advised by the lawyer from her place of work to do an unpaid internship for less than 90 days, removing the necessity for an internship visa. She has since returned to the UK.

She said, "This has become the reality for British students who want to work in Spain." For those who wish to study, the process is marginally more straightforward, but just as time consuming.

A University of Glasgow student who is still in the UK waiting a study visa said, "My biggest issue is how long everything is taking to come back."

Expensive

Also wishing to remain anonymous for fear of affecting her application, she has so far spent 300 pounds attempting to acquire her study visa, facing significant delays.

The British legalisation office took a month to return her forms, which, to her dismay, just contained a simple stamp. She is now in limbo waiting for Spain to issue the visa.

SUR in English spoke to David Walkden, the Senior Exchange Coordinator at Plymouth University, who said that of their seven students trying to get to Spain, "One is a Spanish citizen so had no problem; two went on tourist visas hoping to convert whilst there; two

UK students needing visas to study in Spain complain of a lack of information and slow bureaucracy

have deferred their mobilities; and two have reduced their mobility durations so that they could enter without visas. So a mixed bag and not at all satisfactory."

Mirroring the sentiments of the students SUR in English spoke to, he explained, "The Spanish embassy in the UK was not helpful... Universities UK tried their best to intervene and engender a sense of importance in getting the matter resolved but didn't appear to be taken seriously by either the UK or the Spanish government authorities."

Despite this, he believes that this is a consequence of Britain's own

actions: "The Spanish embassy was not prepared to revise its visa procedures to accommodate the increased visa demand from UK citizens. And why should it? It was the UK's decision to leave the EU after all and these are the additional burdens and consequences that occur as a result."

Sixty-eight students were due to come to Malaga University this term from the UK, and while the university recognised that some were experiencing delays with their visas, they echoed the advice from the Spanish authorities to obtain the appropriate paperwork and not travel as a tourist to study.

With their degrees in the hands of bureaucratic processes, it remains to be seen whether these students, who are eligible to receive the Erasmus grant for a final year before the transition to the replacement Turing Scheme, will be able to experience their 'years abroad'.

The popularity of Erasmus is back again post-pandemic

FRANCISCO GUTIÉRREZ

MALAGA. After months of confinement and remote classes, the Erasmus programme, which allows young people to carry out part of their studies in other European countries, is more popular now than ever before.

"We have recovered from the crisis caused by Covid, and we even surpassed the figures prior to the pandemic," said the vice-rector for Mobility and International Cooperation at Malaga University (UMA), Susana Cabrera.

She clarified that collaboration with British universities will continue until May 2023, so that students from Malaga who choose to study there will still receive the help provided by the Erasmus programme post-Brexit.

After that date, this agreement

with the European Union will be definitively closed.

"But the United Kingdom and the EU countries are interested in maintaining this type of collaboration," so that UMA students can carry out their studies at universities in the United Kingdom, said the vice-rector.

Regarding financing, Susana Cabrera assures that alternatives to aid from the EU are being sought, which may be through the Junta de Andalucía or UMA itself.

However, the interest of Malaga students in the UK has waned in recent years.

In the 2018/19 academic year, 197 went. In 19/20, 97 and this year, 66. The United Kingdom requires students to obtain a visa to stay in the country, which costs 348 pounds.



Five of the Malaga University students who are participating in the Erasmus scheme this year. FRANCIS SILVA



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Vélez-Málaga schools raise funds for volcano victims

Participating centres will have a collection point where pupils, teachers and members of the public can hand over their contributions

EUGENIO CABEZAS

VÉLEZ-MÁLAGA. A number of schools in the Vélez-Málaga area have started a fundraising campaign under the slogan 'Let's rise to it' to help communities on the island of La Palma affected by the volcano.

Presenting the initiative to aid those affected by the eruption on Wednesday were: deputy mayor for the Torre del Mar area, Jesús Atencia; the deputy director of María Zambrano secondary school in Torre del Mar, Antonio Garrido; the coordinator of Escuela Espacio de Paz (Nuestra Sra. De Los Remedios primary school) in Vélez, Mar Granado; the director of Joaquín Lobato secondary school, in Torre del Mar, Miguel Ángel Vida. Other schools in Almayate and Caleta de Vélez are also participating in the initiative.

The charity project focuses on raising funds for families whose homes and surroundings have been destroyed by the lava.

The schools themselves will act as collection points for donations.

In a statement, Atencia thanked the local educational community for "their enormous gesture in devising this campaign" and encouraged people to do their bit if possible.

"I would like to encourage all local residents to participate and help with whatever they can. I am convinced that we will demonstrate, once again, that Vélez-Málaga is a charitable municipality," he said.

Collection points

Garrido and Granados explained the details of the initiative saying that, "in each centre there will be a collection point so that students, their families, teachers and any residents who wish to do so can deposit their contribution."

After the 22 October deadline, the schools will send the funds raised to a "trusted organisations" on the La Palma "to help all these people".

If everyone contributes a little, we can achieve a significant sum," Garrido said, adding that any other educational centres in the area that want to take part in the fundraiser "will be welcome."



Protesters on Wednesday. E. C.

Residents take to the streets over 'terrible' state of children's play areas in Nerja

NERJA

E. C. With banners with messages such as 'Nerja needs parks', 'We don't vote but we play' or 'If we don't have a park, where do we have fun?', around fifty residents, including parents and children, protested on Wednesday afternoon in Nerja against the "terrible state" of several of the town's playgrounds.

At the gates of the Verano Azul playground, which has been closed since last April due to the poor state of its equipment, parents asked councillors to repair the facilities once and for all "because it is not right for our children to have play in a place like this, abandoned and unsafe," said África Fernández, one of the mothers.

Parents Pilar Jiménez and Mari Ángeles Sánchez said that there have been "several accidents" involving children in recent years. "It was closed after a girl got her leg caught on a piece of wood in April. They promised us that it would be fixed in September. The month is about to end and they have done nothing at all," complained Sánchez.

The councillor for Operational Services, Gema García, replied that at the end of April the town hall announced that all the children's playgrounds in the town would be repaired by a specialised company.

However, the council took the decision to close the Verano Azul playground for safety reasons because it was "so deteriorated". "We are working to go out to tender for a new playground, which will also have adapted games," García announced.

The mayor was not able to say when the work would be completed by.

Tourist train to offer free tours including admission to Cueva del Tesoro throughout October

RINCÓN DE LA VICTORIA

SUR. Rincón de la Victoria is to introduce a new tourist road train which will operate throughout October.

The announcement was made on Tuesday by the mayor Francisco Salado. "It is a pilot experience that will help to break the seasonal nature of the town and its facilities. We believe it is a good way to boost the sector and provide opportunities at different times of the year," he said.

The aim of the initiative is to promote and position the Axar-

quía and enhance Rincón de la Victoria's culture and heritage.

Free of charge

Rincón's councillor for Tourism, Antonio José Martín, said, "It is an activity that the whole family can enjoy and which will be free of charge throughout October. Our aim is that it can last over time. We will assess whether or not it will be maintained."

The train will run from Tuesday to Friday from 6 October until Thursday 28.

It will depart from the Casa Fuerte de Bezmiliana at 11am and the route will take two hours, taking in the town centre, Cueva del Tesoro (Treasure Cave) and the El Cantal cliffs. The route also includes free entrance to the prehistoric cave.

Bookings can be made by calling 951 463 281 or 654 110 329. There will be a limit of 25 people per journey.



The ox walked for 300 metres along a road in Torre del Mar. SUR

Commotion in Torre del Mar as ox escapes from enclosure

TORRE DEL MAR

E. C/ J. R. An ox that escaped from its enclosure near the entrance to Torre del Mar on Monday evening was safely and quickly rounded up by its owner.

A few minutes before 7pm, for reasons that are unknown and are being investigated, the animal managed to escape from the enclosure on the main road heading into the town, where it lives with two other oxen, and travelled some 300 metres through the town.

Photographs and videos of the incident soon flooded social media.

The animal's owner was on the scene in just three minutes, and safely captured the beast without reports of any personal injuries or damage.

Laura Delgado, an employee of a Mi Colchón mattress shop, which is opposite the land, explained to SUR that the ox passed by the shop door "very quickly".

Head of the Local Police in Vélez-Málaga, José Andrés Montoya, said that by the time officers arrived at the scene the owner had already taken charge of the ox. A statement was taken from the farmer.

The enclosure where the livestock is kept has a two-metre high perimeter fence, so it is being investigated if it escaped due to a human error or a hole in the fence.

The ox is of a breed that is still used in agricultural work and to pull floats in 'romerías' (pilgrimages).

Torremolinos dedicates a park in honour of Finnish residents

Finns have been coming to the Costa del Sol as tourists for 70 years; now around 500 live in Torremolinos

ALEKK M. SAANDERS

TORREMOLINOS. The town hall of Torremolinos is planning to dedicate a park to the Finnish community, over sixty years after the first international chartered flight brought Finns to the Costa del Sol.

The mayor of Torremolinos, José Ortiz, and the councillor for Planning, Maribel Tocón, attended a meeting in Madrid with the Finnish ambassador to Spain, Sari Rautio, to strengthen the relationship that Torremolinos has historically maintained with this Nordic country.

The mayor announced that the town hall is working on dedicating a park in the town to the Finnish community. At present, the Finns make up around five hundred residents, a number that is increased by Finnish tourists every year.

Tourism from this country remains one of the most important markets in Torremolinos. Historically the town was one of the first holiday destinations for Finnish tourists seeking the sun and this year commemorates 70 years since the first Finnish visitors arrived at Malaga airport.

In 1951, the Finnish air company KarAir made its first international flight. It brought Finnish tourists to Stockholm airport, and from there they headed to Malaga with a Swedish airline company.



The meeting with the Finnish ambassador in Madrid. **SUR**

Eight years later, KarAir offered the first charter flight from Helsinki to Malaga, with stopovers in Gothenburg, Luxembourg and Barcelona which soon became known as 'the sunshine route'.

At first Torremolinos was just a holiday destination but the Finns gradually began to see it as a good place to enjoy their retirement and it became one of the first enclaves where the Finnish community settled. The first Finnish Association - Asociación Finlandesa Costa del Sol - was founded in 1977.

In Madrid, Mayor Ortiz said: "We are very happy to continue to strengthen ties with Finland and move forward together on exciting projects in Torremolinos." He explained that the town hoped to host events related to Finnish culture and will have a specialised library. "We want it to not only be the main meeting point for the Finnish community here, but also for others outside the town."

HERE AND THERE

FUENGIROLA

Work begins on the construction of 1,200 homes

A JIMÉNEZ. Work on the project Las Lomas del Higuerón has started and will add 1,200 new homes to the north of Carvajal. It will include pent-houses and apartments of two, three and four bedrooms as well as semi-detached, three-bedroomed villas.

Las Lomas del Higuerón has been designed to create a community environment with large green areas providing easy access to the open air from the dwellings. The project will also include the construction of a coworking space and gymnasium for the exclusive use of the owners.

BENALMÁDENA

A new council information office to open in Plaza Solymar

SUR. Benalmádena mayor Víctor Navas, has announced the putting out to tender of a project to create a new Oficina de Atención al Ciudadano (OAC) in the vicinity of Plaza Solymar (known locally as 24-hour Square). "We want to bring town hall services within easy reach of residents with the opening of this new OAC," explained the mayor. The new office is just part of the improvement works being carried out in the town which have included moving the tourist office (near the Castillo Bil Bil) and the remodeling of Plaza Olé.



The breakfast was held at the Breathe Marbella Restaurant. **SUR**

The British Chamber of Commerce holds a summer business breakfast

SUR IN ENGLISH

MARBELLA. The British Chamber of Commerce welcomed old

friends and new business contacts at its Welcome Back From the Summer Business Breakfast event held in the Breathe Marbella Restaurant Gastro Bar and Garden.

The event took place on Thursday and was an opportunity for members to meet up after the long summer break.

The breakfast was sponsored by Baycrest Wealth.

Torremolinos opens its fair in honour of San Miguel

This year Torremolinos has been able to recover part of its traditional Feria de San Miguel in honour of its patron saint, holding the special mass, switching on the lights and hosting concerts. The feria, which started on 29 September, continues until Wednesday, a day longer than usual. The Covid restrictions mean there will only be three municipal 'casetas' and the Romería was unable to go ahead again this year. The concerts will be held in the Auditorio Príncipe de Asturias. Tonight, Friday, is the turn of Ziryab, El Canijo de Jerez and La Húngara.



SUR



Policing with no borders in EU's officer swap scheme



▲ The officers from other countries wear their own uniforms. **M. A.**

Spain's National Police force welcomed an officer from the German State Police this summer as part of the Comisariías Europeas safe tourism project

FERNANDO TORRES / ÁLVARO FRÍAS

His waistcoat bears the word 'Polizei'. His uniform is lighter blue in colour than the ones we normally see in Spain, almost sky blue, and his cap is white. Dennis Paffrath is an officer with the German State Police, but at the moment he has left his own country and is working on the Costa del Sol. He is one of over 30 officers from different European countries who have been deployed around Spain as part of a scheme called Comisariías Europeas 2021; this is a police cooperation plan which aims to enhance safe tourism and provide assistance to the public beyond the frontiers of individual European nations.

"Although the work is similar, I feel the Spanish police are a bit closer to the public than we are in Germany; we want to be

close, but I think they have achieved it better here," says Paffrath, in perfect Spanish.

He has two more weeks in Malaga city to go, and most of his work during that time will be with the Foreign Tourist Assistance Service (SATE), which is based in the Plaza de la Marina. However, he will also be taking part in static and mobile security operations at the port and the airport, mainly as part of the National Police's Prevention and Reaction Unit (UPR).

Paffrath is a State officer - in Germany there is a Federal Police force and a State police as well as municipal police forces. At home he normally works in the training section, but also participates in operations against drug trafficking and other types of investigations, both criminal and administra-

tive. His duties here on the Costa del Sol, however, have been very different.

International patrol

"Most of the time I'm at the SATE office, but I also go on patrol in the streets, on the seafront, and on Muelle Uno. We want people to be able to see the uniform, to read the word for 'police' in their own language, and not just Germans, actually, but people from other countries who speak German as well," he explains.

In his first two days in Malaga, he had to take part in two arrests for offences against public health and faking documents, but Paffrath says that is not his principal mission: "I can take action if necessary, (he says, instinctively pointing to his firearm and defence equipment), but that is not the intention; what we want

to do is to make people feel safer and to feel reassured when they see that the German police is here".

One of the National Police officers who runs SATE, Pablo Campos, says the presence of a German officer has been very useful when providing a service to tourists. This summer he has seen for himself how German visitors (and those from elsewhere who speak German) have reacted when they have seen a uniformed police officer here.

"They are always surprised and the impact is very positive.

German tourists at the SATE office are always surprised to see an officer from their own country

◀ The UPR squad with Dennis Pathraff, a German officer who is spending a few months in Malaga.
MARCOS ÁLVAREZ

People feel more supported and understood," he says.

At the SATE office, where Local Police officers also attend to the public, most of the tourists come to report thefts and the loss of documents, so they feel somewhat defenceless when they arrive.

"Seeing a police officer from their own country makes them feel that someone is going to understand them, because he knows their idiosyncrasies and culture and what they are like," says Campos.

For Paffrath, going on patrol on the Costa del Sol has been a real adventure and it is an experience that he would not hesitate to repeat, mainly because it has enabled him to know a different way of policing and a different society first hand. However, when asked what, in his opinion, is the most striking difference between wearing his police uniform in southern Spain and his native Germany, he instantly responds: "The heat!"

The Ministry of the Interior describes this Comisariías Europeas project as an initiative which is becoming more and more popular every year.

"These exchanges aim to prevent street crime by being in contact with the public in general and tourists of all nationalities in particular, and helping them by translating and providing assistance where needed," say sources there.

New countries

Comisariías Europeas was launched in 2008, in collaboration with France, and it was extended to include Portugal in 2012, Italy in 2014 and Germany last year. More police officers take part each year, because the scheme is working very well.

Spanish officers from the National Police force also go to other countries as part of this project. This year they have been assigned to Paris and elsewhere in France and Lisbon, Nazaré, Oporto and Villa Real de San Antonio in Portugal, among other places.

"They always wear their own uniforms when they are on patrol, because then they are easily recognisable by people from both countries," explain sources at the Ministry.

The Spanish Guardia Civil and Portugal's GNR also have separate cooperation agreements for the area around the border between the two countries and these are also focused on tourism, with the aim of assisting visitors there.

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Steam and gas billow from lava oozing into the ocean at La Palma, adding to the island's size by the equivalent of 23 football pitches so far. REUTERS

La Palma volcano continues with no sign of stopping

The volcano at Cumbre Vieja on La Palma was still endlessly spewing out lava this week. On Tuesday night the lava flow had reached the Atlantic Ocean, after several days of will-it-or-won't-it, covering more buildings, farms and banana plantations as it went.

Although fears of the gases from mixing with seawater affecting the local population had not so far materialised, its explosivity and cascades of ash had increased on Thursday, said scientists.

Dramatic images showed lava pouring over the cliffs into the water. By midday on Thursday, a delta of over 42 acres of lava had formed, adding to the size of the island.

'I was going to sell the boat, and now it has suddenly become our home'

Luis, 90, is living with his wife on a boat in La Palma after being evacuated because of the volcano. Jacqueline, on a yacht nearby, doesn't know if her home is still standing

JUAN CANO
SUR SPECIAL ENVOY

MALAGA. Don Luis the Doctor - as he is known in Todoque on La Palma in the Canaries - is 90 years old and still dares to tackle 300-kilo tunas. He has an old six-

metre motorboat called Hamurabi; it has a cabin and a couple of bunks which Luis Rodríguez has hardly ever used, until now. In fact, he had been planning to sell her. "Not now, though. When we came here after the eruption, Luis said we should restore her instead," says his Dutch wife, Margarethe. The boat has now become their temporary home.

Luis was on the phone, speaking to a relative who lives in South America, when the Cumbre Vieja erupted. He rushed home, and he and Margarethe barely had time to pack their bags when the Guardia Civil came to evacuate them because their house was threatened by the lava. So far, it is still standing.

First they and their neighbours were taken to Los Llanos de Aridane football ground, and then told they were going to be put up in the old military barracks in Santa Cruz de La Palma. They have no children or other relatives on the island, unlike the other evacuees. "We didn't want to leave here, but we didn't have anywhere to go, either. There were some apartments available but they cost 100 euros a night. Who could afford that?" says Margaretha. That's when they decided to go to their boat.

On board, they sleep on two mattresses which are three fingers thick - "it's a bit cramped here" - and they have bought a small air-conditioning unit. They have a few basic supplies. They were only able to bring one of their three cats with them, but they know the other two

jokes. "I get up around six. When Luis gets up we go for breakfast in Tazacorte, and do a bit of shopping," she says. Fresh water has become a precious commodity because they use so much of it. For the rest of the day, they get by on sandwiches.

When they get back to the port, they freshen up as best they can. "That's the worst part of it," she confides. "My hair is full of sand and ash all day, it feels as if I have nits". What is it like to find yourself sleeping on an old boat, with your home threatened by lava, at this age?

"Well, you don't think about that. If you did, it would affect you psychologically and you would get depressed. You have to deal with things as they come, and cope as best you can," says Luis.

Three pontoons along, Jacqueline Rehm approaches, with a bag of shopping. She and her partner arrived on the island in 2019. They rented a house and spent part of their savings on furnishing it. With the rest, they bought the Stella Maris, a 7.6 metre sailing yacht which they repaired.

They also moved onto their boat because of the volcano, but on Tuesday night, when the lava reached the sea, the Guardia Civil evacuated the port. "Finally, we were allowed back onto the boat because we literally had nowhere else to go," says Jacqueline. "We don't know what has happened to our house, whether it is still standing or not. Thank goodness we have the boat, because on the Sunday morning, when the volcano exploded, we had been talking about selling her," she says.

She doesn't rule out going back to Germany, although moving to La Palma was always her dream. "We love it here as normally there is no stress, but we know that after the volcano, nothing is going to be the same," she says.



Luis and Margarethe. JUAN CANO



Jacqueline Rehm. J.C.

are fine because the Guardia Civil accompanied them to see them the other day.

Their days begin very early now, especially for Margaretha, who finds it hard to sleep with the sound of the explosions from the volcano. From the deck, the column of smoke can be seen. "Just as well that we're both a bit deaf," she

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Covid-19 claims one in three local Chinese-run firms

Restaurants, which have faced numerous coronavirus control restrictions, have been particularly badly hit

JUAN SOTO

MALAGA. The coronavirus crisis has taken its toll on everyone. And the decrease in sales and the increase in costs, has also hit many of the Chinese-run businesses in Malaga province. Since the pandemic began it is estimated that about 30 per cent of them have been forced to lower their shutters.

The president of the Association of Chinese Entrepreneurs of Andalucía, Leticia Chen, revealed that the crisis has especially affected businesses located in Malaga city's neighbourhoods, since families in those parts have lost more spending power compared to the city centre itself or the richer residential areas to the east of the city.

Restaurant businesses, which have had to face numerous coronavirus restrictions, especially in terms of opening hours and capacity, have been especially hard hit. Chen acknowledges that they had a particularly bad time until the first quarter of this year, although in recent months the situation has begun to improve somewhat.

Good business nose

"The Chinese have a very good business nose and know how to find business opportunities, so many of the stores that have closed are reopening with another type of activity," she says.

Although there is no official data, some 7,000 Chinese families are estimated to live off businesses they own in the province.

About 260 wholesale stores are concentrated on the industrial estates alone. This group is also having a hard time due to the increase in the price of exports.

Leticia Chen explains that the



Wok La Paz in Malaga city is one of the businesses that has closed. FRANCIS SILVA

price of containers has skyrocketed and that now you have to pay \$9,000 for a 20-foot container that cost \$1,200 before the pandemic.

Shopping habits

"The problem is that all the containers are now in the destination countries because everyone has ordered products from China and now it is very difficult to find

one at the point of origin," she claims. The change in shopping habits has also been a hard blow for Chinese business people working in Malaga. The pandemic has seen a boom in the number of sales on the internet and, therefore, hit all traditional commerce.

Regarding the current situation that the Chinese community is experiencing, the busi-

nesswoman predicts that sales will recover gradually over the next few months. She expects that many businesses will not be in profits again until at least next summer, since costs - including electricity and taxes - have also increased a lot.

"The costs are very high and the margins very small, so many businesses have been forced to close," she acknowledges.

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Eastern Airways suspends its winter flights from Birmingham and Southampton

The decision was made for financial reasons after talks with the government and the airline plans to resume these routes from March 2022

DEBBIE BARTLETT

GIBRALTAR. The airline Eastern Airways has announced that it will not be continuing its Gibraltar flights this winter after all, fol-

lowing discussions with the Gibraltar government. In a statement, the government said the talks were held at the airline's request and related to ensuring the long-term sustainability of their air services from Gibraltar.

Eastern Airways began running their flights between Gibraltar, Birmingham and Southampton this summer, and although the intention had been to continue them year-round, it was a difficult time to start the two new

routes given the ongoing impacts of travel, including the Covid pandemic in particular. Therefore, in line with many operators of services throughout Europe, the winter schedule has been suspended and the flights are scheduled to start again in March 2022 for the summer season.

The general manager of Eastern Airways, Roger Hage, said it had been a difficult decision to



Inaugural flight

take. "All airlines are adjusting their flying programs depending on the demand into winter. Covid restrictions have made this even more unpredictable. We also have to ensure the sustainability implications and act responsibly to ensure the routes to Gibraltar work long-term. Adopting a seasonal approach this year achieves this and ensures long-term considerations apply. We

will continue to work proactively with the Gibraltar Government on the summer schedule for 2022," he said.

Gibraltar's Tourism Minister, Vijay Daryanani, said "It is disappointing for us to have less routes for the winter season but we need to look at the wider picture. Eastern Airways want to come back next summer. They need to protect their finances like any other business and I back their judgement. Having said this, our capacity for the winter months is excellent as British Airways has agreed to increase flights. This means we actually have more seats to the UK even after this suspension. I will continue working with Eastern Airways and look forward to welcoming them back in the summer".

"It's important that people realise dyslexia is not an illness; it doesn't need a cure"

Friday 8 October is World Dyslexia Day and the Gibraltar Dyslexia Support Group hopes everyone will wear red to help raise awareness

DEBBIE BARTLETT

GIBRALTAR. October 4th to 10th is Dyslexia Awareness Week, and Stuart Byrne, the chairperson of the Gibraltar Dyslexia Support Group, is very clear that more needs to be known about dyslexia in general, and more support and understanding given to dyslexic individuals, whether children or adults.

"It's very important to realise that dyslexia is not a disease," he says, "so it doesn't need a cure. The 'treatment' consists of knowing what the issue is, and how to deal with it."

"Once dyslexia has been diagnosed, it can be a huge weight off your shoulders. It's very help-

ful. You know that you can and will succeed, with the correct support".

The wrong perception

Many people have a very vague idea of what dyslexia is, and just associate it with difficulty in spelling. Stuart explains that everybody is unique, but dyslexic people are usually very intelligent and creative because their minds work in a different way and they process information differently.

"You might look at the way I do something and think it's strange, or weird," he says, "but your way of doing it makes no sense to me".

Dyslexia is sometimes described as a learning disability, but Stuart says it is a learning difference and that all teachers should receive specific training with regard to educating dyslexic children.

"I don't blame teachers; it's not their fault, they don't have



Stuart Byrne, of the Gibraltar Dyslexia Support Group. SUR

the tools," he explains. "But education can make or break a person's life."

"A teacher has children's lives in their hands. Dyslexic children often lose out because the system is disabling. Repetition doesn't necessarily work and, for example, it can be truly hu-

miliating for a dyslexic child to be made to read out loud in class."

"They normally love learning, but they need special techniques and I really hope more will be done so that schools can put the correct measures in place".

It is sometimes described as a learning disability but it is a learning difference

Dyslexic children need special techniques... schools need to put the correct measures in place

World Dyslexia Day

Next week is going to be a busy time for the Dyslexia Support Group, with plenty of activities planned to help raise awareness around Gibraltar.

The activities include visits to schools, a coffee morning, parents' evening, teachers' evening, a get-together for anyone with dyslexia and, on Friday 8th October, which is World Dyslexia Day, the group hopes that everyone will show their support by wearing red and will post photographs on their social media sites.

You can contact the Gibraltar Dyslexia Support Group by telephone on +350 20078509, on a mobile +350 54007924 or you can email info@dyslexia.gi

IN BRIEF

CULTURE

Pop-up bookshop during Literature Week

D.B. The Gibraltar Literary Festival will not be taking place again this year because of the coronavirus pandemic, but book lovers need not fear: there will be online events to look forward to during Literature Week, from 8 to 13 No-

vember, and a pop-up bookshop will be in place at the John Mackintosh Hotel to enable people to purchase books from local and international authors. GCS is extending an invitation to local authors who would like to make use of this bookshop, which will provide an avenue for sales.

Those interested in selling their books should phone 20067243 or email accounts@culture.gov.gi

BREXIT

Two committee meetings held this week

D.B. Two of the committees set up as part of Brexit have met this week, attended by officials from Gibraltar, the UK and Spain. The Police and Customs Cooperation and Environment committee met in San Roque on Wednesday, and the Citizens' Right committee in Gibraltar on Thursday. These are not related to the future negotiations with the European Union.

COVID-19

Simplified self-isolation rules now in force

D.B. Under revised rules which came into force on 30 September, people who are close contacts of someone who tests positive for Covid-19 do not have to self-isolate if they are fully vaccinated or have had Covid in the past 90 days and are over 16 years old. Nor do any close contacts of positive cases who are under the age of 18 and in full-time education.

HISTORY

Late 19th century lime kiln now fully restored

D.B. The old lime kiln in Willis's Road, which was constructed in the late 19th Century using heat resistant bricks manufactured in England, has now been fully restored by the Gibraltar government and the Gibraltar National Museum. It is the most recent of a number of kilns which existed in Gibraltar, dating back to the Moorish period.

THE EURO ZONE
MARK NAYLER

Far from home



Former Catalan president Carles Puigdemont's arrest and prompt release in Sardinia last week highlights how anomalous Spain's handling of Catalan separatists has been, and the complications faced in securing his extradition. Italy now looks set to join Belgium and Germany as EU countries that see no reason to extradite the exiled politician to his home country - and every time their extradition requests are denied, Spanish prosecutors' case against Puigdemont is weakened.

There are two fundamental uncertainties in Puigdemont's situation. One is whether the latest European Arrest Warrant (EAW) against him, issued by Spain's Supreme Court in 2019 but cancelled by a Belgian judge in January 2020, is still valid. The other is whether he has legal immunity as an MEP, which he technically attained in Spain's European elections in May 2019, but lost as the result of an EU parlia-

ment vote in March this year. In upholding that revocation two months later, the European Court of Justice (ECJ) said that there was little risk of Puigdemont being detained within the EU - which would have been an odd qualification to make if it understood that there was an EAW in place.

March of this year was a crucial month for another reason, because it was also when Spain's Supreme Court, fed up with having its EAWs rejected by Germany and Belgium, requested clarification from the ECJ on how to issue them. Pending the court's announcement, Puigdemont's defence insists that the latest EAW was therefore deactivated at the time of the politician's Sardinia arrest. It was also explicitly cancelled by a Belgian court in January 2020, which ruled that the former Catalan president has had legal immunity from the moment the results of the May 2019 European elections were announced.

In making its January 2020 ruling, the Belgian court referred to the ECJ's December 2019 decision, according to which Oriol Junqueras, former vice president of Catalonia under Puigdemont, has also had legal immunity from May 2019 (although Spanish authorities didn't release him from prison as a result). By extension, this ruling applied to Puigdemont, who was therefore able to formally assume his duties as an MEP.

Puigdemont, then, has every reason to be optimistic about Monday's extradition hearing, not only because of the precedents, but also because Spanish prosecutors are losing ground. As things stand, it looks extremely difficult for Spain's Supreme Court to argue that the former Catalan president doesn't have immunity, or that the EAW for him has been valid since October 2019; but even if it proved both, it would still be up to Italian courts to find Puigdemont guilty of the equivalent of sedition under domestic law, something which Belgium and Germany have refused to do within the framework of their respective criminal codes. The former figurehead of Catalonia's separatists, it seems, isn't coming home anytime soon.

Supermarket price survey highlights big differences nationally

Locally, Malaga city and Marbella were surveyed and have shown up as among the dearest places to fill up your trolley in Andalucía

SUSANA ZAMORA

MALAGA. Depending on which supermarket chain you choose for your weekly shop and the town you do it in in Spain, the difference could be up to 30%. The findings are according to the annual survey carried out by the OCU consumers' organisation. It checks 1,103 stores in 65 places as well as the internet. Malaga city and Marbella were the two places surveyed locally.

Nationally, the Alcampo hypermarket in Murcia is the cheapest. At the other end of the scale is the branch of upmarket Sánchez Romero in the equally well-heeled La Moraleja area of Madrid. In Andalucía, a branch of Covirán in Seville is the dearest, followed by Su-

percor stores in Malaga city and Marbella.

Interestingly, Malaga city and Marbella are also the Andalusian places, after Seville, where it is possible to save the most on the average annual food shop, depending where you go to, (1,099 euros saving in Malaga and 1,130 in Marbella).

The report also highlights the Valencian Region, Murcia and Andalucía as among the cheapest regions, with Balearics, Canaries, Basque Country and Catalonia being the dearest. Jerez de la Frontera is the cheapest place in Andalucía and also all of Spain - of those surveyed.

In Marbella the cheapest place to shop that was surveyed was Al Campo.

The branch of upmarket Sánchez Romero in La Moraleja, Madrid is the dearest supermarket surveyed

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LETTERS
TO THE EDITOR

Obsolescence

Products are bought on the grounds that those replaced are obsolete: favourite team shirts, telephones ... Obsolescence can be put down to various reasons: functional, due to product failure; psychological or design, when it goes out of fashion; technological, it is outdated with respect to current models; programmed, intentionally dictates the time provided for it to stop working ... Frustrated by being at the mercy of the consumer society of 'buy, throw away, buy' in general and of the manufacturers in the programmed mode, it is consolation to us that since last March, the right to repair has been in force in the European Union, which obliges companies that sell electrical appliances to guarantee that can be repaired up to 10 years after they are sold.

A greater and growing drama is job and professional obsolescence: a process by which employees lose the necessary knowledge or skills ... or are replaced by digitisation or robotics.

FERNANDO SERRANO

What is really important

The Coronavirus pandemic, the Sierra Bermeja fire, the eruption of the La Palma volcano ... With what has happened lately, one is afraid of what will happen next. I guess it's normal. But everything that has happened is making many of us wonder about what is really important in life. It is a shame that events like those mentioned have to

happen, but it seems that life sometimes has to put us on the edge so that we learn to value the essential - everything that makes living worthwhile - and put aside all that's negative. That is why I do not understand why there are still so many people who seem determined to be angry with everyone and everything.

Life is too beautiful and too short to waste time with nonsense.

GEORGE PAIGE

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THE MUSIC MAKER
PETER EDGERTONwww.e-peter.com

Don't bank on it

About four months ago a very polite group of friends spent an enjoyably convivial evening in our pub. At closing time, one chap insisted on paying the whole bill since it was his birthday (it's the Spanish custom); he beeped his card on our machine and toddled home a happy man.

The next day I was surprised to see him back at opening time.

'Good evening. I think you may have charged me twice yesterday, or at least that's what it says on my bank account. Look.' He pushed his phone towards me and, sure enough, it appeared he had been charged twice. I said I'd double check it with my bank and, if it wasn't any inconvenience for him to pass by the following day, I'd reimburse him fully.

The next day he returned, but I hadn't done as I'd promised. The polite man was now becoming a tad tetchy.

'You said it would all be fixed today.'

'I know, I'm sorry. Tomorrow at eight o'clock for sure. Thank you. Goodbye.'

The man turned on his heel and left.

When he arrived at eight sharp the next day, I told him that I had to pop out briefly but I'd be back in ten minutes. When I got back half an hour later, he was gone. It seems that he'd waited twenty five minutes, decided he had better things to do and left, by now a very angry man indeed.

He then wrote me a couple of emails, which I eventually replied to, but in a very vague, non-committal way. I was told that he called in at the pub again a couple of times after that but I was on holiday by now, so he was told to come back later.

Then, one day, about three months into the whole sorry saga, I spotted him by chance,

walking past the pub and beckoned for him to come inside. I told him I'd be able to attend to him in a few minutes when I'd finished doing something else. Looking simultaneously astonished and incredulous, he said he was far too busy to wait and would send an email the next day.

This he did, but I ignored it for a week or so, before eventually answering but, again, not specifically responding to the questions he'd asked. He's stopped trying to get in touch altogether now.

Ok, I'd like to say that this story is a purely fictional one, but that would be only half the truth. The fact of the matter is, it's exactly how my bank has behaved for the last four months after overcharging me by a couple of hundred euros at the beginning of June.

At this rate, it should all be resolved by Christmas. 2023.

IDÍGORAS

Help! There's a monster under the bed!

Don't worry, it's just read the latest news and it's hiding



SUR in English

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Freedom of speech

On 20 September, I received congratulations from a colleague in Venezuela for... Freedom of Speech Day. Frankly, having followed some really unusual and elaborate holidays - from Rosé Wine Day to Day of Happiness - I suddenly realised that I was not aware of the existence of this day which ironically directly relates to my profession. In any case it is true that some Spanish-speaking countries celebrate the so-called Día (in some definitions even 'Internacional') de la Libertad de Expresión de Pensamiento (literally: 'International Day of Freedom of

Expression of Thought').

Freedom of speech is something that I used to associate with the Dutch philosopher Erasmus, the Swedish priest Anders Chydenius, and especially with Speakers' Corner in Hyde Park.

However, the South American Freedom of Speech Day commemorates the anniversary of the capture of Rome which took place on 20 September 1870 and evoked the removal of borders and the unification of Italy. Coincidentally, the word 'borders' in this context is still relevant 160 years later, because we apparently have come to remove all borders

in our communication.

Yes, thanks to the developing social media, nowadays anyone can easily reach the public tribune to be heard or read. It appears our freedom of expression is becoming more like a sum of sound bites and quotations involving several 'press'-components - with either a desire to impress or to oppress, and both disrespecting borders of tolerance and courtesy.

Does it mean that we have stopped exchanging opinions in a polite way? It looks as though if something bothers our self-esteem, or we disagree with a given statement, we are ready to bombard an opponent with insinuations and everything that is already far from the gist of the discussion.

Attacking has become the best form of defence, and this is not new. This is an old saying - the best defence (or rather a pre-emptive strike) is a good offence, or, another classic: "If you are not with us, you are against us."

Working for 20 years as a journalist, I have heard lots of unpleasant words directed to my address and have even been placed in pigeonholes just because I said what others didn't want to hear or by chance squashed somebody's ideals and doubted somebody's idols.

All this is not about my complaining, more so about my sorrow. I am sorry that the fear of causing offence prevents certain topics from being rationally discussed.

We apparently endure a freedom of speech where one is encouraged to limit his/her personal point of view because there will be someone who is not free from prejudices and stereotypes, or just who doesn't mind playing a victim.

As for those who are loud and brave in expressing their views: indeed they quite often don't express their own thoughts but just say a trendy idea in unison, or rather are product of manipulation - tactful and very courteous.

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IN THE FRAME

Exploring Spain through wine

After 20 years working in hospitality in the UK, Linda Macintosh now shares her love of Spanish wine in Malaga's English cemetery

LAURENCE CRUMBIE

When she first arrived in Malaga, Linda McIntosh, 37, did not imagine that she would end up hosting wine tastings surrounded by headstones and tombs. However, she has taken the paradox of drinking Spanish wines in the English Cemetery and made it a marketing hook for her business, Winederlust, which she founded with her wife, Phoebe, after leaving the UK six months ago.

"We had always planned on coming to Spain," Linda told SUR in English. "Then Covid hit, and I ended up on furlough [...] It was kind of a stupid time to move country and the best."

Linda had spent the last 20 years working in hospitality, mostly in her hometown of Manchester. After moving into restaurant management, she worked at a few top-end restaurants with excellent wine lists, whetting her palate for oenology.

"Then I ended up working at a really nice Spanish restaurant in Manchester that had an amazing Spanish wine list, and that kind of tipped me over the edge with my interests."

Linda subsequently studied with the WSET (Wine & Spirit Education Trust), before becoming the general manager of a wine shop and bar. However,

Linda and Phoebe had always adored Spain, and it was the combination of Brexit and the pandemic that finally encouraged them to move abroad.

"My wife had lived in Barcelona before we met. Then throughout our relationship we had been travelling back and forth from Spain, falling in love with it even more and travelling round Spain and trying to decide where our favourite area was. And we kept coming back to Andalucía."

Linda says she felt immediately at home in Malaga. She soon joined a social group for expatriates, which is how she met Father Louis, the Anglican priest of St George's Church. He suggested she use the English Cemetery, where the church is located, as a venue for her wine tastings. For Linda, it was an unexpected but ideal solution.

Charity

"What I had always intended to do, as part of my business plan, was to donate a portion of ticket sales to charity. It was then a natural progression to say, 'Well, rather than me donating to charity, let me donate to your charity for letting me use the space.' So now Linda donates two euros per ticket to church fundraising.

Echoing with the cathartic buzzing of cicadas and adorned



Linda Macintosh talks to guests at one of the wine tasting evenings in Malaga's English cemetery. L. C.

by amber evening light that spills between the trees, throwing dappled shadows over the tables, the English Cemetery is certainly a delightful location for wine tastings. Linda markets Winederlust as "wine for the people", underlining her ethos of inclusivity; one guest at the tasting likened it to "dinner with friends".

"I don't want people to be scared of wine tastings," Linda said. "I think sometimes they can be quite high brow and pretentious and I try to steer away from that as much as I can. I grew up in the world of wine, around men in suits [...] who would speak to me like I was stupid."

"I never want to make anyone feel stupid when it comes to wine. It's for everyone."

Three from Andalucía

Among the six wines for tasting were a natural white, which

"I never want to make anyone feel stupid when it comes to wine. It's for everyone"

was many people's favourite, a fruity rosé that had been voted the best rosé in Spain for the twelfth year running by Spanish journalists, and a Mencía from Castilla y León that Linda described as "everything you don't expect from a Spanish wine."

Three of the wines were from Andalucía, at the request of clients who had attended previous tastings. Linda had been expecting this, though limiting herself to Andalusian wines is not her intention.

"One of the things I love about Spanish wine is, from all the corners of Spain, you can get

everything you want that you could get anywhere else around the globe, because it has all these different microclimates, all these different styles of wine making, and you can get these really fresh, crisp Ruedas and you can get these really heavy Priorats and these toasty Riojas. You can get everything."

Arriving in Malaga without having hosted a tasting for almost two years due to the various lockdowns was initially "daunting", said Linda, but revising and sharing her knowledge on wine has helped her to settle into her new life.

She has various plans for Winederlust, which include running themed tastings and collaborating with other businesses, but her priority will always be her passion - travelling through Spain in search of the best grapes, getting to know the country, one wine at a time.

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Fearless seniors take to the sky in aid of Age Concern

More than 20 fundraisers were launched at speeds of up to 100 km per hour on the new zip line attraction in Alhaurín de la Torre last Friday

TONY BRYANT



ALHAURÍN DE LA TORRE. More than 20 members and supporters of Age Concern Benalmádena/Fuengirola/Mijas took part in the charity's annual fundraising challenge last Friday. The first major event for the charity since before the lockdown, the daredevil senior citizens signed up for a flight on the new zip wire attraction at the Sunview Adventure Park in Alhaurín de la Torre.

Organisers had feared that the flight might have had to have been cancelled due to high winds and bad weather conditions, but, fortunately, the event was able to go ahead.

The fearless participants were launched in a superman pose at speeds of up to 100 kilometres an hour on the 1,350-metre-long zip wire, the longest in Andalucía.

President, David Long (82), a former motorcycle racer and someone who has no fear of hair-raising activity, was the first to be launched, followed by the rest of the brave participants, all of whom said that they "thoroughly enjoyed" the experience.

Along with members of Age Concern, the event was supported by the La Cala de Mijas Lions Club, and the Mijas-based Simply Sur-

ving support group, who had chosen Age Concern as its designated monthly charity.

Simply Surviving co-founder Alan Boardman said, "Five intrepid members of our group took part in the challenge. We expect to raise around 2,000 euros in sponsors, so that puts the seal on a wonderful experience."

Age Concern members are no strangers to valorous activity: previous challenges have included the cross-border zip wire from Spain to Portugal, a sky dive in Seville and abseiling down the side of the Sunset Beach Hotel in Benalmádena.

Secretary Steve Marshall told SUR in English that he was "delighted" at the amount of support the challenge had received, adding that he was hopeful that the money raised would be more than

Fundraising continues with a cabaret show night in Mijas

Age Concern Fuengirola/Mijas/Benalmádena will host a charity show night at the Legends Cabaret Bar in La Cala de Mijas on Saturday 16 October. The event will present the Costa's top drag act, Dragtastic, along with tribute shows to Lionel Richie and Whitney Houston.

Sponsored by Centros Auditivos Futura, tickets for the show, which begins at 7pm, cost ten euros and are available by calling Andrea on 628353884, or by e-mail: info@ageconcernfym.com



President David Long (1st right) with some of the courageous supporters before the challenge last Friday. **SUR**

in previous years.

"It will be a little while until all the sponsorship money is collected and counted, but we are confident that it will be the best

so far. All of us at Age Concern wish to extend our heartfelt thanks to our brave and slightly crazy flyers and their sponsors, as well as for the help and sup-

port provided by Simply Surviving. We could not have done this without the continued support of the local community," the secretary explained.



The daredevil participants were launched in a superman pose. **SUR**



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Costa societies ready to enjoy an arty new season

The Nerja, Costa del Sol and Benahavis Arts Societies plan lectures, trips, charity events and much more throughout the 2021-22 season

JENNIE RHODES

MALAGA. The three Arts Societies along the Costa del Sol are resuming a full programme of lectures, events and fundraising activities, with the return to physical meetings for most of the lectures, as well as the option to go 'hybrid' in Nerja.

Jane Norrie, Chair of the Benahavis society, said, "The life of the societies centres round their monthly talks. The range of topics is incredibly diverse with a menu embracing not just visual art, but music, theatre, travel - and even the art of cooking."

The season began in Benahavis on Tuesday when speaker Lucy Hughes Hallett gave a talk on Cleopatra, showing how artists have projected their fantasies onto her; fantasies of exotic dan-

ger or erotic bliss.

On a similarly sensual note in mid-October the Costa del Sol and Nerja Societies open their season with a talk entitled Stripped Naked - The Nude in Art. For this first lecture the Costa del Sol will use Zoom while Nerja will offer a hybrid experience with lectures at the Cultural Centre which will also be streamed.

These two societies share lectures, with speakers generally visiting one of the societies one week and the other the following week. Over the next few months, members and visitors alike will have the opportunity to learn about Cleopatra (the same lecture as in Benahavis this week), Dickensian Christmases, Don Quixote and the Vikings' presence in Al Andalus.

As well as the monthly lectures, the societies will also be organising social events such as lunches or trips. Benahavis is planning a finger buffet lunch with a speaker on flamenco in October and following the success of the September new members' coffee morning, Nerja will be hosting another



Helen Sijlsing (l) and other members of the Nerja Arts Society in 2019. SUR

one on 30 November, to which anyone interested in joining the society, and existing members are welcome.

As part of the society's ongoing charity work, On 23 October this year and 27 March 2022, Nerja will be organising music festivals for local children. For the October festival the society is collaborating with organisations including Cáritas and schools in the Vélez-Málaga area and the performance will take place on the bandstand on Torre del Mar's promenade (paseo marítimo). The aim is to attract talented and budding musicians and give them the opportunity to work with professionals.

Helen Sijlsing says, "There are

several workshops, music, dance and video, and later a performance by the children. Three grants will also be donated to go to the Torre del Mar music conservatory and we are putting together a 'lending library' of musical instruments for the children to use."

For more information about the societies contact Benahavis: chair.benahavis@theartsociety.org, www.theartsocietybenahavis.com, Costa del Sol: ch.costadelsol@theartsociety.org, www.costadelsol@theartsociety.org, Nerja: helen.sijlsing@gmail.com, www.theartsocietynerja.com, De la Frontera: felicitybnavarro@gmail.com, www.theartsocietydelafrontera.com.

Charity music event in La Cala raises 5,500 euros for ACE dog and cat shelter

TONY BRYANT

MIJAS. A charity show night held at Legends Cabaret Bar in La Cala last Saturday raised more than 5,500 euros for the Mijas-based dog and cat shelter Animal Care España (ACE).

The event was attended by 90 guests, who enjoyed live entertainment supplied by popular Take That tribute band Diverse, and comedy drag favourites Dragtastic.

There was also an auction with prizes donated by local businesses as well as by ACE supporters.

A spokesperson for the charity said, "ACE would like to give their heartfelt thanks to Legends Bar and British businessman Charlie Mullins, for their overwhelming generosity, plus, of course, the entertainers and all who attended this enormously successful event."

The ACE shelter has been caring for and rehoming thousands of stray animals since its inception in 2000.

PET CARE
PETER HARRISON

Collars and leads

A dog's collar should be worn at night and firmly fitted so that its owner can control it in the case of emergency



Some things do not get the attention they deserve yet they are of necessity.

Take dogs' collars and leads for example. They are of great importance yet owners rarely give them a second thought. I often hear of dogs running off and getting lost because they have slipped their collars. They should have been adjusted so that they are sufficiently tight around the neck, snugly fitted, that despite wriggling so the most determined dog cannot get free.

There exists a belief that dogs should not wear their collars at night because they are uncomfortable for the wearer or ruffle the fur. Whoever started this weird theory...?

The simple truth is that collars are essential in the event of an emergency and most emergencies occur during the hours of darkness when humans are sleeping and take time to react to fires. It is often the result of

people weeding during the day then lighting a bonfire, leaving the fire, believing it is extinguished. An evening breeze fans the smallest ember and a raging fire soon results and spreads perhaps in your direction.

Dogs sense the danger ahead. Their reaction is to get loose and run away. Not usually the best plan. The owner can take charge of the situation with fire extinguishers or summon the fire brigade. The owner takes over the evacuation of the dog, but a dog without a collar is impossible to control and finding a collar and fitting it to a panicking dog is a problem.

A dog's collar should be worn at night and be firmly fitted to deal with any emergency, not just fire.

On the subject of both collars and leads, owners should buy both of good quality from a vet or reputable pet shop. Do not buy those that are plastic nor simulated leather. Get strong

ones of real leather or webbing. The military use webbing equipment for troops because it is tough and hard wearing, attachments should be of metal and of buckle type not plastic clips which are easy to operate but easy to open up when they should not.

Every dog should have a name tag of metal with the owner's telephone number and his mobile. When the finder calls, the distraught owner may be away from the land line seeking the lost dog. Make sure the metal tag can be read at two metres, not every finder may want to get too close to the lost dog however friendly.

Check all this equipment regularly and ensure your telephone number is current; also that the mandatory microchip is up to date. Your vet will have the equipment to do any change required. Do not delay this action; your dog relies on you to check regularly.

Tickets on sale for Banderas' new production, the Stephen Sondheim classic Company

The Teatro del Soho Caixa Bank, starring and directed by Antonio Banderas, will be performing the musical

REGINA SOTORRÍO

MALAGA. The latest production by Antonio Banderas, the Stephen Sondheim classic musical Company, opens its doors on the 17 March and will run at least until March. Banderas will be starring as well as directing the show assisted by his daughter Stella who will be assistant director.

Company explores relationships and human behaviour through different encounters between Bobby (Antonio Banderas) and his friends, in a constant reflection on people's commitment. It does so without a narrative but through 'sketches' of different moments.

Set in New York, the version that the Theatre Soho performs gives "a little twist" to the original story by recreating the 70s. "I approach Company as a ret-



Antonio Banderas. SUR

rospective vision. A 'flashback', perhaps a dream of Bobby's, who revisits his 'crazy friends' travelling back to the 70s," Banderas explained.

The production will make use of new technologies without losing the 'theatrical flavour' with analogue elements and simple staging.

Tickets are on sale from the website: <https://teatrodelsoho.com/>

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Community groups rally to raise funds for local environmentalist

Ann Jenkins set up Playa Patrol in La Herradura shortly after moving to the village and was diagnosed with breast cancer last year

JENNIE RHODES

LA HERRADURA. Just over a year ago, Ann Jenkins, whose name many people will recognise as the force behind Playa Patrol in La Herradura, was diagnosed with aggressive stage four metastatic breast cancer which has also spread to her lungs and sternum. Ann has already had a mastectomy and is undergoing chemotherapy.

However, the many friends and acquaintances that Ann and her husband Christopher, who are both Canadian, have made while living in La Herradura are determined to help her to raise funds for Dendritic Cell Therapy (DCT), which the couple believe could help to save Ann's life.

Dendritic cells can communicate with the body's T cells and help the immune system recognise and attack abnormal cells, such as cancer cells. Blood is taken from the patient to develop a bespoke DCT vaccine, which is then administered. The treatment is



Christopher and Ann Jenkins. **SUR**

currently only available in Marbella and Berlin and comes at a cost. As such, Ann's friends and contacts are rallying to raise the 50,000 euros needed for the treatment.

A 'Razzle Dazzle in Pink' fundraising event and auction is scheduled for 14 October in El Gaucho restaurant in Puerto Banus. It is being organised by Sonia Ingriselli, a fellow Canadian and Admin on the Canadians Living in Spain Facebook group. Sonia said, "Ann is part of the page and I know many businesses throughout Banus and Marbella. They quickly volunteered to help the cause."

On the same day, The Hideaway

bar in La Herradura is also hosting a Pink October charity night, again with an auction. Donations include a painting by local British artist Steffi Goddard and spa days, among other items.

As well as the foreign community, the president of the Parent Teacher Association at La Herradura's primary school has also told Ann that they are planning to hold a family fun day on 17 October, at El Chambao de Joaquín beach bar in La Herradura, with some of the proceeds going towards Ann's cause. During the lockdown the couple donated 10 old iPads they had brought from Canada to help children who did not have laptops at home. "We are so welcomed into our little village and feel very humbled," Ann said.

A GoFundMe page has also been set up and so far just over 27,000 euros have been raised.

Ann is keen to stress that the fundraiser isn't just about saving her own life, but about the treatment itself and how it could help future patients.

Further information :

GoFundMe: Help Ann Receive Life-Saving Blood Therapy.
Auction info and donations: soniaingriselli7@gmail.com, phone: 604 38 02 73



CPC president Jesper Sander Pederson, Stine Mynster, Lucas Barretta and Neil Hesketh, second vice-president. **KARL SMALLMAN**

Costa Press Club members 'adapt' to meeting face-to-face

International journalists on the Costa del Sol shared notes on how they coped during lockdown this week

SUR IN ENGLISH

MIJAS. The September meeting of the Costa Press Club, which had a theme of "Adapting", was held on Tuesday at the Hotel Ilunion (formerly Hacienda Puerta del Sol).

In keeping with the theme of the evening, Lucas Barretta, the hotel director, gave a brief talk about the concept of the Ilunion brand, which is a business branch of the ONCE charity in Spain, and part of its so-

cial enterprise work. The company prioritises functional diversity, inclusion and adaptability for guests and employees as part of its mission.

The main speaker of the evening, Stine Mynster, the Director of Communications of Denmark-based Sprout World, detailed some of the challenges faced by her multinational team during the pandemic.

She showed how the company had been able to continue promoting and selling its sustainable and recyclable products.

The club provides a regular social meeting place and forum for resident and visiting journalists. More information on <http://costapressclub.com>

TELLING TALES

PETER EDGERTON

Look out world

Sarah humoured her husband. After all, he wasn't doing anyone any harm and, as she'd learned from her previous marriage, there are worse ways a fifty-two year old man can spend his time. On a good day, she actually found it quite endearing - a middle-aged chap with a pot belly still dreaming of being a rock star.

Tonight was a big night and Jim was nervous. Yet again, he'd heard that there were going to be some important people at the gig. He slung his jacket over his shoulder and picked up his guitar, beaming like a child.

'Look out world, we're going to make it this time.' He always

said that before a show.

Sarah wished him luck, kissed him tenderly on the cheek, closed the front door and headed into the kitchen for the half bottle of wine she'd been looking forward to all day.

Passing the hall table, she noticed Jim's wallet lying next to the phone. Not to worry, he wouldn't really need it - he had his keys and some cash on him and Dave was driving. On the other hand, it might be better to check there was nothing he'd miss, just in case. She began flicking through the contents - credit cards, driving licence, some old receipts and .. oh, a neatly folded piece of paper. How odd. She opened it and began to read.

DEAR JENNY, I MISS YOU SO MUCH, I WANT TO TELL HER, BUT I CAN'T DO IT YET. GIVE ME MORE TIME. WE'LL BE TOGETHER SOON. YOUR LOVING OLD FOOL XXX

Sarah stared at the page, her free hand covering her mouth which was wide open in shock. Not Jim, surely. He simply couldn't be seeing someone else, not after all they'd been through. This was definitely his handwriting though, and it was certainly his eternally woeful punctuation, there could be no doubt about that. She slumped at the kitchen table, reading the note over and over, unable to take it in. Not Jim, surely.

When he finally got home

about 3am, Jim was still buzzing. The band had played a storming gig and one man - very well-connected in London apparently - had asked for their contact details.

Look out world, we're going to make it this time.

Jim went straight up to bed. Tomorrow was going to be a good day, he could just feel it. Tiptoeing along the landing and opening the bedroom door with a deftness touch worthy of a night thief, he was surprised to find the light still on and Sarah sitting bolt upright in bed, her face etched with anger, pain and disbelief in equal parts. Jim came right back down to earth with a bump.

'What is it, Sarah? What's the matter?' He rushed to her side and leant across to put his arm around her. She recoiled.

'Leave me, just leave me alone.'

'Tell me. I - I..'. He didn't know what to say. He'd never

seen her like this. The room was thick with silence until, eventually, she broke it.

'How was your concert?' Sarah snarled the question at him, daring him to reply and daring him not to. His answer was little more than a murmur.

'Well, it could have been a disaster. I forgot my wallet with the set list in it but since we always open with Dear Jenny, always finish with Your Loving Old Fool and, as an encore, play Dave's song that nearly got us a record deal that time, Three Kisses, it was ok. We just winged it in between. Worked out well, I suppose. But really, Sarah, please, I need you to tell me what I've done wrong. I've never known you to be like this.'

Sarah's face began to soften right before his eyes. She smiled to herself, almost imperceptibly.

Look out world, we're going to make it this time.



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READERS' PHOTOS



BJORN BEINING

Estepona Orchidarium

Bjørn Beining sent in this photo of a beautiful yellow orchid (a Cymbidium perhaps?) that he photographed at the Estepona Orchid House.



PETRA LANDER

Prehistoric plant identified

The photo of the unusual, almost-prehistoric-looking plant was identified by Andrew Sloan who thinks it is possibly an old specimen of Kalanchoe beharensis.

PHOTOS

Calling all gardeners

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

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

GARDENING

Scadoxus multiflorus

The blood lily, botanical name Scadoxus multiflorus (synonym Haemanthus multiflorus), is a member of the Amaryllidaceae family of which there are around 73 genera. The majority of the family are bulbous herbaceous plants but a few, including Scadoxus, develop rhizomes as well as bulbs.

Scadoxus multiflorus has three sub-species, one of which, S. multiflorus katherinae is native to the Mediterranean region. The other two are found in Sub-saharan Africa and in parts of Arabia, although all three can be found naturalised in other parts of the world such as India and Mexico.

The common name blood lily refers to the reddish-orange blooms which are produced in a globe-shaped umbel of up to two-hundred tiny flowers with long stamens. The drumstick-shaped flower heads can be up to 25cm in diameter and are held on bare, purple spotted stems up to 1.2 metres tall. After flowering a berry forms that turns bright red as it ripens.

The lance-shaped leaves, which may appear at the same time as the flowers or separately, can reach around 45cm long and form on pseudo stems formed by sheathing leaf bases (like ginger, wheat and bananas for example).

A good location for this stunning perennial would be in a shady spot, preferably with filtered sunlight. It can be grown in a border or in a container; the latter making it easier to move into a sheltered corner or greenhouse during cold winters. Alternatively the bulb and rhizomes can be lifted and stored. In temperate climates a protective mulch should be enough to protect it during the winter.

Propagation can be carried out by sowing the seed (which may take four to five years to bloom) or removing the small bulblets that form around the main bulb. This can be done when repotting in the spring. When planting the bulbs, be careful not to bury them too deep and use a rich, free-draining potting medium.

All parts of the blood lily are toxic; the sap was traditionally used to tip poison darts.



Scadoxus multiflorus and close up of bloom (inset). FLICKR / WIKIMEDIA



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WHAT HAPPENED TODAY?

1 OCTOBER 1975

The first strike of the GRAPO terrorist organisation

The terrorist group took its name from the date when its members killed four police officers in Madrid in 1975

The First of October Anti-Fascist Resistance Group (GRAPO) is a terrorist organisation that had its origins in the Organisation of Marxist-Leninists of Spain (OMLE), a splinter group of the Communist Party of Spain (PCE). The OMLE was dissolved in 1975, which resulted in the inception of the PCE-r (Reconstituted) and what would constitute its armed wing, GRAPO. The movement was named after the killing of four Spanish police officers in Madrid on

1 October 1975. The group took this date as a starting point as a terrorist organisation. The terrorist group continued its armed activity, carrying out numerous violent attacks which had strong social repercussions. After the high-profile kidnapping of several wealthy politicians, as well as the murder of more police officers, GRAPO became established as an urban guerrilla group in a similar manner as the Revolutionary Antifascist Patriotic Front (FRAP) had been in Francoist Spain. During the first few years of the transition, GRAPO committed further atrocities, including the assassination of the president of the Spanish Supreme Court, Miguel Cruz Cuenca, and the bombing of the Guardia Civil



Police at the scene of the 1979 Madrid cafe bombing. ABC

headquarters in Madrid. The most devastating attack attributed to the group was perpetrated in a cafe in Madrid in May 1979, when a powerful explosive device killed nine people and seriously injured another 69 customers. Although GRAPO never acknowledged responsibility for the attack (claiming it was the work of a far-right vigilante group), the group's leaders, José María Sánchez Casas and Alfonso Rodríguez García, were arrested and sentenced to a total of 270 years in prison in 1981 for carrying out the attack. The organisation proposed a cease fire in 1982, and after further negotiations the following year, many of its members laid down their arms. In 1984, the Spanish authorities passed an anti-terrorist law, and following an intense campaign, practically all the members of the organisation who remained active were arrested, although a few militants con-

LANGUAGE FOOTNOTE	
Terrorista	Terrorist
Resistencia	Resistance
Secuestro	Kidnapping
Asesinato	Murder
Sangriento	Bloody
Izquierda	Left
Gravedad	Seriousness
Empresario	Businessman
Edificio	Building
Bomba	Bomb
Herido	Injured
Violencia	Violence
Disparar	To shoot
Destrozar	To destroy
Víctima	Victim
Atentado	Attack
Dinero	Money
Vehículo	Vehicle

tinued to plant explosives and demand money from businessmen. Since its inception in 1975 until its last-known activity in 2006, the group killed 84 people, including police, military personnel and judges. Currently the group is inactive, but not formally self-dissolved.

Bilingual crossword inside back page

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Stands offering architecture, furniture and interiors at Marbella Design Week. JOSELE



Craftsmen are also present at the event. JOSELE

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The Marbella Design Week showcases architecture, home and interior design

MARBELLA

The fair offers a design tour from the latest technology and home automation to traditional craftsmanship

JOAQUINA DUEÑAS

The Palacio de Ferias y Congresos in Marbella is holding the first edition of Marbella Design Week until 3rd October. The event is an international fair with over 350 brands, 102 exclusive offers and over 60 professionals. The area has been designed so that design brands, furniture, interior design, architecture and art are together in four themed zones: Architecture Square, Design Avenue, Iconic Center and All Interiors Street. There is also a fifth zone located outside called Design Gate. The idea is that visitors and professionals can find all they need for a project under one roof. Design Week Marbella will showcase suppliers of home interior goods, architects and interior design companies as well as artistic design elements

such as paintings, sculptures and local crafts. There are several themed conferences and discussions with topics to interest both professionals and the public planned, such as energy efficiency and recycling. During the week-end, there will be special discounts and demonstrations of products.

High tech is provided by Illusion Marbella, installers of smarhome and home automation systems as well as Sua Corp that applies modern technology to housing to make them the safest in the world. Digital art is also represented with the company Artual who promote digital art as a resource for designers and architects while the Artisan area showcases traditional crafts from the region. Sustainability is high on the agenda with many exhibitors with recycled materials and upcycling of furniture and wood.

The exhibition area includes a large zone for catering called Cocktail Place. This part of the design fair will offer refreshments from the 3Bar (created by Alberto Leal of Barbullá and Barbullá Sky) and the Michelin starred El Lago y Midi restaurant.



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Welcome autumn into your home with the colours of the new season

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As the end of the year approaches and the temperatures start to cool down, we become more focused on home and the comfort that surrounds us. It's the time when the fashions change for the autumn/winter season in both clothing and soft furnishings.

Darker, earthier colours are very much the focus of the AW21 collections and rich, warm shades of terracotta, wine or khaki green and deeper tones of ochre edge into a more mustard tone. Colours such as dusky pink and duck egg blue are still very much in vogue but are now lovely muted coral colours are filtering through and the lighter blues are being replaced with more peacock and patrol blue as well as the wonderful, elegant navy colourway.

Fashion in your home is whatever you want it to be, if it makes you feel happy and feel at home then that's the fashion for you. If you want to just update your look without breaking the bank, a couple of new cushion covers and a new throw draped over the arm of a sofa or placed on top of a bed can be enough to turn



drab to fab.

At Yorkshire Linen Beds and More we have been working hard to pull together an amazing array of soft furnishings, decorative items, beds, furniture, rugs and lamps for the upcoming season and our team of professionals are always on hand to make life easier and help you as you make your ideas into a reality.

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EXHIBITIONS

Udo Burkhardt

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



Udo Berkhardt, Ronda

Color Intenso

ESTEPONA. Until 14 October. *Casa de Las Tejerinas, Plaza de las Flores.*
Artist Pineda Mariscal is exhibiting a selection of his works of mixed techniques.

Marta Bernad

ESTEPONA. Until 14 October. *Casa de Las Tejerinas, Plaza de las Flores.*
Inspired by nature, the abstract exhibition Paradise is by Marta Bernad.

David Tomé

MARBELLA. From 2 until 21 October. *José Banús Foundation Multiple Use Room in Nueva Andalucía.*
The exhibition The Cavern consists of a collection of photographs by David Tomé. 30% of the funds raised will go to the Rotary Club San Pedro de Alcántara.

Los Bravú

MARBELLA. Until 5 November. *Galería Yusto Giner, C/Madera.*
Los Bravú (Dea Gómez and Diego Omil) present their work for the first time at the Yusto / Giner gallery with ten canvases with classical mythology as the theme.

My Secret Garden

PUERTO BANÚS. Until 16 January, 2022.

Belgian artist Arne Quinze is exhibiting a collection of his aluminium sculptures, inspired by nature, around the streets and port of Puerto Banús.

BioGuitar exhibition

ALHAURÍN EL GRANDE. Until October. *Biblioteca Municipal de Alhaurín el Grande.*

Malaga artist Pedro Aragón is exhibiting a collection of guitars made from recycled materials.

Cristóbal Ortega

ALHAURÍN DE LA TORRE. Until 20 November. *El Portón de Alhaurín de la Torre.*

Poemas de Piel is the title of this exhibition by Malaga artist Cristóbal Ortega.

Laura and Javier Pérez

MIJAS. Until 18 October. *Centro Cultural La Cala.*

An exhibition of works by Laura and Javier Pérez.

Javier Roz

MALAGA. Until 31 October. *Casa Amarilla, C/Santos 7.*

Oscuro ladera Luminosa is the title of this exhibition by artist Javier Roz.

Malaga Picasso Museum

MALAGA. Museo Picasso Málaga, *Calle San Agustín.*



Marta Bernad, Estepona

El París de Brassai. From 19 October the museum will be exhibiting a collection that not only concentrates on the photographer Brassai but also reflects the topography of Paris in the 30's and 40's.
www.museopicassomalaga.org.

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.

Colección del Museo Ruso

MALAGA. Edificio Tabacalera, *Avda Sor Teresa Prat.*

Temporary exhibitions. Until 12 October. The two temporary exhibitions currently at the museum are Iván Konstantínovich Aivazovsky and the Russian sea painters which includes 26 of Aivazovsky's own works and 13 of other famous seascape artists such as Konstantín Krugovijin, Aleksandr Dórogov, Alekséi Bogoliubov, Konstantín Istomin, Vasili Shujaev, Borís Yákovlev, Vasili Meshkov and Izraíl Lizak.

Centre Pompidou

MALAGA. Muelle Uno.

<https://centrepompidou-malaga.eu/>
Pablo Capitán del Río. Located inside the cube is a sculpture by Pablo Capitán del Río representing the famous 'elephant's foot' inside the reactor at Chernobyl: a radioactive mass created after the explosion and one of the most toxic on earth. Just a few minutes in its presence will bring certain death to any living organism. The sculpture, which can only be seen from a distance, symbolises that which inhibits life in all its forms.

Centro de Arte Contemporáneo

MALAGA. CAC Málaga. *C/Alemania.*

Cindy Sherman. Until 24 October. Cindy Sherman: an interview (1980-1981) is a short ten minute film in which the American photographer talks about the different aspects relating to her works, her creative

Queen tribute band to rock Sala Paris 15



Tolo Sanders possesses the incredible vocal range of Mercury. SUR

Queen Forever gained popularity after appearing on the television show Got Talent

TONY BRYANT

MALAGA. The Sala Paris 15 in Malaga will host a tribute night to the greatest rock and roll band off all time on Friday 8 October. The concert will present Queen Forever, one of Spain's top Queen impersonators, who will stop off in Malaga during their Bohemian Rhapsody Tour, a tour that was interrupted by the coronavirus pandemic.

The band gained popularity

after reaching the semi-finals of the popular television show Got Talent, and has since performed at venues and festivals all over Europe.

Fronted by Tolo Sanders, a singer who possesses the incredible vocal range, flamboyance and panache of the late Freddy Mercury, the band reproduces the distinctive sound of Queen, with hits like We are the Champions, Another One Bites the Dust and Crazy Little Thing Called Love.

Tickets for the show, which begins at 10pm, cost 24 euros and are available www.queen-forever.es/index.html

Capacity will be restricted and covid protocols enforced.

process and inspiration.

Mark Whalen. Until 28 November. I Am Just Here is an exhibition of twenty aluminium sculptures and wall reliefs by the Australian artist Mark Whalen.

Michelangelo Pistoletto. Until 5 December. A retrospective exhibition of the works of Italian artist and sculptor, Michelangelo Pistoletto. The exhibition consists of thirty pieces including photographs, paint-



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Javier Pérez, Mijas

ings and sculptures from over sixty years of his life.

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

La Mirada Inconcreta Until 3 October. Forty-two works by 17 artists which demonstrate the different movements and trends in art between 1987 and 2016. With works by Olafur Eliasson, Gabriel Orozco, Travis Somerville, Marina Abramovic and Cindy Sherman among many others international artists.

Viajes Extraordinarios Until 7 November. The exhibition is of over 80 works by Sebastián Navas. The works include oils, acrylics and traditional Chinese inks, completed on canvases and paper, depicting rural landscapes and human figures.

La Luna en Málaga

MALAGA. Until 24 October. Museo de

Patrimonio MUPAM.

An exhibition of 60 photographs by ten photographers which reflect their feelings and emotions about the city of Malaga.

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.

Semana Santa exhibition

MALAGA. Until 13 November. Malaga Cathedral.

The exhibition consists of 13 images of Christ and the Virgin Mary which reflect the religious, artistic and cultural phenomenon of the 'hermandades' (brotherhoods) of the province. Each image is displayed on a plinth that has been decorated by Malaga artists.

Carmen Thyssen Museum

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

Catalan Masters. Until 17 October. In honour of the many Catalan artists in the Thyssen collection there is an exhibition of works by Martí Alsina, Fortuny, Meifrèn, Casas, Rusiñol, Canals, Anglada-Camarasa, Mir, Sunyer Togados, Clarà, Tàpies, Cuixart and Ponç among others.

Paul Strand. From 16 November until 6 March 2022. The exhibition

includes over one hundred photos taken by the legendary New York photographer.

The past collections of the Thyssen museum can be viewed online at www.carmenthyssenmalaga.org

Museo Revello de Toro

MALAGA. C/Afligidos.

Félix Revello de Toro is a distinguished Malaga artist. Around 117 of his works are on display in the museum.

Sempiterno

MALAGA. Until 8 October. Sociedad Económica de Amigos del País. Twenty-four students from the Escuela de Arte San Telmo are exhibiting their photography projects

Oliver H

MALAGA. From 2 October until 22



Oliver H, Malaga

November. Alfajar Sala, C/ Císter, 1. Flashback is an exhibition of photographs that capture light and silence.

Carlos Canal

MALAGA. Until 24 October. Salas Mingorance, Archivo Municipal.

The exhibition, Tombés. El rastro de los ausentes, is a collection of photographs, video and natural elements which reflect the anguish and devastation surrounding The Great War, the deaths, the war and the deforestation.

Coby Bloemsma

EL MORCHE. Until 20 October. Bio Beach Club.

Botticelli's Venus in a map dress with plastic wings or Klimt's Judith hovering above a city are just two examples of the exhibition entitled The Collage Collection by Torrox based artist Coby Bloemsma.

Francisco Martín Molina

NERJA. Monday to Saturday 10.30am - 2.30pm. C/ Pintada 27.

Collection of paintings and sculpture by local resident Francisco Martín Molina, responsible for several public pieces in the town. www.escul-tormartin.eu

La Vuelta a Ítaca de María Zambrano

VÉLEZ-MÁLAGA. Until 2 November. Palacio del Marqués de Beniel and Centro de Estudios de El Exilio.

The exhibition consists of over fifty pieces including photos, sculpture,



Semana Santa, Malaga

ceramics, furniture, paintings and personal effects of María Zambrano, essayist and philosopher, who was born in the town.

Esteban D'Azúa

VÉLEZ-MÁLAGA. Until 31 October.

Centro de Arte Contemporáneo Un Mundo Nuevo. El límite fotogénico de una pandemia is an exhibition of photographs that reflects the often difficult story behind each person in the image during the pandemic.

Evaristo Guerra competition entries

VÉLEZ-MÁLAGA. Until 15 October. Patio on the first floor of the town hall.

The works of the artists who entered in the annual Evaristo Guerra painting competition are on display.

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EXHIBITIONS

Criaturas Metálicas

ALMUÑÉCAR. From 5 until 15 October, 6-9pm. Casa de la Cultura. An art exhibition by Emilio Domínguez Rubiño.

La Fábrica

LANJARÓN. C/ Hondillo 119.

The Artists' Network Alpujarra (ANA) have an exhibition at La Fábrica Collective exhibition. La Alpujarra: El Viaje. Until 31 October.

MUSIC AND DANCE

The Malaga Philharmonic Orchestra

MALAGA. Various venues.

1 October, 8pm. Teatro Cervantes. Music by composers Haydn, Brahms and Dvorak conducted by Rune Bergmann. More information: www.orquestafilarmonicademalaga.com Twitter: @filarmonimalaga or Facebook: www.facebook.com/Filarmonica-Malaga.

#Estival Acto Final 2021

MALAGA. 1 October, 8.30pm Auditorio Eduardo Ocón, Paseo del Parque. A varied programme of live music, DJs, performance and video art. Tickets: evenbrite.com

Museum Jorge Rando

MALAGA. 1 October, 7pm. Museo Jorge Rando, C/ Cruz del Molinillo. www.museojorgerando.org The museum is holding a concert entitled Mariposas por el Mundo with the Coro Rando and soprano Viviana Idrovo.

La Cochera Cabaret

MALAGA. 1 October, 8pm. Conchita La Orilla.

2 October, 12pm. Las Niñas del Rock.

Siente Málaga

MALAGA. 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 website.

La Banda Sonora de mi Ciudad

MALAGA. Until 2 October. Various venues.

This music festival will help to highlight the hard work of the bands reflected in their musical diversity with special attention to the bands of the brotherhoods. It will include concerts by the Banda Musical del Rocío, the Banda Musical Cruz de Humilladero, the cornets and drums of the Real Cuerpo de Bomberos, Banda Musical Churriana, Banda Musical de Mena, Banda Musical de Miraflores, The cornets and drums Fusiónadas,



O Sister, Malaga

the cornets and drums Esperanza, the Banda Musical Trinidad Sinfónica and the Banda de la Expiración Eloy García. For more information: www.malaga.eu

Municipal Band

ALMUÑÉCAR. 2 October, 7pm. Plaza de la Constitución.

The Municipal Band are playing an inaugural concert in the square outside the town hall.

El Kanka

MALAGA. 3 October, 7pm. Teatro Cervantes.

Popular Malaga singer Juan Gómez Canca and his band continue their tour Payaso - El Rescate, which was cut short by the pandemic. Upbeat music with flamenco and Caribbean influences. <https://www.teatrocervantes.com/>

Quinteto Brassarquía

ALMUÑÉCAR. 4 October, 8pm. Auditorio de la Casa de Cultura. Organised by Juventudes Musical.

Salon Varietés

FUENGIROLA. 7.30pm Friday, Saturday. 7pm Sunday. The Salon Varietés Theatre, Calle Emancipación.

14-24 October. The smash hit Broadway musical The Little Shop of Horrors. Tickets: boxoffice@salon-varietestheatre.com or call: 952474542

El Arte de Perder Cada Día

MALAGA. 5 October. Teatro Echegaray.

The dance, choreographed and



El Arte de Perder, Malaga

directed by Fernando Hurtado, is based on a woman who learns she is diagnosed with Alzheimer's and realises she will lose precious memories of her past as faces and family disappear from her mind forever. <https://www.teatroechegaray.com/>

Gala concert

TORREMOLINOS. 8 October, 4-6pm. Palacio de Congresos.

The Semana de Mayor festival in Torremolinos closes on 8 October with a gala concert featuring Xenon Spain and María Jesús and her accordion.

Granada Urbana Festival

GRANADA 9 October. Cortijo Del Conde.

With Lola Indigo, Omar Montes, Yung Beef and Camín, others to be confirmed. <https://www.entradasatlance.com/tickets-granada-urbana->

2021#

Echo of the Beatles

MIJAS. 9 October, 9pm. Teatro Las Lagunas, C/Albero 16.

A tribute to the four Liverpool legends. Tickets: El Corte Inglés, Eventbrite, Atrápalo, Ticketmaster and Rubens Exchange or WhatsApp 633647260

O Sister

MALAGA. 9 October, 8pm. Teatro Cervantes.

O Sister is a Swing group who recreate the Golden Age of American jazz in the 20s and 30s with special tributes to The Boswell Sisters and Ella Fitzgerald. <https://www.teatrocervantes.com/>

Eleftheria Arvanitaki and Trio

MALAGA. 12 October, 7pm. Teatro Cervantes.

Eleftheria Arvanitaki follows the style of traditional Greek music with contemporary and Mediterranean influences. <https://www.teatrocervantes.com/>

The Rob Sas Band

ESTEPONA. 22 October, 10.30pm. Louie Louie Bar, Estepona Port.

The Rob Sas Band returns for a night of live rock music.

Granada Bull Festival

GRANADA. 16, 23 October. Cortijo Del Conde.

Fusion and rock, rap and urban music concerts are planned for the two festival days. More information: www.bullmusicfestival.com

Almuñécar hosts second Autumn Jazz Festival

ALMUÑÉCAR

Pianist Júlio Resende, trumpeter Raynald Colom and saxophonist Jean Toussaint will be performing

JENNIE RHODES

ALMUÑÉCAR. The II Festival de Jazz en Otoño will be held from Saturday 9 to Monday 11 October in the José Martín Recuerda auditorium in the Casa de la Cultura.

The festival will feature performances by Portuguese pianist Júlio Resende, the French trumpeter Raynald Colom, and the American saxophonist Jean Toussaint.

Júlio Resende is a pianist and composer, and is one of Portugal's best known jazz musicians, with eight albums.

Raynald Colom is one of the most internationally respected jazz trumpet players. In addition to having won numerous



Pianist Júlio Resende and saxophonist Jean Toussaint. SUR



awards, he has collaborated with great names in jazz, pop and flamenco such as Nicholas Payton, Greg Osby, Mulgrew Miller, Chano Domínguez, Chicuelo and Manu Chao, among many others.

Jean Toussaint began playing with Wallace Roney, the legendary trumpet player and from 1982 to 1986 he was part of Art Blakey and The Jazz Messengers, one of the most impor-

tant groups in the history of jazz. In the Messengers he shared tours and recordings with musicians like Terence Blanchard, Lonnie Plaxico, Donald Harrison or Mulgrew Miller.

Tickets are available at: www.giglon.com and in Viajes Ecuador, Paseo del Altillio 2, or at the Casa de la Cultura in Almuñécar one hour before the concerts start. All concerts commence at 9pm.

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WALCHENSEE FOREVER

SA9 19.15 H.
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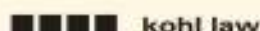
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FLAMENCO

Flamenco Wednesday

MIJAS. Every Wednesday, 12pm.
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Peña Flamenca

ESTEPONA. 1 October, 9.30pm.
Plaza Fuerzas Armadas.
Performances by Manuel de la Curra, José Fernández, Jérica Ruíz and Pedro Hereda.

El Mar No Puede Morir

VÉLEZ-MÁLAGA. 6 October, the brand new auditorio municipal.
The opening of the brand new auditorium in Vélez-Málaga is celebrated with a flamenco show with Carmen Camacho and guest artiste Chaparro de Málaga. To attend, tickets can be collected from 30 September from the town hall culture dept.

THEATRE

The Barber of Seville

MÁLAGA. 10 October, 9pm. Teatro Cervantes.
As part of the XVI Ciclo Malagueño de Zarzuela by the Teatro Lírico Andaluz, the theatre troupe will be performing the comic opera The Barber of Seville. <https://www.teatrocervantes.com/>



Barber of Seville, Malaga.

CHARITY

ARCH Autumn Fest

ALHAURÍN EL GRANDE. 2 October, 10am-4pm. Hacienda Moreno, Viña Borrego.
The Autumn festival includes a dog show, a variety of stalls, live music and vegan BBQ. Compered by Lee Jay of Heart FM. Facebook: Centro Andalusi de Rescate de Caballos or www.horserescuespain.org

Horizonte Proyecto Hombre

MARBELLA. 3 October, from 10am. Parque de la Alameda.
The first fair of the autumn for the Horizonte Proyecto Hombre charity which supports vulnerable people at risk whether from emotional or mental difficulties or with addictions. The stalls at the fair will sell clothing, footwear, bed linens, toys, items for home decor etc.

Collective Calling Beach Olympics

PUERTO BANÚS. 9 October, 11am - 2pm. Paradise Beach.

Malaga welcomes first edition of Afro-American roots music festival

The three-day Malaka-Fest will present some of the coast's top blues and swing performers

TONY BRYANT

MÁLAGA. The first edition of the International Festival de Blues y Musicas Afroamericanas – Malaka Fest - will take place at different locations around the province of Malaga from Friday 15 until Sunday 17 October.

Starting at 8pm in the Teatro Ciudad de Marbella (15th), the blues and roots music festival will present Barcelona-based band Koko Jean and the Tonics, who perform a mixture of rhythm and blues and soul; and The Gangberries, a southern-blues band from Malaga who reproduce the music of BB King, Muddy Waters and Eric Clapton.

The festival, which is free, will continue from 8pm on Saturday 16th in the Plaza de la Constitución in Torrox, with The Gangberries and Koko Jean and the Tonics, plus a special guest appearance of the one-man orchestra Hot

The Blues Stompers will perform at the festival on 16 October. **SUR**

Nasho, a blues musician whose repertoire includes genres such as blues, swing and ragtime.

The concert will also present the coast's most celebrated blues outfit, The Blues Stompers, whose repertoire includes a selection of home-grown blues and boogie, although performed in their own distinctive style. The band, which is fronted by renowned harmonica player and blues singer Paul Stylianou, are set to release their first album of original music later this year.

The festival will close on Sunday 17th at the Centro Cultural Provincial MVA in Malaga, with a performance of one of the best-known voices of the genre, Gisele Jackson and The Shu Shu's. Jackson has performed in many of the main jazz clubs in America, opening for musicians such as Ray Charles, James Brown and Tito Puente.

The band consists of some of the best jazz, blues and funk artists in Spain. www.facebook.com/MalakaFest/

Teams of at least five and maximum ten will prove their fitness, strength and endurance. <https://collective-calling.org/>

RBL Poppy Walk

NERJA. 17 October, 11.30am. From Al Andalus Hotel.
The walk finishes at the Chapel Bar in Calle Jaén. For sponsor forms contact Dorothy Allen: 643212944

FIESTAS AND FERIAS

Feria de San Miguel

VÉLEZ-MÁLAGA. 1, 2 October. Various venues.
With concerts by Niña Pastori and Hombres G among many other events. www.velezmalaga.es
TORREMOLINOS. Until 3 October. Various concerts, events and attractions in the Recinto Ferial.

MORE IDEAS

Urban Run

ESTEPONA 9 (children) 10 (adults) October.
Estepona town hall has announced that registration for the annual Carrera Urbana is now open. More information and registration: <http://www.dorsalchip.es/>

Night Market with live music

ALCAUCÍN. Every Friday and Wednesday from 7.30pm. Scirocco, Cruce de Periana, Puente de Don

Manuel.

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

Choral Evensong

SALINAS. 1 October, 6pm. Salinas church.
Choral Evensong for the Feast of St Michael and All Angels.

Winderlust wine tasting

MÁLAGA. 1 October, 6pm. English Cemetery.
Spanish Wine Explorer. 1 October.
Women in Wine: Meet the Maker. 8 October.
www.winderlustmalaga.com for ticket information and booking. A percentage of the proceeds go to St George's Church.

Design Week Marbella

MARBELLA. Until 3 October. 12-10pm every day.
There will be four designated zones at Design week with professionals from the fields of architecture and interior design. <https://designweek-marbella.com/>

El Pinar Market and Fest

MÁLAGA. 15, 17 October. El Pinar Riding Stables, Camino de los Almendrales.
Concerts and DJs, stalls selling fashion, children's activities and circus

and a variety of international foods. Tickets 8€ in advance, 10€ on the day: www.marketfest.es

ICE Open Day

ESTEPONA. 3 October, 12pm. ICE clubhouse, Bahía Dorada 4.
The International Club of Estepona is a social and cultural club which welcomes English speakers of all nationalities. Members can enjoy golf, rambling, arts and crafts, gardening, drama, bridge and quiz nights, Thursday lunches and Spanish classes too. Anyone interested in joining the club is invited to an open day on Sunday, 3 October. There will be a free drink and a chance to chat with the current members. www.theiceclub.es.

Theatrical Tour of the Medina

VÉLEZ-MÁLAGA. 2 October, 10am, Plaza de la Constitución. 15€.



Pinar Market & Fest, Malaga

A tour in English and Spanish of the Andalusí Medina Balish. The mosque, fortress, main gates and arches etc. Three actors will talk about their lives in the Medina in its heyday. Reservations: sharqandalus@gmail.com or Whatsapp 689776488

Lux Mundi

TORRE DEL MAR. Fridays, 11am - 1pm. Lux Mundi Ecumenical Centre, Avda Moscatel.
Taizé Prayer. 1 October, 8.45pm. San Andrés church. Taizé prayer is a monthly invitation to join in prayer. Send an email to be included in them: luxmundi@lux-mundi.org.

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

MÁLAGA. Centro de Ocio, Plaza Mayor, Avda Alfonso Ponce León. Tel: 902902103. www.yelmocines.es.
Cry Macho: 22.35 (Tues).
Dune: 16.45 (Sat, Sun); 19.45 (every day).
Respect: 17.00 (Tues).
No Time to Die: 12.20 (Sun); 17.45, 21.15 (every day).

Yelmo Cines, Rincón

RINCÓN DE LA VICTORIA. C/ Arroyo Totalán. Tel: 902220922. www.yelmocines.es
Cry Macho: 21.30 (Tues).
Dune: 19.00 (Tues).
No Time to Die: 20.45 (Tues)

Yelmo Cines, Vialia

MÁLAGA. Centro Comercial Vialia. Tel: 902220922
Cry Macho: 21.05 (Tues).
Respect: 19.25 (Tues).
No Time to Die: 21.55 (every day).
Dune: 19.00 (Tues); 21.00 (every day).

Cinesur Ingenio

VÉLEZ-MÁLAGA. Avda Juan Carlos, 1. Tel: 667773187.
Dune: 19.00 (every day).
No Time to Die: 18.15 (Mon, Tues, Thurs)

Cine Albéniz

MÁLAGA. C/ Alcazaba, 4. Tel: 902360295. www.cinealbeniz.com
Dune: 17.00, 20.10 (Tues).
Cry Macho: 17.15, 19.15, 21.15

German Language Film Week

MÁLAGA. Cine Albéniz. C/ Alcazaba, 4. Tel: 902360295. www.cinealbeniz.com
Narziss und Goldmundo: 5 October, 7pm.
Es Gilt Das Gesprochene Wort: 6 October, 7.20pm.
In the Name of Scheherazade oder der erste Biergarten in Teheran: 6 October, 10pm.
Otto. 7 October, 11am.
Adam & Evelyn: 7 October, 7.20pm.
Coup: 7 October, 9.30pm.
Mein Ende Dein Anfang: 8 October, 7.15pm.
Walchensee Forever: 8 October, 21.45pm.
En Tránsito: 9 October, 7.15pm.
Goldfische: 9 October, 9.30pm

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ILLUSTRATION IVÁN BRAVO

Feeling more tired than usual? Maybe you no longer have the energy you used to have to carry out your daily routine? Did your libido disappear some time ago? Do you feel sad, without any apparent reason? The cause may be your testosterone.

The factors that can cause symptoms in men such as those described above are diverse, but the levels of this hormone are not always taken into account when looking for a reason for this general feeling of lethargy.

Despite the importance of testosterone for numerous biological processes, misconceptions surround it, and qualities which bear no relation to reality are often attributed to it. The drugs to increase the level of this hormone have become quite famous, but they have a dark side: if these (and some are as simple as a gel which is applied to the chest) are not

used under medical supervision, there can be some very unpleasant consequences.

Dr Ignacio Moncada, a specialist who is a member of the Spanish Andrology Society, and Carmen Pérez Blanco, a doctor of endocrinology and medical nutrition and the spokesperson for the Melio analysis platform, are here to help us gain greater understanding of the so-called potency hormone.



The more testosterone you have, the more strength and vigour. This hormone

is essential in developing strength and the musculature, as well as being involved in sexual vigour. However, it would be a mistake to believe that 'the more testosterone, the better...'

"When there has been no analysis carried out to confirm that someone lacks testosterone, and only the symptoms are taken

Truths and lies about the power of testosterone

Dangers. Now there are so many supplements to increase this hormone as a way of staying young, it is important to recognise the downsides

ROCÍO MENDOZA

into account, supplementing it can be dangerous," says Carmen Pérez Blanco.

The most immediate side effects include sexual dysfunction (yes, it does seem paradoxical), diminished fertility, cardiovascular alterations, liver toxicity and major mood disorders, such as aggressive behaviour.

"This hormone also increases the volume of red blood cells, which makes the blood thicker, and that increases the risk of cardiovascular problems," warns Ignacio Moncada. Enlarged breasts and increased sleep apnea are also among the symptoms.



It only matters to older men. It is true that tes-

tosterone drops with age, but unlike women, who inevitably suffer from a sudden, sharp drop in oestrogen with the menopause, the male hormone



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Testosterone levels start to drop between the ages of 35 and 40 and decrease by about one per cent a year on average

Medication should only be taken under strict medical supervision, but it can be obtained through unregulated channels

recedes gradually and not in everyone at the same pace.

But the margin is wide: it is not until a man is 90 years old that he can be considered to have reached the point of no return in the production of this substance.

However, it begins to drop between the ages of 35 and 40 and it decreases by about one per cent a year on average. Optimum levels have been established for every age and this is diagnosed through analysis.

"A test of testosterone levels is not often requested, but it is the only way of knowing. Pharmacies sell self-testing kits nowadays and they may become more popular now that people are more used to kits for self-testing due to the pandemic," says Pérez Blanco.

It's not only age that reduces it. Age is indeed its main enemy, but not the only one. Stress and obesity also have an effect. These two factors, prevalent in both sexes, directly alter this hormone.

"An increase in abdominal fat causes numerous endocrinous alterations, including a reduction in testosterone and an increase in its conversion to oestrogens, as well as an alteration in other substances that produce a negative biofeedback, reducing the gonadotropins and the testosterone even more," says the endocrinologist. And as for stress...

"High levels of cortisol directly inhibit the secretion of testosterone," she explains. Relaxation exercises and diaphragmatic breathing, medication and yoga can help. In addition to these factors, it can be weakened by congenital abnormalities, testicular damage through trauma, radiotherapy and damage to the pituitary gland, the organ that signals the testicle to produce testosterone.

Once lost, it cannot be recovered. Men believe that the loss of this hormone is something they have to accept as part of their biology, but that is not completely true: it can be recovered. However, this should only be done under medical control. There is a testosterone replacement therapy (TRT), which is applied if a deficit is diagnosed. This can improve desire, sexual function and performance, bone mineral density, body composition, mass and muscular strength, and also type 2 diabetes. These therapies are usually recommended for men aged between 45 and 55. "Older men tend not to consult their doctor about this," says Dr Moncada.

A deficiency affects more than the genital-sexual area. "Most of the men who consult their doctor do so because they are worried about erectile dysfunction, difficulty in completing sexual relations, or a lack of desire, and it is true that a lack of testosterone may compromise these. But in most of the cases we see, that isn't the cause. It is due to somatic problems such as fatigue, personal conflict, stress and other psychological factors," says Dr Moncada. But the consequences go beyond the sexual sphere, albeit this is the aspect that causes most concern. The symptoms include a reduction of muscle mass and strength, memory and cognitive function, as well as increased fat, reduced sensitivity to insulin, altered tolerance to glucose, triglycerides and high cholesterol. A lack of testosterone is also associated with mood changes, anxiety, insomnia and depression. Other parts of the body can sound a warning about the problem.

The more the better for male fertility. Whether applied through TRT or

taken as a supplement without medical supervision, an excess of testosterone can have negative effects and cause infertility. It seems strange, if you bear in mind that optimum levels are involved in sexual vigour and desire, but not in sperm production. On the contrary, "an excess of testosterone through supplements can cause testicular atrophy," says Dr Pérez Blanco. It confuses the body, which responds by blocking the production of sperm.

Certain foods and vitamins help to increase it. It is difficult, if not impossible, to make a pathology disappear with food and supplements alone. The same thing happens with testosterone. Strength exercises do increase muscle mass and raise the levels naturally "but that is not going to cure a problem," warns Dr Pérez Blanco. "Some sources say that certain foods, vitamins or supplements can increase the levels, but most of these claims are incomplete or are not even backed up by scientific study," she says. It is known, however, that zinc and vitamin D are important for the synthesis of testosterone and a lack of these micronutrients can have a negative effect. In cases such as these, supplements will help.

It doesn't only affect men. This may be the most widespread belief and it is the one which least corresponds to reality. This hormone does have some implications for the metabolism of women, specifically the ovarian function, but also intellectual performance and libido. "There are studies which show that a supplement can help women in this sense," says Dr Moncada. However, it is not a recommended treatment because of the side effects. Dr Pérez Blanco points out that high levels of testosterone and other androgens in women cause hirsutism (excessive hair on the face, chest, buttocks, abdomen and back), alterations in menstruation, alopecia and, most commonly, polycystic ovary syndrome.

Self-medication, under the spotlight. Testosterone medication is only sold under medical prescription, but self-medication is the order of the day because it can be obtained through unregulated channels and because supplements are

sold for athletes without this substance appearing on the label.

Dr Pérez Blanco says a Spanish study has shown that 14 per cent of supplements have been adulterated, but the true figure could be as high as 50 per cent. On one hand it is sometimes used illegally in sports competitions (doping), but on the other it is also used by people who exercise for leisure.

The therapy carries a risk: a growth of prostate cancer. This is the subject that causes most controversy around the possibility of treating abnormally low testosterone levels with drugs. But there are nuances. It does not mean that increasing the level of the hormone increases the risk of developing cancer. "In fact, this cancer appears when the man suffers a drop in testosterone," explains Dr Moncada. "What is known is that if cancer occurs, it accelerates its development. This is why the therapy should only be carried out under strict, regular medical control".

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The cross and the bottle

ANDREW J. LINN



Is it irreverent to hold a party in a graveyard? It could easily be considered quite the opposite: a celebration of life in a place usually shrouded in despondency and darkness.

It happened recently in Ciudad Lineal, Madrid, and coincidentally in Stockton-on-Tees

(UK). The first was organised by a group of youngsters intent on having a bottle party ('botellón') to relieve the tedium of the previous months' restrictions on social gatherings, and in the second case it was organised by the local vicar.

Unfortunately, the Madrid

crowd put up a fight when police arrived. An officer was injured and six arrests were made, while the Stockton-on-Tees vicar congratulated himself on the success of the four-day (some vicar, eh?) fund-raising event.

Tombstones were not used as tables, and people brought their own picnic equipment out of respect for the 'residents'. A local brewery supplied the beer.

Upsetting the devout

Few religions are anti-alcohol, but all are anti-overindulgence. Jesus was a regular imbibor, and the Koran praises

the positive qualities of wine. It is the danger of losing one's reserve that upsets the devout, since this leads to the removal of inhibitions that a sober person would never succumb to.

Obviously, the message is that they forget about moral behaviour and start committing iniquities.

Although there are many barroom jokes about clerics abusing communion wine, they actually have no need, as who criticises a clergyman for having a well-stocked cellar? The moral is simple: if you profess to love a god, don't make a habit of getting too pissed.

WINE OF THE WEEK

Viore Verdejo Sobre Lías

Most Rueda wines are easy drinking, well-priced, and refreshing. Sophistication is another matter. For those wanting a little more classiness, this white verdejo fills the bill. Matured with the leftovers from the grape pressing, rather than filtered, the result is depth and elegance and unusual aromas. Around €12.



The end of a sixty-year-old legend in Marbella

The restaurant has closed after sixty years as one of the most prestigious establishments on the Costa del Sol

JOAQUINA DUEÑAS

MARBELLA. For several years now, restaurant owner Santiago Domínguez has been saying he is going to retire but the pull of the kitchen stove has been too strong for him to resist. Until last week that is, when he announced that he would close the iconic restaurant on Marbella's promenade and hang up his chef's toque on 30 September.

His plans for the future, "To spend two months tossing and turning in bed. Do what I have not been able to do my whole life, sleep as much as I wanted," he said. "First I'll have a rest and then I'll think about what I'm going to do," he added.

Originally from Burgos, he arrived in Marbella in 1957, when the town was awakening to the growing tourism, and opened a beach bar right in front of where

his restaurant is today. He acquired the restaurant in 1972 and started up soon after.

Hundreds of movie stars, literary figures, politicians and artists have dined at his tables as it became the epicentre of gastronomy in the town with a cuisine based on the products and traditions of classic French cuisine.

With such an illustrious past he finds it impossible to choose a moment that he can say was the best of his career, "there have been many great moments, like when Onassis and Jacqueline Kennedy came, or when Onassis with Maria Callas visited. Or, on other occasions when Sophia Loren, Gina Lollobrigida, Jean-Paul Belmondo or Anthony Queen... There have been many, I would say thousands and I have about 20,000 photographs."

There is one niggling thing, one person he has never been able to feed because he wasn't able, himself. "When I've eaten here I've never been able to eat in one sitting. I've eaten half a plate of something and have had to get up or I've gone in to cook" he



Santiago announced his retirement during a dinner to which he invited representatives of the press. JOSELE

Hundreds of movie stars, literary figures, politicians and artists have dined at his tables

explains.

Eating at the Santiago restaurant is like eating at home. "For me, the most important thing is that the customer leaves happy," he admitted.

He has always greeted diners

and taken them to their table, paying attention to the smallest detail.

For now, the future of the building is unknown. Although it closed yesterday, and Santiago did not want to go into details, he did say that some of the staff were interested in continuing with the restaurant. For him, that would be ideal, that his employees might maintain the restaurant similar to how it was before. However, we will have to wait a few months to find out.



Santiago Domínguez. SUR



Malaga brush with a miracle in Gijón

Condemned by the sending off of Escassi early on, Malaga CF took the lead in a heroic first half, but pulled back too much after a change of tactics

SERGIO CORTÉS

MALAGA. Malaga CF were condemned almost from the very beginning of the match away against Sporting in Gijón, northern Spain, last Sunday. Despite this, they miraculously managed to score against a very strong home side, forcing Sporting's players to work hard to fight back after Juande's goal.

The sending off of Escassi in the seventh minute, even though it reduced Malaga's chances of scoring, brought out a team with more character, intensity and pride than the previous week.

This can be attributed to Malaga's humiliating defeat in their previous match in Ponferrada, which led José Alberto to change the structure of the team. He opted to 'return to their roots' by populating the centre of the field with Luis Muñoz and Jozabed, in exchange for removing a forward (Roberto).

In this way, the Malaga coach wanted to increase pressure. However, it was impossible to know the result of their coach's new plan, because after minute 6 the game changed radically due to Escassi's expulsion.

Genaro

José Alberto and his assistants pondered over including Genaro, but ultimately decided not to change the team. The 4-4-1 quickly became a 6-2-1 because Sporting's response included incorporating the full-backs as wingers (they played on the inside), which forced Kevin and Paulino to position themselves as wingers.

Despite this, Malaga were firm and left no gaps, capitalising on their opportunity in the twenty-sixth minute for Juande to score in a second play after a corner. Sporting's doubts were heightened and their coach soon included another striker (Campuzano) to try to balance the score. The Blue and Whites barely gave them a chance to score before half-time.

Malaga's heroic first half culminated in four bookings and

José Alberto opted to 'return to their roots' by populating the centre of the field with Luis Muñoz and Jozabed



The moment the referee showed the red card to Escassi. AGENCIA LOF

The club increases its salary cap

LaLiga has just announced the salary cap for all professional teams, especially highlighting the figures from Malaga, which are soaring in this Second Division classification. It occupies the fifth position in this category, with just over 12.7 million in wages, a figure that

includes the part destined for the planned workforce in expected income after the agreement of the club's employers' association with the CVC Capital fund. This new injection from CVC will reach all clubs proportionally, representing 15% of the total money they will receive, and will be dedicated to the squad and can be used once or over the next three years.

some exhausted footballers. José Alberto bowed under pressure after the break and removed Jozabed and Kevin. Lombán's entry at the back changed the scene, which in the end was a serious error.

The coach was probably looking to neutralise the presence of the two local strikers and not be dragged into defending with six players, but the inclusion of a third centre-back made the players back up excessively and unbalanced the midfield. Paulino and Luis Muñoz marked

Genaro, but left the sidelines exposed in an effort not to leave gaps on the inside.

Sporting took the ball and began the harassment and demolition of an exposed Malaga on the flanks. Two imbalances on the right, between the centre and the side, facilitated Djurdjevic's equaliser in minute 59 and Gaspar's goal in the 80th minute. Malaga CF's next test will come this Sunday (3 October), when they face Fuenlabrada at their La Rosaleda home ground.

SECOND DIVISION

Results

Real Sociedad B - Huesca	0-2
Almería - Tenerife	3-1
Ibiza - Burgos	2-0
Amorebieta - Eibar	1-1
Las Palmas - Ponferradina	2-1
Mirandés - Leganés	1-2
Sporting - Malaga	2-1
Oviedo - Girona	0-0
Lugo - Zaragoza	1-1
Valladolid - Alcorcón	2-0
Fuenlabrada - Cartagena	2-1

Table

Team	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	PT
1. Sporting	7	5	1	1	11	7	16
2. Almería	7	5	0	2	15	6	15
3. Ponferradina	7	5	0	2	10	5	15
4. Ibiza	7	2	5	0	9	6	11
5. Tenerife	7	3	2	2	8	6	11
6. Eibar	7	3	2	2	9	9	11
7. Huesca	7	3	1	3	10	7	10
8. Oviedo	7	2	4	1	8	6	10
9. Fuenlabrada	7	2	4	1	7	5	10
10. Mirandés	7	3	1	3	5	11	10
11. Las Palmas	7	2	4	1	8	8	10
12. Valladolid	7	3	1	3	7	7	10
13. Cartagena	7	3	0	4	6	10	9
14. Leganés	7	2	2	3	6	7	8
15. Girona	7	2	2	3	5	6	8
16. Malaga	7	2	2	3	6	10	8
17. Lugo	7	1	4	2	8	10	7
18. Zaragoza	7	1	4	2	5	7	7
19. Burgos	7	1	3	3	5	6	6
20. R. Sociedad B	7	1	3	3	4	7	6
21. Amorebieta	7	1	3	3	6	10	6
22. Alcorcón	7	1	0	6	4	13	3





A LOOK AT LA LIGA
ROB PALMER
Commentator, Sky Sports

A horror story

Real Madrid and Barcelona are accustomed to competing for titles... but not the title for the biggest laughing stock in European football

Real Madrid and Barcelona are accustomed to competing for titles... but not the title for the biggest laughing stock in European football.

Sports editors must be wrestling with what is the big-

gest story? One was a fairytale, the other a horror story.

The biggest sensation appeared to be the mighty Madrid losing to the previously anonymous champions of Moldova, but then Barcelona challenged their great rivals

for front page news with the humiliation by Benfica.

A club called Sheriff lends itself to headlines. The team from Tiraspol was only formed in 1997. By then Real Madrid had already been crowned champions of Europe six

times. Their last-minute goalscoring hero Sebastien Thill, a Luxembourg international, has covered both legs in tattoos depicting his dream of playing in the Champions League. I hope he has skin left to chronicle his story.

Remember Real Madrid hadn't played in front of fans at the Bernabéu for 580 days. This was supposed to be the glorious home coming.

It should have been the story of the season, yet it kept everyone's attention in Spain for just twenty-four hours.

Step aside Real Madrid, Barcelona needed to grab the limelight.

In fact, it was a dark night at the Stadium of Light.

Losing at Benfica isn't quite as big a story as losing at home to a team from Tiraspol, but it is accompanied by a huge side show.

The spotlight is burning so brightly on coach Ronald Koeman. Quite often they declare a crisis in Catalonia when it is merely a bad week at the office. This truly is serious. To say it is the lowest point in the

club's recent history is pretty accurate.

In normal times Koeman would be replaced. Alas, these times are far from normal, and the club can't afford to pay him off. It would cost around 6 million euros to wave goodbye and then find a willing replacement.

Given the financial restriction, they couldn't recruit a coach with the credibility to take on the role. It's reported that they could pay his replacement just a quarter of his salary.

To highlight the predicament at the Camp Nou we can use the 'Gerard Pique factor.' He was sent on for the final 15 minutes as an emergency striker to try to save the day against Granada. He was hauled off after 33 minutes against Benfica to save face.

Pique is clearly past his best and doesn't warrant a place in the team. Maybe to justify his wages they appoint him as player-coach?

Big decisions need to be taken at Football Club Barcelona. Koeman is due to watch the Atlético game from the stands as he serves a touchline ban. Does he deserve to patrol the touchline again?

It has been quite a week for the big two of Spanish football and makes a mockery of the proposed European Super League.

You can see why they don't want the likes of the pesky Portuguese or sharp shooting Sheriff in town.



Vinicius shows the strain during the Champions League match between Real Madrid and FC Sheriff Tiraspol. **EP**

Stadium capacity decision boosts Malaga season ticket campaign

The new measures mean 100 per cent of seats can be occupied at football matches and 80 per cent at basketball games from this Friday

MELCHOR SÁIZ-PARDO /
IGNACIO TYLKO

MALAGA. The decision made on Wednesday this week by regional and central governments to allow a return to full capacity at football matches comes as good news to Malaga CF.

The club are in the middle of their season ticket sales campaign and needed full capacity at La Rosaleda to allow for the influx of new ticket holders while maintaining the seats of the 19,000 current ones.

By Tuesday this week, more than 8,000 fans had already fully purchased their seats for the rest

of the season, which comprises 18 home games. The price of the seats is lower, and these new ticket holders will benefit from other advantages.

The most expensive season ticket, apart from the VIP area, costs 679 euros in zone 1 of the Tribuna, while the cheapest ticket will be in the 'Stand de Animación' (109 euros in total). The child pass stays at 60 euros.

Additionally, the club will compensate for the six games lost in the previous season due to the suspension of the championship (to those who requested it at the time).

The Interterritorial Council of the National Health System (CISNS) almost unanimously gave the green light for the expansion of capacity at the meeting on Wednesday, given the improvement of the coronavirus situation throughout the country.

The Ministry of Health initially announced that CISNS obliged both the National Professional Football League and the League of the Basketball Club Association (ACB) to "always guarantee a minimum interpersonal distance of 1.5 metres".

This condition was impossible to meet with full capacity, so finally the department requested that spectators should only "respect non-pharmacological measures of protection against Covid", without specifying distances.

Season ticket holders

The Health Ministry announced that the attendees of the events "will preferably be season ticket holders, as well as local fans" and that training will ideally be carried out without spectators.

The CISNS approved maintaining other limitations such as the ban on eating and drink-



Fans queue to purchase their tickets at La Rosaleda. **SUR**

ing in the stands. Furthermore, only water can be sold and consumed.

In addition, the council prohibits smoking, and it will be mandatory to wear a mask at all times in sports venues, even if they are open and ventilated, and entrances and exits will continue to be controlled to avoid

crowds.

These measures will be implemented for the entire country from 1 October and in the last week of the month a new assessment of the situation will be carried out. Malaga's next home fixture will be this Sunday, 3 October, against Fuenlabrada at 4pm.

Cricket tournament gets ready for finals week

The third week of the European Cricket Championship 2021 is drawing to a close at the Cártama Oval

NEVE MATTHEWS

MALAGA. The third week of the inaugural Dream11 European Cricket Championship 2021 is wrapping up at Cártama Oval this Friday.

Ahead is a weekend of rest and, from Monday, spectators return to this free event for the final play-offs of the best teams so far

Group C, consisting of representative sides from England, Germany, Czech Republic, Italy and Finland, were this week all chasing a coveted spot at the final, Championship Week.

On Thursday this week, England XI were top of the points table with 12, Germany second with 8, followed by the Czech Republic's 6, Italy's 4 and Finland's 2.

Change of fortune

Italy, having started off dismally with four straight defeats, managed to turn their luck around on

Wednesday this week, clinching not just one but two wins against the Finland side and the previously unbeatable English XI team

Germany also came into their own on Wednesday, playing confidently to win two matches against the Czech Republic and Finland.

Later on that day, England XI were able to rally from their shocking defeat at the hands of the Italian team to conquer the Czech Republic by 72 runs.

Despite these defeats, it is predicted that the Czech Republic will progress to the knockout stages of the tournament alongside the teams from England and Germany.

Sharn Gomes, playing for Portugal, is still the highest run-scorer of the tournament.

He racked up 349 runs during the Group B round-robin matches, with his best performance being an unbeaten 78. With a spectacular strike rate of 192.81, he struck 25 fours and sixes apiece.

Junaid Khan, Thomas Vine and Imran Khan, representing Portugal, have kept their positions as joint-highest wicket-takers.

The bowlers have all taken 14



It has been an action-filled week so far at the Cártama Oval. ECN

wickets and have gained their places on the charts based on their economy rates (the average number of runs conceded per over bowled).

Group C continue their matches today (Friday), with the eliminator, qualifiers and final determining which two sides face Belgium and Spain from Group A and Group B's Netherlands and Austria in the Championship Week next week. Play continues on Monday until Friday 8 October.



A fielder dives for the ball. ECN



A moment of action. ECN



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SPORT IN PICTURES



▲ Golf.

The 30th edition of the Semana de Golf (Golf Week) event came to an end last weekend with the 'Real Club El Candado' tournament. A total of five tournaments have been held at the Malaga club, adapted to the different levels of players and competition modalities with more than 250 players taking part in total. **SUR**



▲ Padel.

The best player from Malaga province on the world padel tour, Bea González, has already confirmed who will be her new competition partner for the remainder of the season. She will be playing alongside none other than the 25-year-old former Madrid number one Marta Ortega. **WORLD PADEL TOUR**



▲ Karate.

Malaga's Olympic karate silver medallist Damián Quintero had the honour of being the special guest at an institutional lunch held by the King and Queen of Spain this week. The royals had invited Quintero to attend the meal in honour of the president of Angola and his wife. **CASA REAL**

▶ Tennis.

Alejandro Davidovich lost in the first round of the ATP 250 in Sofia (Bulgaria) against the Frenchman Benoît Paire by 6-4 and 7-5. The young Malaga player, 43rd in the world, started as the seventh seed in the tournament, but could not get beyond the first match. **AFP**



▲ F1.

A new performance by Carlos Sainz has helped cement the opinion that the Madrid driver will clinch a Formula 1 Grand Prix win for Ferrari in the future. His race in a rainy Sochi on Sunday served to enforce this belief. Having qualified second, Sainz converted his starting position on the front row to a podium finish - his fifth career podium. **AGENCIES**

▶ Motorcycling.

Fifteen-year-old Spanish motorcycle racer Dean Berta Viñales died on Saturday in an accident at the Jerez circuit. The youngster was taking part in the first Supersport 300 race of the World Superbike Championship. The tragedy comes just two months after 14-year-old motorcycle racer Hugo Millán of Huelva died at the Alcañiz circuit. **EFE**



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National Police	091
Local (municipal) Police	092
Medical	061
Fire	080
Guardia Civil	062
Sea Rescue	900202202
Crime report	902102112

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Samaritans in Spain	900525100
Alcoholics Anonymous	600379110
Age Care	952933409
Age Concern (Estepona)	608458555

ANDALUSIAN HEALTH SERVICE

Salud Responde (Doctors' appointments and advice)	955545060
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Taxi Service	952802900
Tourist Office	952802002
Town Hall	952801100
Foreign Residents Dept.	952809031

FUENGIROLA

Bus Station	952475066
Taxi Service	952471000
Tourist Office	952467625
Town Hall	952589300
Foreign Residents Dept.	952589440

MALAGA

Bus Station	952350061
Railway Station	902240202
Taxi Service	952345693
Tourist Office	951926020

MARBELLA

Bus Station	955038665
Taxi Service	952774488
Tourist Office	952768760
Town Hall	952761100
Foreign Residents Dept.	952768760

MIJAS

Town Hall	952485900
Town Hall Las Lagunas	952473125
Taxi	952478288
Tourism Office	952589034
Foreign Resident Dept.	952589010

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Bus Station	902422242
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Tourist Information	952521531

Town Hall	952548400
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Tourist Office	952371909
Town Hall	952379400
Foreign Residents Dept.	952374231

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Tourist Office	952442494
Town Hall	952374231
Foreign Residents Dept.	952442494

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Taxi	952540016
Town Hall	952559100
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900 400 061

Coronavirus information


955 545 060

Other emergencies


061 / 112

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


THE STARS




Aquarius
January 21st - February 19th
An idea or opportunity may seem too good to be true, but in this case it isn't. Don't take too long to decide, as it might not be around for long.




Pisces
February 20th - March 20th
It's not a good idea to tell everyone you're fine when you're not. Get it all out in the open, and it might not seem half so bad.




Aries
March 21st - April 20th
The New Moon aligns with Mars, encouraging you to cut out all the hot air and say it like it is. This influence can inspire an honest approach.




Taurus
April 21st - May 21st
The New Moon is perfect for starting a plan, project or a new habit, and with Mars involved you could be an inspiration to others.




Gemini
May 22nd - June 21st
Whether solo or spoken for, this week might make you very open about your feelings, while positive energies suggest they may be reciprocated.




Cancer
June 22nd - July 23rd
Venus moves into Sagittarius and your lifestyle zone, which could inspire a taste for food, healthy living ideas and philosophies from other countries and cultures.




Leo
July 24th - August 23rd
The New Moon can find you busy with discussions and appointments. As Venus sashays into Sagittarius, romance might be an option when you travel or try something new.




Virgo
August 24th - September 23rd
One or more issues may require attention, or you might be keen to start a new job. The sooner the better. Life at home moves into a happy and creative groove as Venus enters Sagittarius.




Libra
September 24th - October 23rd
Have a big dream or desire you're keen to realize? Take those first steps from midweek and progress could be swift. Don't hold back or try to be too nice, as people will appreciate honesty.



Scorpio
October 24th - November 22nd
Next week could bring a turn-around as the New Moon inspires you to do something about a situation that seems hopeless. Tapping into your inner strength can leave you victorious.

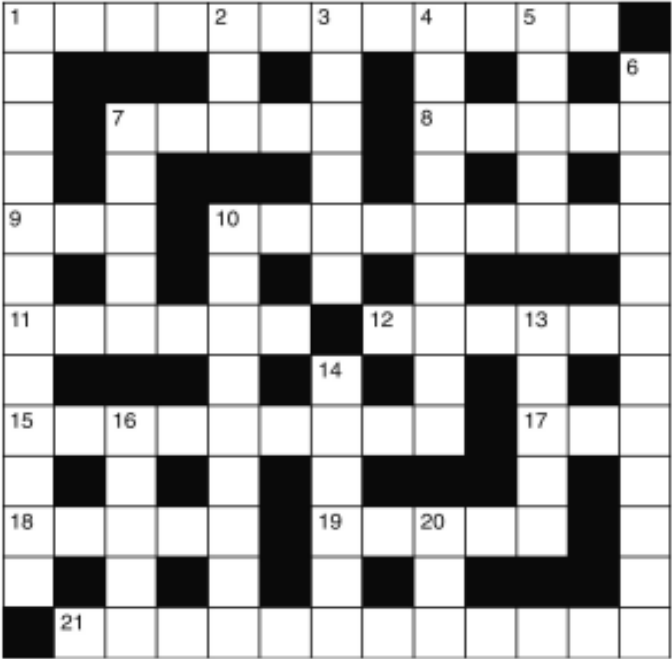


Sagittarius
November 23rd - December 21st
Keen to enhance your social media presence? Now is the time. Does your love life lack sparkle? This is an excellent time for dating or spending quality time with your partner.



Capricorn
December 22nd - January 20th
Next week's New Moon comes at the perfect time to take steps towards a major goal. As it occurs in a high-flying zone you'll get maximum exposure if you want to showcase your skills.

CRYPTIC CROSSWORD N° 11481



- Across
- 1 Making clerical garb can be addictive (5-7)
- 7 Vessel I had given to Eros (5)
- 8 Take steps to provide support (5)
- 9 Spring but not in Spain (3)
- 10 Flight you take before landing? (9)
- 11 Get to a bin, perhaps (6)
- 12 Like to go by boat to attack (6)
- 15 His long PS about Viking vessels (9)
- 17 Taking car around curve (3)
- 18 Some label items as 'The Chosen Few' (5)
- 19 Deserve a new timer (5)
- 21 One rota Elvis devised as a raison d'être (6,2,4)
- Down
- 1 Ought to hide in more difficult place on the motorway (4,8)
- 2 Hint at a gratuity (3)
- 3 Reload wrongly for a trying experience (6)
- 4 Doesn't believe that thir fog corrodes (9)
- 5 And not mother's girl (5)
- 6 A point to follow in race (12)
- 7 Make boats (5)
- 10 Matchless women? (9)
- 13 One role that's isolated (5)
- 14 Killer taking ham tin out (6)
- 16 One is unusually sound (5)
- 20 A city of various characters (3)

SUDOKU BY HANZO

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

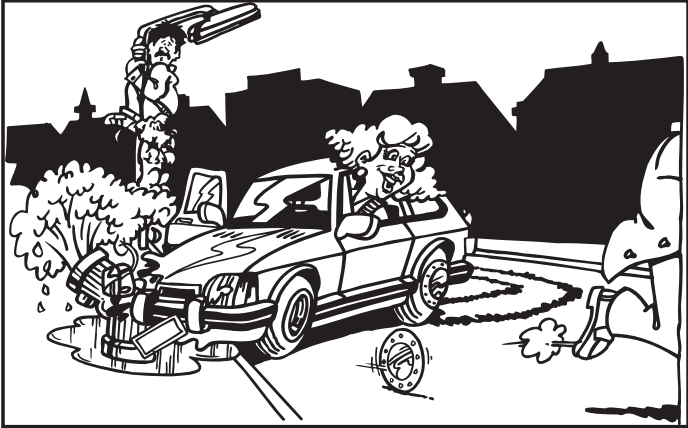
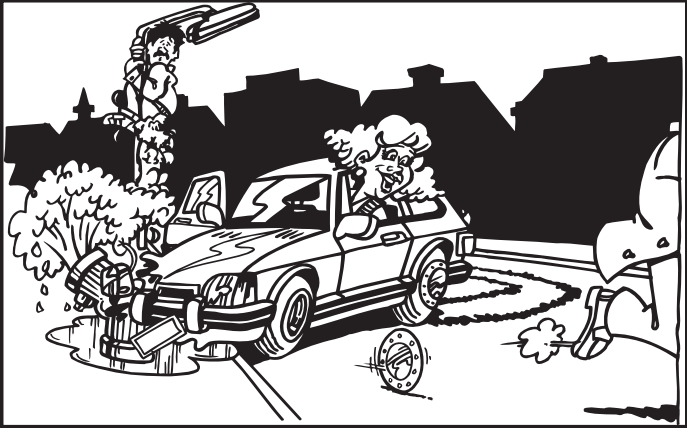
4	7				9			
	3		8				6	
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2						5		
1			5	6	3			
7							3	4
	4	2				6		
				7	1		8	
6			2					

THE WORDPUZZLER

D	R	A	W	E	S	T	E	A	S
R	O	A	R	C	E	M	E	N	P
E	B	L	A	M	B	U	L	G	E
F	O	R	T	I	T	U	R	E	A
T	S	E	H	O	O	N	G	L	C
I	T	G	E	L	J	T	I	S	E
P	O	N	D	E	A	R	R	E	L
O	N	B	A	E	M	U	L	R	L
N	E	W	Y	R	E	M	I	A	
T	S	E	S	O	S	P	E	A	R





- Can you identify the words missing from the titles of the Henry Fonda films listed below?
1. The Grapes of ---
2. The Return of Frank ---
3. The Battle of the ---
4. On Golden ---
5. Sex and the Single ---
6. The --- Strangler
7. War and ---
8. The Longest ---
9. How the --- Was Won
10. --- Apache

THE SEVEN DIFFERENCES



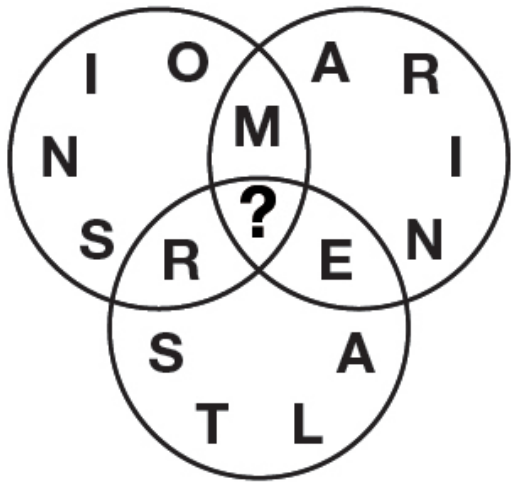
BATTLESHIPS

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.

-  Battleship
-  Cruiser
-  Destroyers
-  Submarines

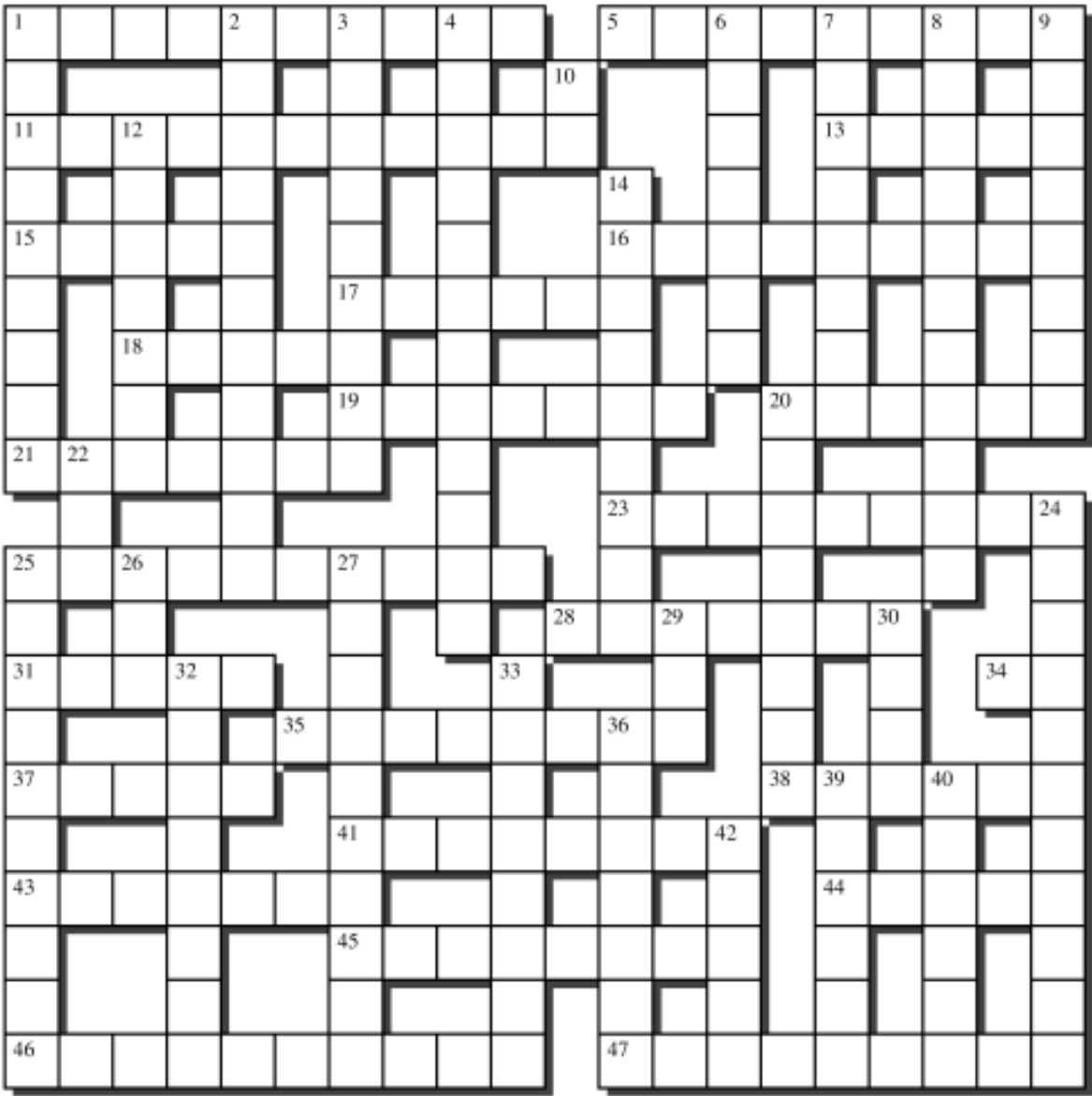
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
A											2
B											1
C											2
D											2
E											2
F											1
G											2
H											2
I											1
J											5
	1	4	1	1	4	1	1	4	2	1	

CIRCLEGRAM



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

LANGUAGE CROSSWORD FILL IN THE SPANISH WORD



- Across
- Down
- 1) Bloody (m) (10)

5) Activity (9)

11) Edible (pl) (11)

13) Houses (5)

15) They (m) (5)

16) Left (9)

17) Bargain (6)

18) I chose (5)

19) To offend (7)

20) You are (pl) (6)

21) You offer (7)

23) Driver (m) (9)

25) Stepfathers (10)

28) Punishment (7)

31) I evaded (5)

34) You (2)

35) Seriousness (8)

37) Unhurt (m) (5)

38) Servile (6)

41) Waste (8)

43) I understood (7)

44) Brandy (5)

45) Branch (8)

46) Businessman (10)

47) Murder (9)
- 1) Kidnapping (9)

2) Resistance (11)

3) Buildings (9)

4) They phoned (12)

6) Partition wall (7)

7) Victims (8)

8) You destroyed (11)

9) Shots (8)

10) Ace (2)

12) To mould (7)

14) Violence (9)

20) Sloe berries (8)

22) Ugly (f) (3)

24) Republican (m) (11)

25) President (10)

26) Day (3)

27) Terrorist (10)

29) Thirst (3)

30) Smell (4)

32) To clear (8)

33) Vehicle (8)

36) Bet (7)

39) I chose (6)

40) Cartoon (6)

42) I jumped (5)

QUIZ

What type of volcano is broad with gentle slopes?

- 1.Shield 2. Cinder Cone
3. Caldera 4. Stratovolcano



Where in the world is the volcano Teide situated?

1. Palma 2. Tenerife 3. Sicily
4. Martinique

Where are three quarters of the word's active volcanoes found?

1. on islands 2. on mountains
3. underwater 4. hotspots

THE SUR IN ENGLISH COLUMN

Keep one eye online

Early every Friday morning the SUR in English newspapers are packaged up, loaded into vans and distributed around Andalucía and Gibraltar. More than 43,000 copies land on the doorsteps of news-agents, supermarkets, shops and offices across the region.

While our readership, circulation and client figures prove that the print edition of SUR in English is still as strong as ever, many readers are also familiar with our website - surinenglish.com - which has been around since 1996.

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Readers can now look forward to exciting changes to the web very soon, so over the next few days keep one eye on surinenglish.com - the perfect complement to the print edition.

ANSWERS

Quiz answers

Answer: Shield volcano
Of interest: A shield volcano is very wide with gentle slopes making it one of the biggest types of volcano. The Stratovolcano is more common and has very steep slopes.
Answer: Tenerife
Of interest: Measured from the ocean floor, Mount Teide is the fourth-highest volcano in the world (at 7,500 m) and is described by UNESCO and NASA as Earth's third-tallest volcanic structure. It last erupted in 1909.
Answer: Underwater
Of interest: The majority of the Earth's volcanoes are hidden from view, occurring on the ocean floor along spreading ridges.

Circlegram

The letter represented by the question mark is C. Crimson, carmine, scarlet, all shades of red.

Cryptic Crossword

Solutions: Across: 1 Habit-forming; 7 Cupid; 8 Shut; 9 Spit; 10 Staircase; 11 Obtain; 12 Assail; 15 Longships; 17 Arc; 18 Elite; 19 Merit; 21 Reason to live. Down: 1 Hard shoulder; 2 Tip; 3 Order; 4 Mistrust; 5 Normal; 6 Sleepchase; 7 Craft; 10 Spinners; 13 Apart; 14 Filmmaker; 16 Noble; 20 Rio.

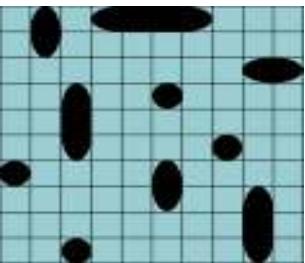
Wordpuzzler solution

1. Wrath
2. James
3. Bulge
4. Pond
5. Gilt
6. Boston
7. Peace
8. Day
9. West
10. Fort

Language Crossword

ACROSS:
1. LANGUERMENTO 5. ACTIVIDAD
11. COMESTIBLES 13. CASAS 15. ELLOS
16. ZOUHERDA 17. CHOLLO 18. ELLEGI
19. ONDER 20. STAS 21. ORFECES
22. CONDUCTOR 23. ANDRASTROS 24. CASTIGO
25. VADI 26. T 27. GRAYVAD 28. ILISO
29. SERVIL 30. RESIDUOS 31. ENTENDI
32. CONAC 33. CURSAL 34. IMPRESARIO
35. ASINATO
DOWN:
1. SECUESTRO 2. RESISTENCIA 3. EDIFICIOS
4. TELLEFONARON 6. TABIQUE 7. VICTIMAS
8. DESTROZASTE 9. DIPAROS 10. AS
12. MOLEBAR 14. VOLCANIA 20. ENRIAS
22. FEA 24. REPUBLICANO 25. PRESIDENTE
26. DIA 27. TERRORISTA 28. ED 30. LOR
32. DESFIAR 33. VEHCULO 34. PUESTA
35. ESCOGI 40. NIETA 42. SALITE

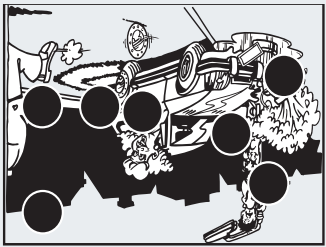
Battleships



Sudoku solution

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

The seven differences



The CAC introduces the ironic sculptures of Mark Whalen to the city

Malaga Contemporary Art Centre is showing the first individual exhibition in Spain by this Australian artist who now lives in Los Angeles, USA

ANTONIO JAVIER LÓPEZ

MALAGA. The Contemporary Arts Centre is now hosting an exhibition called 'I am just here' by artist Mark Whalen, whose work is halfway between 'kitsch' and pop with hints of surrealism and in which his gaze is set on everyday life. "I want to create sculptures that provoke sensations and feelings," he said at the presentation of his first individual exhibition in Spain. It consists of 22 pieces created specifically for this show, which can be seen at the CAC until 28 November.

Unusually for the CAC, the normally white walls have been painted pale pink to set off Whalen's works, something which was the artist's choice. "The colour contrasts with the sensations that some of my works produce, and I find that exciting," he said.

The curator of the display, Patricia Bueno del Río, describes his works as reflecting an existential restlessness, especially in the expressions of pain on some of the faces created by the artist. "Whalen creates myths and opens the Pandora's box of the subconscious," she says.

THE EXHIBITION

- **Title.** I Am Just Here.
- **Artist.** Mark Whalen.
- **Venue.** CAC Málaga.
- **Date.** Until 28 November.



Mark Whalen poses with his work 'hear no, see no, say no'. MIGUE FERNÁNDEZ



Detail of the piece 'happy go lucky', which forms part of the exhibition at the CAC.

MIGUE FERNÁNDEZ



The exhibition can be visited until 28 November. MIGUE FERNÁNDEZ



'group session'. MIGUE FERNÁNDEZ

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