



MIGUE FERNÁNDEZ

## Driver shortage leads to cancellation of 34 trains a day on the local Costa del Sol lines

The services - 32 on the Fuengirola line and two on the Álora line - have been struck off the timetable indefinitely

After days of chaos caused by unexpected cancellations and delays on the Cercanías local railway services in Malaga province, the operator Renfe has now removed 34 trains from its daily timetables indefinitely. The disruptions on the lines have been ongoing for several weeks, due to a shortage of train drivers. Renfe has said that the problem will be solved in the coming months once a new intake of drivers have finished their training, although no guarantee has been given that the cancelled services will be reinstated. Frustrated passengers this week have slammed what has always been considered a reliable and popular service. **P4**



FRANCIS SILVA

### Banderas brings Company to Soho

The actor and director delivers a dose of Broadway glamour at his Malaga theatre from next week with his new musical production. **P22**

**Costa towns and the pollution test: do they have enough green spaces and how clean is the air** **P2**

**Andalucía president commits to a 41% reduction in emissions by 2030 at Glasgow summit** **P3**

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# Malaga fails the pollution test: the city needs more green spaces but Costa towns fare better

The university is working on a study of nearly 1,000 cities in Europe which links pollution to 600 avoidable deaths a year in Malaga city

IGNACIO LILLO



MALAGA. For the first time, a Europe-wide study of cities has linked a lack of green spaces and atmospheric contamination with the number of avoidable deaths. And Malaga does not exactly come out of it well. The capital of the Costa del Sol appears among the places in which a higher number of deaths could have been prevented if there had been more greenery and less pollution.

In the specific case of Malaga city, the report calculates that some 600 deaths a year are related to air quality, taking into account the amount of vegetation and the contamination by particles (PM 2.5) and nitrogen dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>), according to the extensive study, which was led by researchers at the Global Health Institute of Barcelona (ISGlobal), which the Faculty of Sciences at Malaga university (UMA) is working on to draw local conclusions.

These include the fact that two out of every three residents live in districts with less vegetation than is recommended for them to be healthy, and with major differences between the eastern and western areas of the city.

After looking at the cities which form part of a single metropolitan area, the final ranking includes 858 population centres. The data reads inversely, in other words the top place is the city with the worst mortality figures, and the 858th position has the best results.

When analysed by the contamination layer, two Italian cities (Brescia and Bergamo) are in the top positions, while Umea in Sweden and Oulu in Finland are the healthiest. In terms of green spaces, two other Italian cities - Trieste and Turin - hold the unfortunate honour of being in worst place, while Santa Lucía de Tirajana (Gran Canaria) and Paredes, in Portugal, are rated the best.

### Situation in the province

In the case of Malaga, when it comes to the vegetation index the city is in the lower half of the table, in 506th position, which is positive. However, it is in the

## Urban health in Malaga and Costa towns

Ordered from worst to best result in mortality related to each factor and European (EUR), Spanish (ESP) and Andalusian (AND) ranking

Below European average

Above average

### VEGETATION INDEX

EUR	ESP	AND	City/Town	Vegetation index	Population below target NDVI levels	Avoidable deaths per year*
304	17	5	Fuengirola	0.272	63.08%	11
506	35	10	Malaga	0.28	62.32%	75
620	46	14	Marbella	0.43	54.62%	13
678	50	16	Benalmádena	0.345	62.35%	5
757	57	18	Torremolinos	0.296	69.33%	5

### GREEN AREAS

EUR	ESP	AND	City/Town	Percentage of green areas (GA)	Population below 25% GA	Avoidable deaths per year*
196	12	7	Fuengirola	25.17%	78.16%	6
413	25	12	Malaga	45.43%	61.72%	39
426	27	14	Benalmádena	28.73%	69.53%	4
681	60	20	Torremolinos	27.64%	71.05%	3
772	74	22	Marbella	41.08%	48.95%	5

### AIR POLLUTION: PARTICLES

EUR	ESP	AND	City/Town	Annual average levels of fine particles in µg/m <sup>3</sup>	Avoidable deaths per year*
328	24	5	Malaga	13.4	109
477	40	9	Fuengirola	13.3	10
516	44	11	Torremolinos	13.2	9
616	59	17	Marbella	12.6	14
662	65	19	Benalmádena	11.9	4

### AIR POLLUTION: NO<sub>2</sub>

EUR	ESP	AND	City/Town	Annual average levels of nitrogen dioxide µg/m <sup>3</sup>
196	11	3	Malaga	26.2
464	36	8	Fuengirola	23.6
498	43	10	Torremolinos	23.4
708	63	15	Marbella	20.6
726	69	17	Benalmádena	20.6

Source: ISGlobal  
(\* Number of deaths a year that could be avoided if the city or town met WHO recommendations)

INFOGRAPHIC: E. HINOJOSA

higher part of the ranking in Spain (number 35, negative) and is number 10 of 22 Andalusian towns and cities.

In this case, the worst aspect is the difference between districts: 62 per cent of people in Malaga, which is practically two out of every three, live in streets with a Normalised Difference Vegetation Index (NDVI) below the recommended level, basically the most densely populated districts in the west of the city. Only 38 per cent have enough vegetation near their home, especially in the eastern districts.

This is the cause of 75 deaths a year which could have been avoided. Another 204 deaths can be attributed to contamination from nitrogen dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>); and 304 others from high concentrations of suspended particulate matter (PM 2.5), the report says. In fact, the city comes out particularly badly when the NO<sub>2</sub> is measured, as it is in 196th place, in the upper part of the table, above the EU average; and the same occurs with the concentration of particles (328th place).

### Torremolinos, one of the best

The document takes five municipalities on the Costa del Sol into account, as it considers them part of the Malaga metropolitan area.

Fuengirola is worst-placed, in 304th position, followed by Malaga. Marbella does somewhat better (620) and stands out for the fact that half of its population has sufficient vegetation. It is followed by Benalmádena (678), and the town which is among the best in the EU on the vegetation index: Torremolinos, at 757. Even so, there are still notable differences between districts, as seven out of every ten people live below the optimum level in terms of green spaces.

In Andalucía, the city of Cadiz is considered the worst in all of Europe when only the variable

### EMISSIONS FROM CARS

196

Nitrogen dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>) is the most serious pollutant in Malaga city, which is dangerously high on the European table (number 1 is the worst) because of the number of private vehicles on the roads.

of green spaces is taken into account; and several municipalities in the same province are in the leading group. Seville also ranks poorly: it is 92nd in the EU, with 87 avoidable deaths each year from this cause. At the other extreme, the best European towns and cities in which to live - according to this variable - is Marbella.

The air pollution classification is based on a mortality burden score for each place. The scores have been calculated with an algorithm which takes into account the death rates, the percentage of deaths which could have been avoided and the years of life lost by each air contaminant and the lack of vegetation. The list is available on the website for anybody who is interested in knowing more: [isglobal-ranking.org/es/inicio](http://isglobal-ranking.org/es/inicio).

The team at the Global Health Institute of Barcelona (ISGlobal) has estimated for the first time the impacts of the lack of exposure to green spaces upon health in Europe at an urban level and its consequences on citizens' health. The researchers have estimated the annual mortality from a lack of green spaces, taking the World Health Organisation (WHO) reference of 10 square metres per inhabitant as a reference.

There are two results from the lists: one for the Normalised Difference Vegetation Index (NDVI) and the other for the percentage of green area (% GA).

## Enrique Salvo: "Malaga is divided into two when it comes to vegetation"

I. LILLO

MALAGA. "When it comes to vegetation, we're in no position to celebrate with fireworks here in Malaga city," says Enrique Salvo Tierra, a botanist, lecturer in Environmental Sciences at the university and director of the chairs for Nature Conservation at the International Uni-

versity of Andalucía (UNIA) and FyM of Climate Change. "The city is divided into two from the point of view of vegetation," he explains.

On one hand the eastern side, from the river towards the east, has a high density of green spaces, but the western side is completely the opposite, with a significant deficit and there-

fore "a low ability to filter the contaminants because of the lack of vegetation, and everything related with the amount of traffic".

This is why, for this researcher, it is imperative to favour the so-called 15-minute city concept, which refers to the time needed to go about daily life on foot or by non-polluting means, and also to invest more in sustainable transport systems "and, of course, plant trees in the streets".

The report by the Global

Health Institute of Barcelona, on which Salvo is working to draw conclusions at a local level, takes particular account of the lack of exposure to green spaces on the health of citizens with two variables: the existing vegetation (not necessarily green spaces) on riverbanks, in urban woodland and tree-lined streets, and the percentage of green spaces per inhabitant. It is in this way that a ranking has been drawn up which estimates the impact of air pollution on the health of Europeans.



# Junta commits to climate change target at Glasgow summit

Juanma Moreno, who also met with the Scottish first minister, said that Andalucía was capable of being Europe's biggest renewable energy producing region

JOSÉ LUIS PIEDRA

SEVILLE. The president of the Junta de Andalucía, Juanma Moreno, has shown the commitment of his regional government in the fight against climate change, with a target of a 41 per cent reduction of greenhouse gas emissions for 2030 in the region.

He spoke of this objective, which is included in the recently approved Andalusian climate action plan, during his visit to the United Nations Cop26 climate summit this week in Glasgow.

During his visit Moreno also held a bilateral meeting on Sunday with the first minister of Scotland, Nicola Sturgeon.

Speaking at the summit, Moreno highlighted the "greater involvement" of Andalucía in the challenge of the fight against climate change which has allowed it to go beyond the objectives set out by Spain's national government.

The Andalusian president said, "We have already achieved that 61 per cent of the energy we generate in Andalucía is clean and free of CO2 emissions." He added, "Andalucía is a pioneer in this fight and we will continue to be the spearhead, because we are the most vulnerable region in Spain and Europe."

## Climate emergency

"We are in a climate emergency situation, so it is important that Andalucía participates and actively commits itself to the fight against climate change," said Moreno.

The president pointed out, "The common objective is to make a much more sustainable planet so that the next generations - our children and grandchildren - do not



Andalusian president Juanma Moreno with Scottish first minister Nicola Sturgeon. **SUR**

suffer the catastrophe caused by climate change."

Moreno's agenda was completed on Sunday with a bilateral meeting with the president of the German State of Baden-Württemberg, Winfried Kretschmann, and his delegation, and with the secretary of Environmental Protection and Natural Resources of California, Ware Crowfoot.

## Renewable energy

Andalucía has everything it needs to be Europe's biggest producer

of renewable energy, Moreno told the summit on Tuesday.

The regional president stressed the around a thousand projects on the table for the generation of electricity with renewable energy in Andalucía, with an investment of 23.4 billion euros, providing employment for 70,000 people.

Moreno met with business owners and directors from the energy sector to discuss the projects. He highlighted the key role of the circular economy for sus-

tainable development and in the conservation of the environmental heritage of the region.

"There is a green economy that can generate employment, wealth and well-being and Andalucía is in a position to be leader, as we have all the conditions and all the material to become the biggest region in Europe in sustainable energy production," he said.

He stressed the importance of local and regional policies in the global fight against climate change.

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# Renfe cancels 34 local trains a day on the Costa del Sol's Cercanías lines

The services have been struck off the timetables indefinitely after days of cancellations due to driver shortages

ENRIQUE MIRANDA / JUAN SOTO

MALAGA. Following chaos on the two Cercanías local rail lines in Malaga province in recent months due to a shortage of train drivers, the national rail operator Renfe has decided to restructure its timetables and indefinitely cancel some of these local services.

The move comes after several days of cancellations with little prior warning, causing headaches for passengers on the lines between Malaga and Fuengirola and Malaga and Álora.

On Wednesday this week, 40 trains were cancelled, 36 of them on the C1 Malaga-Fuengirola line, one of the most profitable in the country. This amounted to a third of the day's timetable, causing the long waits that have become commonplace in recent weeks.

On Thursday this week, the operator announced that some 34 trains a day would be indefinitely struck off the timetable: 32 services between Malaga and Fuengirola (16 in each direction) and two on the line to Álora (one in each direction).

Behind the problem is the shortage of train drivers, which was made worse this week when two drivers were moved to the AVE high-speed service.

Sources at the CGT union said earlier this week that retirements at the beginning of December would add to the problem.

Renfe says that problem of the



Passengers board one of the trains on the C1 line at a Malaga train station on Wednesday. SALVADOR SALAS

lack of staff will be solved when the more-than-900 drivers nationally, who will be trained over the coming months, are gradually incorporated into the workforce. There is no guarantee, however, of when the cancelled trains will be reinstated.

"It's like a daily surprise to know whether you are going to get to work on time or not," said Alexis García who uses the Fuengirola to Malaga line. "More than once I've had to get an Uber that costs me 30 euros to get to work," added the young passenger.

The C1 line along the Costa del Sol has always had a reputation for being a frequent, reliable and

punctual service. Now users are less confident.

"I get the feeling that they're killing the service. They leave us stranded time and time again and the majority of users don't have alternative means of getting into Malaga," said Sergio, another regular user.

The mayor of Malaga, Francisco de la Torre, expressed on Wednesday his fears that the problems on the local line would damage the image of this form of public transport.

"It's a shame because the Costa line is one of the most successful and with the most users," he said. He regretted that a pub-

lic company such as Renfe had not planned in advance to cover the shortages, and was confident that the service would be back to normal as soon as possible.

## "Patience"

Meanwhile the central government's delegate in the province of Malaga, Javier Salas, called for "patience" and blamed the previous government.

Even though the Socialist party has been government in Madrid since 2018, he said that they had inherited a difficult situation as the previous Conservative government had made significant cuts in employment.

## Junta outlines plan for free Wi-Fi access for residents and visitors across the whole of Andalucía

The regional government's 250-million-euro Plan Vuela will create "one of the largest Wi-Fi networks in the whole of Europe"

IGNACIO LILLO

MALAGA. Free Wi-Fi access for residents and visitors in all the towns and villages of Andalucía

is one of the main pillars of the Andalusian regional government's Plan Vuela, which was presented this Tuesday in Seville.

Elías Bendodo outlined the Junta's 250-million-euro digital strategy, which will first provide internet access nodes in 10,500 of its offices and centres in the region - including hospitals, schools, libraries, museums and administrative centres.

The objective is, according to Bendodo, to facilitate procedures, reduce travel, promote remote working and to create "one of the largest Wi-Fi networks in the whole of Europe".

## Remote working

A key part of the initiative, will be the modernisation of the 760 Guadalinfo centres across the region, which from now on will also offer a free Wi-Fi zone and

space for teleworking; or, as the spokesperson put it: "Their own office for those who need it."

## First access point

Bendodo announced that in the coming weeks the first Vuela de Andalucía access point will be officially unveiled. "Plan Vuela is connectivity without barriers, to end the digital divide, combat the depopulation of the inland areas and promote digital learning," he said.

"It is about advancing the effectiveness and efficiency of public services to make life easier for people," said Bendodo.

The spokesperson added that digitalisation will be the third engine to drive the Andalusian economy in the future, along with the agriculture and tourism sectors.

## HERE AND THERE

### MALAGA

## City plans to bring in 'park and ride' system

F. JIMÉNEZ. The city of Malaga is planning to set up a clear network of large 'park and ride' car parks at four strategic entry points around the city in order to discourage people from driving into the centre.

The four sites will all be close to the metro or good bus services into town. The sites would be: in the southwest by Martín Carpena arena; in the northwest by the Hospital Clínico; in the north in Ciudad Jardín; in the east at La Araña.

### MALAGA

## McArthurGlen Outlet to offer discounts

A. NOGUÉS. An environmentally friendly scheme in Malaga is aiming to give a new lease of life to used clothes we no longer need. The McArthurGlen Designer Outlet has launched a 'Recycle your fashion' scheme at its site next to the Plaza Mayor commercial centre on the outskirts of the city. Those who deliver a bag of used clothes to the outlet will receive a card with 10 per cent discount that can be used in a wide selection of stores at the centre.

### MALAGA

## Brazilian company buys cement factory

JESÚS HINOJOSA. The cement factory in La Araña, east of Malaga city centre, is about to change hands. Brazilian company Votorantim Cimentos announced that it has come to an agreement with German firm HeidelbergCement, whose Spanish subsidiary Financiera y Minera owns the Malaga plant, to buy all its business in Andalucía. The factory has the production capacity of 1.4 tonnes of cement per year.

### BENALMÁDENA

## New plans for the Innova centre

T. BRYANT. The Innova Centre in Benalmádena will mark its tenth anniversary with a series of improvements and new initiatives aimed at enhancing its sport and leisure services for young people. Councillors announced this week that these will include a new access road to connect Avenida García Lorca to the municipal library, the extension of the skate park and the installation of a climbing wall.





The advertisement features three modern, rectangular storage units with a combination of dark wood and light-colored wood paneling. The units are arranged in a cluster, with one unit in the foreground and two others behind it. The background is a light gray gradient. Below the units, there is a large, detailed black and white line drawing of a crowd of people, seen from behind, looking towards the units. The DOCA PROJECT logo is positioned in the lower right area of the image.

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# Groups put out an SOS to save the original homes of San Pedro

The last remaining buildings of the Marquess of Duero's agricultural settlement don't have special protection and locals are worried

JOAQUINA DUEÑAS

MARBELLA. In 1861, only 36 people lived in San Pedro Alcántara. The following year that number increased to 529, most of whom were tenant farmers from Malaga, Cadiz, Cordoba or Valencia. They came to the area attracted by the Marquess of Duero's agricultural settlement, one of the most important in the country at the time in terms of its size and innovations that helped transform traditional, Andalusian agriculture.

Different buildings still stand from that time, some of them in San Pedro's town centre, where there are several tenant-farmer homes and the village stores. Half a dozen gable-roof houses have resisted the passage of time and were listed with protected status in Marbella's ill-fated 2010 urban development plan (PGOU).

However, a court decision to annul the 2010 PGOU plan meant that these houses are now unprotected again. Impulsa Ciudad, a local political party, has started a campaign which calls for the much-needed protected status to be put back.

In fact, one of these houses has just been sold and its future now



The original buildings are simple, gable-roof houses. JOSELE

solely depends on the plans that the new owners have in store for it. Plataforma Ciudadana para la Defensa del Patrimonio Cultural de Marbella y San Pedro Alcántara - a residents' group fighting for the upkeep of local historic buildings - started a petition to ask for protected status.

## Farming created San Pedro

The group aims to remind everyone that "the origin of San Pedro's urban centre is the farmers' work that started in the 1860s, when the Marquess of Duero began farming the land between the Guadaiza and Guadalmansa rivers."

"The Marquess ordered the building of several farmhouses and the village of San Pedro Alcántara, made up of three streets: Duero, Lagasca and Pizarro, where there were over 150 houses," the group explains.

Impulsa Ciudad has made a video to reinforce their petition in which Francisco Cervera, the party's president and retired History teacher, points out: "There are villages that respect their roots and villages that don't. Roots are the emotional ribbons that tie a place with its people. If we let these remains of the original settlement go, we will have broken an important part of the links that bind us to them."

## Need to enhance its value

"How many villages in Malaga have historic buildings that were once part of the most modern agricultural settlement in the country at the time?" he asks.

Impulsa Ciudad is proposing that a strategic plan be drawn up to enhance the value of the local heritage, including the remains of the Marquess of Duero's project.

# Ikos to invest another 17 million euros in its Estepona luxury resort

The Greek company will add 19 three and four-bedroom villas and suites, new pools and restaurants to its first hotel in Spain, which opened in May

PILAR MARTÍNEZ

MALAGA. Greek company Ikos will invest 17 million euros in the expansion of Ikos Andalusia on the Costa del Sol, the first resort it opened in Spain.

The group has announced that it will further expand the facilities, opened only last May, with 19 luxury villas and suites with three and four bedrooms. The company says that it will make the resort "the largest of

all the Ikos properties", in a chain that has a dozen tourist and privately owned complexes in Halkidiki, Corfu and Kos, in Greece; and in Estepona, on the Spanish mainland.

With this significant investment, Ikos will include new pools and restaurants, which will be operational for holidaying guests from 2023, the same year that the 19 luxury villas will be put on the market. The five-star hotel already has 411 rooms and suites distributed in seven buildings.

The complex, in which the group has already invested 180 million euros, also has seven restaurants, first-class sports facilities, a theatre, outdoor and heated swimming pools and a spa. In addition, for the most demanding guests it has the

Ikos Deluxe Collection range of services, an exclusive service that includes a wide variety of privileges such as the use of a private pool.

The new expansion plan on the Costa del Sol that has just been announced is part of a budgeted 520-million-euro plan for the Ikos chain which includes the acquisition and development of new resorts in Spain, Greece and Portugal, as well as the expansion and improvement of existing properties.

Ikos Resorts is reported to have recently sealed an agreement with the Roxa Group to acquire the old Blau Porto Petro hotel on the island of Mallorca and transform it into another five-star luxury resort under the Ikos Resorts brand.

## 112 REPORTS

### ESTEPONA

## British man stands trial for abusing the 11-year-old daughter of friends

Á. F. / J. C. A 59-year-old British man is facing a court in Malaga, accused of sexually abusing an 11-year-old girl in Estepona in December 2017. According to the prosecution, the defendant was a friend of the girl's parents and touched her in a sexual manner when he was alone with her in the kitchen of her home. SUR sources said that the accused and his wife, also British, were friends of the victim's parents. The defendant could face a five-year sentence.

### MALAGA

## Owner reported for not taking dog with six-kilo tumour to the vet

Á. F. / J. C. A 58-year-old man in Malaga has been reported after Local Police officers found a dog with a six-kilo tumour being kept in "deplorable conditions" in a flat in the city. The investigation began in September, when members of the Nature Protection Group (Gruprona) of Malaga's Local Police force visited the property where the animal was being kept. They found a black dog that had a cyst of around 40 square centimetres.



Emergency services at the scene last Friday. SUR

### AXARQUÍA

## One dead and one injured after private plane crash in Vélez-Málaga

E. CABEZAS / Á. FRÍAS. One person died and another was reported injured after a private plane crashed last Friday near Vélez-Málaga airfield for light aircraft.

The alarm was raised at about 5.30pm when several people alerted the Andalucía 112 Emergency Service control centre to a plane crash.

Witnesses said that the aircraft came down on an avocado plantation near the Leoni Benabu aerodrome in the Axarquía.

Sources said that two people were travelling in the plane.

One of them was pronounced dead shortly afterwards, while the other person was transferred to hospital.

### ALMARGEN

## Man arrested for stealing car with a child inside

J. C. / Á. F. A man, 27, suspected of stealing a car with a six-year-old boy inside in the Malaga province town of Almargen on Monday evening, has been arrested in the Cadiz municipality of Prado del Rey.

The incident happened when the child was inside the family vehicle while his parents picked up an order from a local cheese factory.

While they were in the shop, the individual got into the car,

which still had the keys in the ignition, and drove off.

Apparently, when the alleged thief noticed that there was a child in the back, he told him not to be scared, and that his mother had asked him to park the car properly.

The man drove to a fuel station located outside Almargen and asked the boy to go into the shop to ask for a bottle of water. At that moment, the driver fled.

The arrested suspect, known as 'El Bola' is from Cadiz province and has a police record.

He is now under investigation for illegal detention and theft of a motor vehicle.





## Junta sets up commission to study euthanasia requests in Andalucía

An association defending the right to die with dignity complained last week that the new law was "stalled" due to the lack of a commission

ÁNGEL ESCALERA

MALAGA. The regional commission that will review requests for euthanasia has been formed. The group is made up of 13 professionals - five medics, five legal experts and three nurses. Its formation had been on hold since March forcing an association defending the right to die to complain last week.

The Right to Die with Dignity association (DMD) had said that there have already been people in Andalucía who have submit-

ted requests for euthanasia but have not been able to take their cases forward until now.

### Allowed in law

The law now recognises the right to euthanasia for people who have a serious, chronic and incapacitating condition that causes constant and intolerable physical or psychological suffering and, in addition, there is no possibility of cure or improvement.

Help to die is also contemplated for people with a serious and incurable disease that causes constant and unbearable physical or psychological suffering, without the possibility of tolerable relief, and with a limited life prognosis.

The request for euthanasia can only be made by the person who wants to receive help for their

death. The process begins with a first written request from the patient to the responsible doctor, who must sign it and verify that he or she meets the requirements. Within two days there will be a meeting in which the doctor and patient will discuss the therapeutic alternatives available, as well as the possibility of accessing palliative care. At least 15 days later, the patient must submit a second request and meet again.

### Two doctors must agree

Next, the doctor will contact a second medical professional, unrelated to them or the applicant, who will assess whether the request meets the requirements provided by law. If both doctors agree, a report for approval is sent to the newly constituted evaluation committee.

## Covid-19 cases creep up as province goes above rate of 50

SUR

MALAGA. The province of Malaga reached 2,000 deaths from coronavirus since the beginning of the pandemic on Thursday this week (11 November).

The Junta de Andalucía's Health ministry had notified another Covid-19 death in the province in the last 24 hours, the only one in the Andalusian region.

The 14-day cumulative Covid-19 incidence rate in Malaga province, including the Costa del Sol, stood at 53.3 cases per 100,000 inhabitants on Thursday.

This was up from 45.4 a week earlier. The province is now in the medium risk category (50-150) once again.

The rate has also increased in the Andalusian region reaching 40.2, up from 32.9 a week earlier.

By Malaga official health districts, the one with the highest rate was the Costa del Sol (which covers from Manilva to Torremolinos) on Thursday, with 62.8 cases per 100,000 inhabitants in the last 14 days, followed by Malaga city with 52.2.

### Hospital numbers

There were 59 patients with coronavirus in Malaga hospitals this week on Thursday of whom 11 were in intensive care (the same as Wednesday).

In the Andalusian region, the number of people hospitalised was 178 and 33 of them were in intensive care.

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# 'I thought we could really do something important using Joan's passing as a stimulant'

## Martin Nathan Chairman of TRE

Martin Nathan is spearheading Cudeca's latest campaign to convert Joan Hunt's house into a children's palliative care unit

TONY BRYANT

**BENALMÁDENA.** The Cudeca Foundation recently launched its latest campaign under the banner of Joan Hunt - One in a Million, an initiative that continues to pay tribute to the charity's founder, who died in June.

In association with Talk Radio Europe (TRE), the campaign has been organised to raise money to convert the house where Joan lived into a children's palliative care unit.

Chairman of TRE, Martin Nathan, who devised the campaign, explained to SUR in English why this facility is so important, and also how he intends to raise the money.

**What is the significance of the name of the campaign?**

There is so much love for Joan Hunt that when she passed I thought we could really do something important using her passing

as a stimulant. She was a one-in-a-million kind of person, so I came up with the idea of the campaign name, One in a Million.

**How did the idea come about?**

I originally had the idea just after Joan died, but I knew nothing about the house at the time. When I heard that Cudeca had decided to repurpose it as a state-of-the-art in-patient palliative care facility for children and teenagers, it started bells ringing.

**Is there a difference between palliative care for adults and children?**

Yes. This is really important, because palliative care for adults cannot be easily adapted for children. Children have different needs, because they need care that is appropriate for conditions that are not seen in adults. Their size affects dosages and their age affects their understanding of the condition and its implications.

**Are there any other children's palliative care units in Andalucía?**

No. This will be the first of its kind in Spain.

**How much do you need to raise?**

The cost of the conversion of the house is 90,000 euros, and annual running costs will be another 70,000 euros. My aim is to raise one million euros in order to ensure that this facility would always be self-financing. The unit would support 100 children each year and offer a comprehensive approach to the needs of both children and their families. For that we need to ensure a team of expert professionals and volunteers, both to care at home, in the new in-patient facility or at the day care centre

**When do you hope to open the new unit?**

We are hoping to have it up and running within six months.

**How can people get involved?**

TRE will be hosting a crowdfunding campaign between Friday 26 and Sunday 28 November. Everybody has to vocalise their family, their friends and everyone they know to get them to make a donation. All money that is pledged over this weekend will be doubled by our sponsors.

**You were a close friend of Joan's; what do you think she would have thought about the new unit?**

I think it would have thrilled her. To create a lasting legacy in her name would be wonderful. I am sure she would be extremely happy.



The planned Intu centre. SUR

## Andalusian court suspends Torremolinos' entire urban development plan

### TORREMOLINOS

**IVÁN GELIBTER.** Torremolinos' current urban development plan (PGOU), in force since 2020, is now history. The Supreme Court of the Junta de Andalucía (TSJA) has cancelled the plan in its entirety, a move that comes after a previous partial suspension affected the land on which a major shopping and leisure park was going to be built.

The reason for this suspension is the absence of a strategic environmental evaluation, or, in other words, approval by the Junta de Andalucía.

About a year ago, the TSJA suspended the Torremolinos urban development plan as a precautionary measure, after the Sociedad Azucarera Larios real estate firm filed a case against the town hall and the British developers Intu, who planned to build the shopping and leisure park on land north of the town's congress centre.

The claimants considered that the strategic environmental evaluation documents had not been properly processed and called for "environmental interests to prevail over planning ones".

In February 2021, the TSJA rectified and partially lifted the suspension, leaving only the land to be developed by Intu in the previous plan.

### Starting from scratch

Torremolinos town hall has said this week that it will now have to start a new plan from scratch, which will mean a delay of at least two years, with no new investment in local development projects in the meantime.

The total cancellation of the plan in the case of Torremolinos is based on a technicality that has also led to the rejections of the urban plans of Chicla (Cadiz) and Benahavis.

## Malaga voted among the 20 best cities for Christmas lights in Europe

### MALAGA

**RAQUEL MERINO.** Users of a high-profile travel website have voted Malaga's annual Christmas lights as among the top 20 in Europe.

The website, European Best Destinations, says, "Malaga is one of the most innovative destinations for Christmas lighting." It also highlights Malaga's Christmas markets, street concerts and decorations in other parts of the city. Madrid is the only other Spanish city in the top-20 ranking.

Other cities featured include Montbéliard, Nice and Reims,

in France; Prague; Monaco; Salerno, in Italy; Edinburgh; Vienna; Gdansk; and London.

### Big switch-on

The switch-on of Malaga city's spectacular display - this year back close to normal in terms of scale - is scheduled for the evening of 26 November.

The lights have been installed by Cordoba-province-based designers Ximénez, who have expanded internationally in recent years on the strength of their displays.

It still wasn't clear this week if the centrepiece display on Calle Larios would have a sound and light show as in previous years.

Meanwhile, Malaga city council has been given the go ahead by regional government for its planned light display at the historic La Concepción botanical gardens, some 5km from the city centre.



A photo of Malaga's lights in a previous year on Calle Larios. SUR

## Fuengirola gets ready to light up the town for the festive season

### FUENGIROLA

**TONY BRYANT.** Fuengirola will welcome Christmas this year with more than two million lights, which will illuminate numerous streets, squares, public spaces and municipal or emblematic buildings in the town.

Among the most striking elements of the town's festive decorations once again this year will be a large Christmas tree on Avenida Clemente Díaz, and the three-dimensional giant bauble in the Plaza de España, "a characteristic symbol of the Fuengirola Christmas", which this year will offer a daily light show with music written espe-

cially for the occasion.

Other attractions include the traditional nativity scene (Belén) situated in Plaza Reyes Católicos, while Plaza de la Constitución, Plaza de Los Chinorros and Plaza de España will be decorated to resemble large planetariums.

Preparations for this year's decorations, which cost 650,000 euros, began in August and the town hall has announced that a special switching-on ceremony on Friday 26 November will launch this year's festive agenda.

The Christmas programme will offer activities for all ages that will focus on the cultural, gastronomic and musical traditions of Fuengirola in what the council claims will be "a Christmas that will be full of enthusiasm and joy".

Several concerts have been lined up, including the traditional zambomba nights and concerts by the municipal band.



Martin Nathan at the launch. SUR

**Martin Nathan**  
**On Joan Hunt**

**"Joan had incredible drive and energy and she had the ability to make people around her believe that the impossible could be achieved"**





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# An international organic collective with a clear vision

A group of growers in Nerja and Maro formed BAM at the beginning of the pandemic to support each other and help the local community

JENNIE RHODES



**MARO.** Bio Agricultura Maro (BAM) is a collective of organic growers in Maro and Nerja which was born in 2020 when small-scale local farmers were left without an outlet to sell their products as the pandemic hit.

Previously relying on local markets as their main source of income, the individual farmers got together to form their own local collective and support each other. They also form part of Eco-Axarquía, which started in 2017 and is an association of organic growers and artisans covering the whole of the Axarquía area.

Since then, however, the group has organised itself and set up a range of different projects. One of the very first things they did was to contribute fresh fruit and vegetables to the local food banks.

"Around 25 per cent of the population of Nerja was reliant on the food banks early on in the lockdown. Bear in mind that this is a town which is heavily reliant on tourism and of course there was none for most of 2020," says Anna, a Dutch woman who has lived in the area for around eight years and is one

of the local growers and founders of BAM.

"There is little or no fresh food included at the food banks. People tend to donate foods like rice, pasta and oil but fruit and vegetables are often not included," Anna goes on to say. In total the collective donated around 2,000 kilos of fresh fruit and vegetables to Nerja food banks in 2020.

## Vege boxes

Something else the group started in spring of this year was a weekly vege box collection. Members can get a box of mixed, seasonal fruit and vegetables for 10 euros, or order what they want from the website.

The farmers bring their produce to the collection point at the Vega de Maro early in the morning and the boxes are ready to be picked up late morning. "All the produce is harvested to order, so there is no waste," explains Anna.

Not only is there seasonal fruit and veg, from pomegranates, mangoes, curly kale, sweet potato, squashes...the list goes on...but some farmers also bring dried fruit like figs, locally grown almonds and honey. Most come from the Nerja and Maro area but a few farmers from the Alpujarra in Granada have also recently come on board.

"It's also an opportunity to meet the growers themselves, which isn't something you can do if you buy your fruit and vegetables in a shop and certainly not in a supermarket," argues Anna.

This hive of activity is also very international; among the members there are Spanish, French, Italian, British, Dutch



BAM members preparing the vegetable boxes for customers. J. RHODES

**"It's an opportunity to meet the growers themselves, which you certainly can't do if you buy your fruit and veg in a supermarket"**

and German people. "We're like the United Nations of small organic farmers," smiles one of the farmers who has come with her produce.

Nobody uses machinery, so it's all handpicked and as such kinder to the soil. Fruit and vegetables are grown among wild flowers, which is important for biodiversity, which in turn is important for the soil and crops. They also organise themselves to buy seeds and baby plants in bulk to share the costs.

## Certification

BAM has also come up with its own organic certification sys-

tem and it's the members themselves who keep a check on each other's systems and working conditions. "The big certificates require growers to have a minimum size of land and our certificate includes working conditions. It can't be considered as sustainable if workers are being exploited," Anna says.

They have plans to expand their work into education and organising visits to the area for school children and want to teach people how to grow organically and also the importance of seasonality.

"We're so far removed from the concept of seasonality and people expect to find, for example, courgettes in winter," explains Anna. "We want to get local school children to come to see what we do and to teach them about the importance of biodiversity and sustainability."

They're also using their collective skills and experience to increase their social media presence and help members with the 'PR' element of what they do. With some members having a professional background in fruit distribution and others who have

experience with technology and social media, the collective is working hard to give itself a louder voice and identify how to grow; not only their produce, but as an organisation.

The group also organises regular clean-up events, both of local beaches and the surrounding countryside.

Now that local markets are mainly up and running again, members of BAM regularly sell at the markets in Trapiche on Tuesday mornings, La Raqueta tennis club in Nerja on every first Saturday and El Zoco in Nerja every third Saturday of the month.

They also plan to make their contribution of fresh produce to the local food banks a regular event. "They existed before the pandemic and are still in demand now and it feels great to be able to contribute to the local community," Anna concludes.

To find out more about BAM, ordering vege boxes, becoming a member and the community projects visit: [www.bioagriculturamaro.wixsite.com](http://www.bioagriculturamaro.wixsite.com) or Facebook: Bio Agricultura Maro.

## HERE AND THERE

### TORRE DEL MAR

## Invasive insect species spotted in the Axarquía

**E. C.** Environmental group GENA-Ecologistas en Acción have sent a letter to the Ministry of Ecological Transition and the regional Ministry of the Environment explaining that a specimen of the so-called assassin bug, (*Zelus renardii*), has been found in Torre del Mar.

The insect "preys on other insects," explained biologist and president of GENA, Rafael Yus, adding that while there are reports of stings to humans causing a mild reaction, "it does not cause any



An assassin bug attacking a caterpillar. SUR

harm to humans".

It is native to North America and has probably come into Spain accidentally, possibly with a plant from the region. "This is the usual way in which numerous exotic spe-

cies enter," Yus said, before pointing out that it could also have a beneficial effect, as it has a special predilection for aphids, many of which become pests, therefore "becoming an ally for the farmers".

### NERJA

## Nerja lighting plans hit by worldwide shortages

**E. C.** Work to install new lighting around Nerja's Balcón de Europa, due to start this month, will not be able to commence as yet due to worldwide shortages in transport as well as raw materials and electronic components, the town hall has announced.

The project, which will cost 91,759 euros, aims to enhance the image of the tourist and historic heart of the town and achieve greater energy efficiency.

Due to the current shortages, the deadline for completion of the work has been extended until March 2022.

### RINCÓN DE LA VICTORIA

## Four new defibrillators installed around Rincón

**SUR.** Rincón de la Victoria town hall has installed four new defibrillators in Rincón, La Cala del Moral and the two Benagalbóns.

One has been installed next to the Rincón de la Victoria tourist office and another in the Plaza Antonio Estrada in La Cala del Moral. The other two can be found on Avenida de la Candelaria in Benagalbón and next to the Manuel Alcántara Library in Torre de Benagalbón.

A further initiative will train 32 people (eight for each defibrillator) working in premises and establishments near each one.



## A 20-year-old scrap metal cemetery in the Sierras is described as like a film set

### NERJA

The owner of the old Los Colmenarejos quarry regrets that neither the town hall nor Junta has responded to his request to remove the vehicles

### E. CABEZAS

NERJA. A scrap-heap of heavy vehicles and machinery remains immobile in the middle of an area of outstanding natural beauty at the bottom of the Barranco de los Colmenarejos ravine near Maro, within the boundaries of the Sierras Tejeda, Almijara and Alhama natural park, making the area look like a film set.

A little over a year has passed since SUR last reported on the situation of this old quarry, which was sealed off by Nerja town hall at the end of the 1990s, when the Sierras Tejeda, Alhama y Almijara mountains was to be declared a natural park.

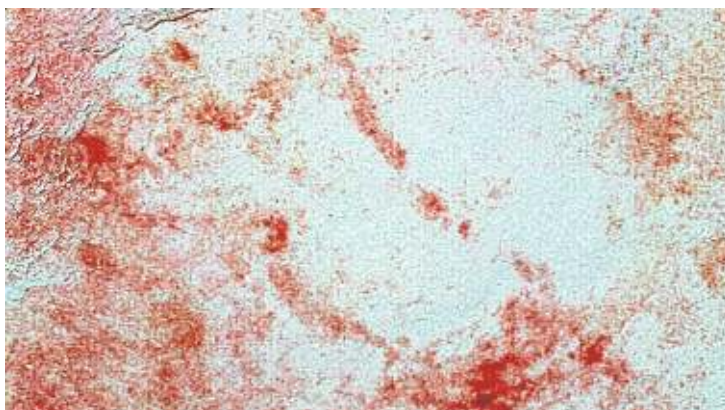
Although twelve months ago the town hall announced that it

was determined to remove the machinery "as soon as possible" no progress has been made.

The owner of the vehicles, the Vélez-Málaga businessman Orlando Rodríguez, has insisted that until the council and the Junta de Andalucía give him permission to remove the machinery, he cannot do so, "Because officially there is still a municipal seal on the quarry installations," he explained.

The businessman has said that they "never" returned a bank guarantee of three million pesetas and added that it is costing him 222 euros a year to renew it. "I want to wipe the slate clean, take that machinery out of there once and for all," despite the fact that it will cost him more to remove the machinery than the value it has is for scrap, which he says is around 40,000 euros.

The case is linked to the Río de la Miel illegal dump, for which Mayor of Nerja José Alberto Armijo, councillor Nieves Atencia and a number of local business people are facing court action and potential prison sentences.



The painting depicts a horse-like animal which is leaning forward. SUR

## New painting discovered at Nerja Cave depicts horse

### NERJA

R. SOTORRÍO. Ongoing conservation work in the Nerja cave has brought to light a new cave painting, with moderately well preserved traces and stains of red pigment that look like the shape of an animal.

The representation is located in a narrow space in the Cataclysm Hall and occupies a panel which, according to researchers, was used as a canvas for paintings during the Paleolithic period and which may have been larger than the section that has survived to the present day.

The mural depicts a horse-like animal with zebra-like marks on the neck, leaning downwards. It is about 35 centimetres long and 14 cm wide.

The image was outlined using a red pigment, probably haematite; an iron oxide, which is common in the surroundings of the cave and the predominant colour in the cave's rock art.

The painting, according to a press statement from the Nerja Cave, is "moderately well" preserved, although several traces of pigment have been lost over time.

## Weekend Beach lineup revealed for 2022 festival following two year absence

### J. RHODES

TORRE DEL MAR. The Weekend Beach Festival unveiled on Thursday this week its line up for the 2022 event.

Saying "this is just the beginning," they explained that more artists will be added to the bill in the coming months. The event is due to take place from 6 to 9 July next year on the beach to the west of the town, as in previous years.

Despite not going ahead in 2020 or this year due to the pandemic, Weekend Beach Festival organisers said in a press release published on Thursday that they have "not stopped working to get a spectacular lineup" for the return of the festival in 2022.

Puerto Rican rapper Residente will be performing, along with American reggae singer Tarrus Riley and Swedish garage-rockers The Hives.

Anyone who still has tickets for the 2020 festival will be able to use them in 2022.

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Swedish Ambassador to Spain Teppo Tauriainen in his office. SUR

# 'Drug trafficking is a major challenge but there are no easy solutions'

**Teppo Tauriainen, Swedish Ambassador to Spain**

Tauriainen is aware that there are Swedish gangs on the Costa del Sol and says there is close cooperation between police forces

**MATÍAS STUBER**

**MALAGA.** The Swedish ambassador, Teppo Tauriainen, came to Malaga recently to open an exhibition about Raoul Wallenberg at the Caja Blanca. Wallenberg was a Swedish diplomat who saved thousands of Jews from the holocaust. While here, the ambassador spoke to SUR about the different issues that link the Swedish community with Malaga province.

**–Talking about Sweden in Malaga makes me think of tourists who had a freedom that didn't exist here.**

–What was seen then was a simple expression of Swedish reality. I believe it also served to open some people's eyes. The world is not how you see it in your own small way.

**–What is your first memory of Malaga?**

–In 1981 I spent three months

studying Spanish in Pedregalejo. That was my first experience of Spain, and my view of the country is therefore always very Malaga-oriented.

**–What do you think of the Malaga of today?**

–It's another city. When I came the first time, there were hardly any tourists. The historic centre wasn't pedestrianised, it was a much darker place. I think Malaga has improved a great deal, it's a very nice place to stay now.

**–There are communities of British, Germans and Finns. Do you think there will be a Swedish one in the future as well?**

–There are already a lot of Swedish people on the Costa del Sol. In Fuengirola, in Marbella and in Mijas. We don't have exact figures because people don't register, but we do know that there are about 25,000 people from Sweden on the population registers in Spain. We estimate that about 30 or 40 per cent are on the Costa del Sol. It's the most important place within Spain.

**–Can working from home and digitalisation make it easier for Swedish people to come to Malaga?**

–Absolutely. The pandemic has

shown that it is possible to work remotely. We know there are people who have moved to the Costa del Sol. Historically, what we used to have were sun and sand holidays and residential tourism. Now, we see families with children coming, and entrepreneurs. They want the quality of life that the climate offers here.

**–In Sweden, is there much interest in doing business in Malaga and the Costa del Sol?**

–Malaga is a place where there are a lot of entrepreneurs, a lot of new companies. I believe it is very possible that there are some Swedish investors who are interested in investing in Malaga.

**–What is the main product exported from Sweden to Spain?**

–I don't know exactly which product is most exported, but I'm sure

## QUOTE

REMOTE WORKING

**"Entrepreneurs and families are coming to the Costa del Sol because they want the quality of life"**

it will be an industrial one. The most important Swedish companies in Spain are Ericsson, Volvo and Scania.

**–Does Sweden have a problem with drug trafficking? The police say more than 100 Swedish people have been arrested on the Costa del Sol since 2018.**

–I believe this is a global problem. Unfortunately, the Costa del Sol is somewhere these criminals have chosen. And some are Swedish, of course. We know these criminal gangs are active. We are looking at a major challenge for society, and there are no easy solutions.

**–Do the police authorities in your country keep one eye on Malaga province?**

–Absolutely. And there is close cooperation with the police here.

**–Most of these criminals have a migrant background. Do you think integration is failing in Sweden?**

–It's something that concerns us daily in Sweden. We have received many immigrants and exiles in recent years. About 165,000 arrived in 2015 alone. People who come from other cultures, who don't speak the language and don't speak English either. Integrating them into our society is

a big challenge and the one that worries us most.

**–Does it all come down to education, do you think?**

–Absolutely. But in our case the problem is that the numbers of immigrants have been so high that the system has not been able to absorb them. So many people came in such a short time that it was overwhelming.

**–What do you see as the defining elements of the welfare state?**

–Elements like housing and education. The welfare state means having basic needs covered. That doesn't mean that we don't have to work and act responsibly. But if there is a time of crisis, someone who loses their job has the security of knowing they are not going to die in the street, that there is a safety net.

**–To what extent should the State intervene in the market?**

–The State should be present, but we believe very much in the market. In fact, the market defines much of what happens in Sweden. Each of us has to work and live within this system. But if there are shortcomings in the functioning of the market, the State has to be there to help.

**–In the coronavirus crisis, Sweden has introduced hardly any restrictions.**

–Sweden has introduced recommendations rather than restrictions. It seems that every country has had its own strategy. We are going to have to wait until the pandemic is over to see which strategy has really been the most effective.

**–What do you think about face masks? In your country nobody wears them.**

–I'm not an expert. Here in Spain they are worn, and in Sweden they aren't. The Swedish experts even warned of risks in making masks obligatory, because they can give a false sense of security.

**–Europe wants to lead the fight against climate change. Many traditional jobs are under threat. How can that be done without harming the poorest?**

–We have to start on the basis that there is no option other than environmental policies. Climate change is frightening and we have to act. I believe Sweden is a good example of being able to maintain economic growth and lower emissions at the same time. Obviously there is an initial cost, but if we don't do this we are going to die because of the consequences of climate change.

**–How do you find Spanish working hours? Is it more effective to have a concentrated working day?**

–In Sweden, nobody is in the office after 5pm. It is very important for people to be able to balance their lives. I believe you can use the day more efficiently so there is time for work and time to spend with your family.



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# Plot to flee into Spain after emergency landing was hatched on Facebook

Twelve Moroccans were arrested after one allegedly faked a serious illness to force crew to touch down in Palma

## SUR

**PALMA.** More details have been emerging of the audacious plan by a group of young Moroccans to gain access to Spain by fleeing from a jet that had made an emergency landing in Palma de Mallorca.

Last Friday night police arrested 12 people who had run from the plane that had been travelling from Casablanca to Istanbul and was diverted to the Balearics when a passenger was supposedly taken ill.

On landing, around 20 of the passengers suddenly ran out of the Air Arabia plane onto the apron and disappeared into the night.

Airport operations at Palma were suspended for four hours while Guardia Civil hunted them.

The investigation so far has shown that the escape was allegedly a part of a plan carefully arranged over Facebook.

One message between those in a group named Brooklyn read, "After the forced landing I'll take you to a terminal other than arrivals,

which is where the gate is where the 'patient' has to escape. Then the rest will attack that exit together. The security guard can't stop it, there's no police at that spot," it said. The message went on, "Everyone interested sign up."

Other discussions in the group talked about taking a GPS device onto the plane to be able to detect when it was flying over Spanish territory and to start shouting and insinuating a problem.

"The flight attendant will come over and ask the patient to hold on until reaching Turkey and at that time the others will get up and complain, saying he is going to die," said the social media message.

"The plane will make an emergency landing in Spain to protect the reputation of the airline and to avoid them taking any responsibility."

One of the fugitives posted an early morning message from Mallorca on the page. "Guys, I am still going around in circles in Spain. The police have been after us all morning in the woods and firing at us with rubber bullets. My phone is about to run out."

The group member who faked a serious diabetic condition to force the plane to land already had a criminal record after an unrelated incident in Marbella last year.



Two detainees arrive in court on Monday this week. EFE

## Madrid to destroy 100,000 unwanted Covid vaccines

### EUROPA PRESS

**MADRID.** The Madrid region is to destroy 100,000 doses of expired coronavirus vaccines as the national Ministry of Health has not accepted the region's offer to donate the vials.

Out of the 321,450 Janssen vaccines received in the region,

only 236,743 doses were finally administered.

Spain's Public Health Commission, in which the regions and the Ministry of Health are represented, agreed on 26 October that those originally vaccinated with the 'single dose' Janssen vaccine would be given a second additional dose of one

of the mRNA vaccines – either Pfizer and Moderna.

### Astra Zeneca

The commission also agreed not to administer any more doses of the Johnson & Johnson and Astra Zeneca vaccine.

As a result of the decision, some 100,000 vials of vaccines from both AstraZeneca and Janssen have had to be discarded in the Madrid region.

They were offered for donation but the Ministry officials ruled this out.

## IN BRIEF

### MADRID

#### Guardia Civil allowed to display tattoos

**SUR.** Guardia Civil officers will be able to have visible tattoos when they are on duty after all - as long as their designs "respect constitutional values". An early draft of a new dresscode for the force included a ban on tattoos on head, neck and hands; any officers affected would have had a year to remove them. But, after complaints and second thoughts, the end proposal from the Interior and Defence ministries - both with a say in how the Guardia Civil is run - was to allow the tattoos to stay.

Según explicaron entonces a Europa Press fuentes de Interior, la decisión de retirar la prohibición la ordenó el ministro Fernando Grande-Marlaska tras evaluarse el número «tan limitado» de agentes a los que le afectaría la entrada en vigor del real decreto por tener tatuajes visibles en cabeza, cuello y manos.

Also among the new guidelines re tighter rules of when Guardia Civil can appear in uniform, for example on social media and use when off duty or retired.

### LONDON

#### Catalan parliament head visits Westminster

**C. REINO.** Speaker of the Catalan regional parliament, Laura Borràs, who is also part of the pro-independence Junts party, was in the British Houses of Parliament this week.

Borràs met with MPs and had been due to meet Speaker of the House of Commons Lindsay Hoyle but in the end this did not take place. Instead she met Deputy Speaker Eleanor Laing.

The Catalan president, pro-independence Perè Aragonès, was also in Glasgow this week for COP26 and met with Scottish First Minister Nicola Sturgeon.



EFE

## New finger of lava flow reaches the sea

A second finger of lava made it to the Atlantic Ocean on Tuesday this week as the eruption at Cumbre Vieja on La Palma in the Canaries continued. The cliffs of Playa de Los Guirres in Tazacorte were turned red as the lava seeped down. The beach is just to the south of the other delta of lava formed earlier in the eruption.



Martínez-Almeida and Díaz Ayuso drew a crowd this week. EP

## Rivalry to run Partido Popular in Madrid region unsettles the party

### SUR

**MADRID.** A 'friendly' rivalry between two popular conservative politicians in Madrid is creating a headache for the national leaders of the Partido Popular (PP) - the main opposition party and leading the polls ahead of a general election expected in late 2023, if not sooner.

At the centre of the 'problem' is Isabel Díaz Ayuso, president of the Madrid regional government, whose easy manner has seen her fanbase increase since unexpectedly coming to power in 2019 in the capital region.

Díaz Ayuso wants to take up

the separate role of head of the political party in that region as well, and is calling for a regional party conference as soon as possible for a vote to take place.

National PP leader Pablo Casado is dragging his feet as Díaz Ayuso is seen as a likely leadership rival to him long term.

Instead, the national leadership favour the mayor of the City of Madrid, José Luis Martínez-Almeida, to head the Madrid regional party.

Martínez-Almeida and Díaz Ayuso are known to be good friends - at least so far. "Only staying united can we move forward," said Ayuso this week on the public holiday for the patron saint of Madrid, Our Lady of La Almudena, adding that the situation was "complicated" but would "work out fine". Martínez-Almeida joked alongside her, "We get on so well we haven't blocked each other on WhatsApp".





THE EURO ZONE  
MARK NAYLER

## Less is more



**P**edro Sánchez has said that his post-Covid recovery plan, aided by payouts from Brussels, will be the “most ambitious in the recent history of Spain”. But when’s it going to start and will his ambitions be realised? At the end of the third quarter, Spain was behind other European countries in returning its GDP to end-of-2019 levels - here, the gap still stands at 6.6%, compared to Germany’s 1.1% and France’s 0.1%. Even Italy, whose economy is more comparable to Spain’s than those two are, has managed to reduce the margin to 1.4%.

Despite tremendous fanfare surrounding the EU handouts, there are two problems with their deployment in Spain, which partly account for the country’s slower-than-expected recovery. The first is that most of them are going to be wasted on projects that have nothing to do with post-Covid recuperation, such as green cars and digitalisation (to use one of the govern-

ment’s favourite, and most infrequently explained, words); the second is that even these are being hampered by the Sánchez administration’s apparent unwillingness to spend. That reluctance is puzzling, because the Socialist leader has claimed that Brussels’ cash will transform Spain in a way not seen since it joined the EU in 1986. Still, probably better to hoard the money rather than squander it, if those are the only two options.

The latest data shows that Spain’s government had access to around five billion euros of EU grants as at the end of August, but had only deployed 104 million. With less than two months to go until the end of the year, it’s now looking unlikely that any dramatic effects will be seen from their use before we’re all celebrating the arrival of 2022 (hopefully out on the streets and squares again). Their effective expenditure also depends on the agendas and

competence of future governments, as Spain’s next general election is due at the end of 2023 - four years before the last of the funds are set to be released. Who will have the chance to play with them once Sánchez steps down, and will he or she do a better job?

Of course, other factors also account for Spain’s slow return to pre-Covid GDP levels, perhaps more so than what the government’s (not) doing. Economists also cite cautious household spending, itself closely tied to rising energy prices, persistent instability in the labour market and a delayed recovery of tourism. In fact, as was demonstrated by the political sleepwalk of 2015-2016, during which Spain went for 313 days without a government, the country’s GDP is able to grow when NO ONE is running it.

Perhaps less, not more, governmental interference will bolster Spain’s position in the post-pandemic recovery marathon.

## New way to calculate Plusvalía tax is approved by ministers

For properties that have gone up in value there are two options and the payer can choose the most favourable

ARTURO CERVELLERA

**MADRID.** The government has moved quickly to come up with a new way of calculating added-land-value tax (plusvalía) after its collection was suspended by a Constitutional Court decision.

The local tax is an important source of income for town halls. There were fears of funding shortfalls unless ministers agreed an alternative way of working out how much should be paid when a property changed hands.

The new rules, which ministers hope will be deemed as within the constitution, are seen as fairer to those whose property has not increased as much in real terms as the supposed value of the land it is on, which

was what the tax was originally calculated on.

From now on, if a property changes hands at a loss compared to when it was last sold, no tax is due.

For properties that have gone up in value in real terms there are two options. Either the tax is calculated based on the difference between the old purchase price and the new sales price of a property or, alternatively, the taxpayer can opt to have it calculated against an average of the changes of cadastral value of the land since the property last changed hands.

The payer can choose whichever calculation comes out most favourable for them.

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# 'Workers in Gibraltar took matters into their own hands and repaired the ship in secret, and unpaid'

**Francis Silva** Lead author of a new book about Gibraltar and the Spanish Civil War

The book, *Red Ship and Red Tape*, tells the little-known story of a Spanish destroyer which took refuge in Gibraltar, causing a real dilemma for the authorities there and in UK

DEBBIE  
BARTLETT



GIBRALTAR. Some people seem to pack more into every 24-hour day than most, and Francis Silva is one of them. In addition to his full-time job as a Civil Servant with the Government of Gibraltar, he is a history enthusiast and author, and his latest project is a book about a subject very close to his heart, the José Luis Díez, a Republican ship which had to take refuge in Gibraltar during the Spanish Civil War and the dilemma that caused for the Gibraltarian and UK authorities. Francis is the lead author of the book, which will be officially launched next month, and he took time out of his very busy schedule to tell us more about it.

**–What first sparked your interest in the José Luis Díez story?**

–A while back, I went to an exhibition on Gibraltar and the Civil War, which was organised by Unite the Union. I saw all the pain and suffering on the republican side, and that of the refugees in Gibraltar. I'm also interested in naval history, and realised that I didn't know much about this ship, so I dug into the history of it. Then a friend who knew about the research I was doing suggested that I write something for the Forum for Historical Memory in the Campo de Gibraltar. My aim was to write a clearer and more readable version of the correspondence between Gibraltar and London. In fact, I had already started to write about the different captains and crew of the José Luis Díez during the Civil War, highlighting the human side. What they went through was very dramatic, right from the beginning of the war. So that is also a chapter in the book.

**–The ship tried to get through the Strait of Gibraltar, which was blockaded by Franco's ships, disguised as a British destroyer, but she was attacked and holed and took refuge in Gibraltar harbour, didn't she?**



Francis Silva during a recent radio interview. D.B.

–Yes, and that caused a real dilemma for the Gibraltar and UK authorities because of the Non-Intervention agreement which meant they were not supposed to get involved in the Spanish war. It was further complicated by the fact that in general, the authorities were on Franco's side, although many of the working-class people in Gibraltar supported the republicans.

**–It must have taken a tremendous amount of research to find all this information.**

–Yes, I started with Internet articles, then local newspapers and I went to the National Archives in Gibraltar. The file on the José Luis Díez was kept in a separate room and I had to ask permission from the government to access it. It was declassified later, but at the time it was with the secret files. I also went to London, to the National Archives in Kew, and obtained copies of several files from the Admiralty and the Foreign Office. Apart from that, I also found a booklet by a crew member which had been published in Spain some time back, giving a first-hand account of what happened to the crew in Gibraltar and subsequently. In all, I went through hundreds of pages of documents. It has taken over a year, sifting through them, creating a clear picture from the information available.

**–You are the lead author of the book, which is called *Red Ship and Red Tape*. Who are the other writers?**

–We have been lucky enough to have contributions from three very well-known historians. Chris Grocott has written the introduction, Dr Gareth Stockey has written a chapter about the way that Gibraltar and the UK failed to comply with the Non-Intervention agreement in many ways, and in another chapter Luis Miguel Cerdera has given an overview of the ship itself and its other experiences during the Civil War.

**–You have previously published articles and given talks on the José Luis Díez in Gibraltar, haven't you?**

–Yes, I have written an article for the Gibraltar Heritage Trust Journal, which is coming out this month, on the salvage operation when the ship ran aground. In the end, with all the arguments between Gibraltar, the UK and the republicans and nationalists in Spain about what should happen to her, and local companies not wanting to repair her for different reasons, some of the dockyard workers decided to take matters into their own hands and repaired her secretly themselves, unpaid. The ship had arrived in August, but it wasn't until December that she was repaired,

and she then attempted to leave in secret in the middle of the night. Spies in Gibraltar let off flares to warn the nationalist ships which were always waiting outside Gibraltar in case she tried to escape, and she was attacked again and ran aground off Catalan Bay. In the book, we also explain what happened to the captain, the crew and the ship after that. And last month I gave a talk to the Gibraltar Heritage Trust members at the John Mackintosh Hall, explaining my research and giving the background story of the ship and its crew in Gibraltar.

**–Is there anything in Gibraltar nowadays to indicate that a Republican destroyer was there during the Spanish Civil War, and that local people repaired her?**

–The ship's flag, which was sewn by a local lady, is now held by The Gibraltar National Museum. The José Luis Díez was flying that flag when she tried to leave Gibraltar. The Museum also has a silver plaque which was commissioned by the crew of the ship, after receiving so much help and support from the people of Gibraltar. For several years they were on display at the TGWU headquarters in London, and then they were returned. In the 1980s attempts were made to return the flag to Spain, but there didn't seem to be much interest.

**–I must admit that I am not normally interested in naval or military history, but I found *Red Ship and Red Tape* not only fascinating but gripping. There is so much information which, I imagine, it would be rare to find elsewhere, and it is written in a way which is extremely readable. What are you going to do next? Have a well-deserved rest after all this research and hard work, or do you have any more projects in the pipeline?**

–Well, I'm a history buff so I am always interested in carrying out research, especially in military history. I'm going to write about the 100-Ton Gun for the Gibraltar Heritage Trust Journal, and that could end up in a book on Victorian artillery. I could easily have written more about the José Luis Díez, but time was of the essence. You never know where research will take you. You follow a lead, and come across a myriad of interesting facts. It's fascinating. And it's addictive. There is a treasure trove of material to read and discover.



## QUOTES

### DILEMMA

**"Britain was not supposed to get involved in the Spanish Civil War in any way"**

### RESEARCH

**"I could easily have written more about the José Luis Díez. There is a treasure trove of material"**



# Overseas Territories pledge to take action on climate change

Gibraltar's Environment Minister, Professor John Cortes, was part of the UK delegation at Cop26 in Glasgow this week

DEBBIE BARTLETT

GIBRALTAR. At Cop26 in Glasgow this week the 14 British Overseas Territories, of which Gibraltar is one, issued a joint pledge to take action on an individual basis in conjunction with the UK government to tackle the specific challenges that climate change poses for each of them, to use their oceans and natural resources sustainably for the benefit of current and future generations, and to take action to protect and restore their biodiversity.

As Overseas Territories, they also pledged to "work with others in a spirit of cooperation to secure meaningful outcomes from Cop26 that will make a tangible difference in tackling the impacts of climate change in our territories".

During Cop26 Professor John Cortes, Gibraltar's Minister of the Environment, Sustainability and



John Cortes (seated). SUR

Climate Change, posted on Twitter that he had been proud to contribute on behalf of Gibraltar and the other Territories.

"Together with the UK we represent the world's fifth largest marine estate; over 90% of the UK's biodiversity. We are important. We have a place in the global community," he wrote.

It should be noted that the Falkland Islands, which were in the midst of a general election, are expected to agree the pledge post-election.

## IN BRIEF

### COMMEMORATION

#### Armistice Day ceremony held in Gibraltar

D.B. On Thursday, at 11am, Gibraltar held its traditional ceremony to commemorate the anniversary of Armistice Day at the lobby of Parliament House. The ceremony was led by the mayor, Christian Santos.

The Royal Gibraltar Regiment and Royal British Legion Gibraltar Branch provided the Guards of Honour, and the two-minute silence was marked by the firing of a gun by the Royal Gibraltar Regiment at 11am. Buglers from the Royal Gibraltar Regiment then played the Last Post. Wreaths were laid at the Me-



The Governor of Gibraltar. SUR

morial by the chief minister, Fabian Picardo, and other officials, and there were others from representatives of essential services, veterans and other local associations.

### EVENTS

#### Three Kings Cavalcade postponed till 2023

D.B. There will be no Three Kings Cavalcade in Gibraltar in January 2022, due to uncertainty regarding the Covid-19 pandemic and to comply with Public Health recommendations regarding large gatherings at non-ticketed events. The government says this has been a difficult decision to make, and it

hopes the parade, which will be the 64th, will be possible in January 2023. However, it also warns that other events may also have to be postponed, depending on how the pandemic evolves. The statement from the Ministry of Culture points out that at this late stage it would have been difficult for many organisations to have time to construct their floats, and there is a social responsibility not to proceed as some other Christmas events have been moved online.

# New stamp marks centenary of Gibraltar City Council

The establishment of a city council in 1921 gave Gibraltarians the chance to choose their own elected representatives

D. BARTLETT

GIBRALTAR. A new commemorative stamp has been issued to mark the 100th anniversary of Gibraltar City Council.

The stamp shows City Hall, which was the seat of the council from 1924. Council meetings were held there from 1924 until 1969, when it merged with the Legislative Council to form the Gibraltar House of Assembly. Today, City Hall houses the offices of the Mayor of Gibraltar and also the Mario Finlayson National Art Gallery.



Vijay Daryanani (right) and Dr Joseph Garcia with the new stamps. SUR

A painting of City Hall by Gibraltarian artist and the winner of this year's Spring Visual Arts Competition, Mr Leslie Gaduzo, is featured on the stamp.

The design and related philatelic products were produced

by local graphic designer Stephen Perera.

The stamps can be purchased online at [www.gibraltar-stamps.com](http://www.gibraltar-stamps.com) or from the Philatelic Shop at 104 Main Street.



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LETTERS  
TO THE EDITOR

## They are not numbers

We hear on the news “with this the number of fatalities in traffic accidents this year rises to X”, and when the number is lower than the previous year we think: good news, we are improving, it is good news. Next February it will be three years since the death of my friend in a traffic accident.

I remember when I saw on television, after hearing of his death, the news about his accident and hearing “with this the number [of deaths] amounts to ...”. I cannot explain what I felt: it was not just another death, it was my friend.

The deaths on the road, no matter how much the number drops, will never be good news, because as long as they do not touch your loved ones, it seems that we improve, but the day you hear the name of your friend, neighbour, father, cousin or son ... Casualty counting is never good.

JULIA CONILLERA

## Better times

Now Christmas is coming after having spent a sad and an undesirable period of time for everybody.

Although for everyone there will be moments of happiness, meeting families, going out, shopping which I think everybody likes, personally I love it: watching the nice atmosphere that you can breathe all around, people dressed

up smart, all kinds of young people, with their weird clothes, laughing.

Not everybody can enjoy it, but little by little the situation will be normalised and we'll be able to forget the past events and start to have a fairly normal life again.

It's a privilege for me to be able to write a little text here in the SUR in English and perhaps get it published.

GLORIA DOMÍNGUEZ GARCÍA

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## Don't pension it

It feels like an inordinately large number of customers and friends have been mentioning retirement to me lately. Mostly it's people in their forties and fifties, staring wistfully into the middle distance with a desperate yearning in their eyes.

Maybe it was all that lockdown shenanigans last year giving us all too much time to think, but it does appear that leaving life's labours behind has become a more concrete objective for many of us these days.

This, of course, has always been a quite understandable ambition if it's coal miners or factory workers we're talking about but on more than one occasion I've listened, agog, to the plaintive yearnings of school teachers, longing to chuck it all in and sit on a beach somewhere turning a comical shade of orange. Teachers! Would these be the same chaps who've spent end-

less weeks off each and every summer for the last twenty years, sitting on a beach somewhere in turning a comical shade of orange? (Now, in order to avoid a postbag crammed with irate - and yet grammatically correct - letters from incandescent pedagogues, I should like to point out that I once was a secondary school teacher myself - you can't kid a kidder.)

And it's not just people with corduroy jackets and elbow patches we're talking about, either. Government office workers aren't exactly slow to vent their visceral desire to hand in their staplers and highlighter pens forthwith, in order to spend the rest of their days playing golf on a cruise ship or something.

Look here, people - you already get weekends and a seemingly infinite number of bank holidays off, plus four weeks actual holidays plus some other days that I can't

even remember the name of except for 'asuntos personales' - loosely translated as 'personal matters' - which can be taken whenever it suits, without any need for further explanation. (I once asked a rather tipsy gentleman who was drinking in the pub midweek and during the daytime if he was on holiday, to which replied, quite unabashed, that it was, in fact, a 'personal matter' day off.

(Actually, when you think about it, knocking back a few rum and cokes with your chums at 3pm on a random Tuesday almost certainly is a personal matter).

To tell the truth, I can't really imagine retiring - there are only so many walls a man can paint and model railways he can build. No, actually, the more I think about it, the more I like the idea of working until I keel over in a heap one evening, possibly clutching a guitar or a pint, or both. Let's just say it's a personal matter.

## PACHI

The supply crisis hits the Spanish countryside

*id's gonds*  
SUR-



**SUR** in English

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Accounts Manager  
Emma Vera  
Commercial Director  
Yolanda Quesada

THE BOTTOM LINE  
NEIL HESKETH

## Quality peeps

Among the hear-all-you-can buffet of politicians' speeches at last week's World Travel Market in London - this year a welcome sound after a two-year absence - was a pleasing new holiday refrain of “we need quality”. The Costa del Sol has fortunately woken up, just in time, to realise that packing the beaches and streets with ever-greater numbers of visitors - the so-called mass tourism - isn't very sustainable and just plain unpleasant for most. It's a world-wide problem and the penny has dropped

with Malaga city authorities especially that the future is quality above quantity.

Yet nobody seems to be able to (or want to openly) define what a 'quality person' visiting really looks like. The best I can guess from a read of the speeches is 'people who spend more money in hotels and restaurants'. Is this quality? Are we to filter out only those carrying Louis Vuitton luggage at the airport?

I'd suggest, before this convenient chorus of 'quality people please' goes much further on its journey, that the key to suc-

cess for tourism on our beloved Costa del Sol is not the quality of the people coming in but rather the quality of the people here to greet them.

Malaga has one amazing, quality resource that gets overlooked in the rush to concrete over protected clifftops or corners of favourite beaches under the mantra of 'quality experience'. The quality we seek lies within the local people, not a cement mixer. And you know what? We don't need to wait for EU money to make them. That job's been done for us. And what's more, there's 149,071 - according to last week's local unemployment figure - just sitting there waiting to be supported, trained and involved. Waiting to be quality people. It's scandalous, as they say.

Quality visitors are attracted by Quality service... no really, I mean quality with a capital Q. Internationally, world-beating, knock-me-over-with-a-feather good

service. And this is where we need to get to work; to turn this wonderful resource - the people of Malaga - into world leaders in international customer service.

It doesn't cost much either. We need to train 'til we drop in languages and understanding how foreign visitors think and feel and how they see Spain. We need to be creating constant anxiety to improve how we serve people and to monitor ourselves on service against the best destinations in the world... and really want to beat them.

So, as we start to pack the word 'quality' into every second speech, dear politicians, let me dare you. As well as tirelessly quoting the numbers flying into Malaga Airport, for example, can we publish data of what these 'quality tourists' actually feel about their experience going through the airport? Are we brave enough? Are we ready?



# THE PERFECT

plan! 

Located in the southernmost part of the province, Iznájar is surrounded by the reservoir that bears its name. The town is perched on the top of a hill, and looks like an island that emerges from the waters around it, linked to the mainland by bridges.

The castle, fortress, religious heritage and its network of whitewashed and indigo blue streets and small squares will enable you to enjoy a unique setting.

It has around twenty hamlets spread throughout the municipality, each with its own traditions and customs, making Iznájar a place of special cultural and heritage richness.

## Iznájar



## Rute

At this time of year, local distilleries and bakeries bring that characteristic aroma, the one that makes you smile because Christmas is coming soon.

Museums, distilleries and traditional artisans open their doors to show what they do best: Christmas treats, aniseed drink (anis) and home-made liqueurs, hams and cured meats. Prepare to be surprised by the variety of places to visit and the delicacies which will whet your appetite for Christmas.

Rute stands with the mountains behind it and a sea of olive trees at its feet; this makes it one of the best extra-virgin olive-oil areas in the world.



AYUNTAMIENTO DE  
**IZNÁJAR**



Ayuntamiento  
de Rute

We have a perfect plan for you.  
Iznájar and Rute are waiting  
for to enchant you this winter!





## IN THE FRAME

# From a mystery scholarship to VIP commissions

**Art.** Alan Wilkinson has been able to get back to painting since retiring to Spain after a 40-year career in the property sector in London

JENNIE RHODES



**D**ublin-born artist Alan Wilkinson has lived just outside Castell de Ferro, near the coast in Granada province, for over 20 years. He lives with his wife of 36 years, Carol, and their three Spanish mastiffs as well as an assortment of cats.

The couple have a relationship with Spain that goes back further, having owned an apartment on the Costa del Sol where they came regularly on holiday before deciding to make the move when Alan retired.

Alan spends his time painting and has had a number of exhibitions locally in the years that he's lived here. In fact, he has painted the portraits of two different mayors in the village and has just completed the most recent – of the incumbent Toñi Antequera.

Alan explains that Antequera had been to visit an exhibition that he had on at the town hall and someone from the mayoral office contacted him afterwards to ask if he would paint her portrait.

"It was a complete surprise for her. She had no idea I'd been asked to do the painting," Alan explains. He took photographs of her under the premise that

the shoot was for something else and then surprised her with the portrait. "She was very happy with it and I'm told it's now hanging up in her office," Alan says.

In 2014, Alan was commissioned to do a portrait for the then mayor Eloy Martín Cabrera. The artist says that when Martín Cabrera left the post, he took the painting with him.

## Art scholarship

Alan, who is 81, has always been a talented artist. In fact he tells the story of his parents receiving, completely out of the blue, a letter with the details of a full scholarship to attend what is now known as the National College of Art in Dublin.

To this day he says he has "absolutely no idea" who recommended him. "This was 1950s Ireland. Life was tough and a career as an artist wasn't encouraged," he points out.

Although he was born in Dublin, during the war he recalls that he was sent to live on the country's west coast in a cottage with "no running water, where I had a three-mile walk to get to school. I went bare foot".

His early years are in stark

contrast to life at the college in Dublin, which Alan explains is on Kildaire Street in the capital and forms part of the government buildings housed in "beautiful baroque architecture".

Alan accepted the scholarship and says that he "thrived" at art college, no less because he likes being different and has "been different" all his life.

While at college Alan discovered another talent – as a drummer – and even lays claim to starting the first Trad Jazz band in Ireland while he was still a student.

Playing the drums was something that Alan continued to do, performing with rock bands in 1960s London, having moved there in '61.

The art was left on the back burner during a hugely successful 40-year career working in

**"I have absolutely no idea who recommended me for the scholarship. This was 1950s Ireland. The arts weren't encouraged in those days"**

advertising and marketing in the property sector in Kensington, London. He frequently rubbed shoulders with the rich and famous, including a number of royals.

## A return to art

It was when Alan retired and came in Spain in 1998 that he was able to go back to his painting. He paints in a variety of media, including oils, pastels and watercolour and does portraits and landscapes. "I really wanted

to get stuck in to the painting," he admits.

Alan's landscapes are, of course, of local places in Spain but he also frequently returns to Ireland (or at least did pre-pandemic) where he loves to paint views of his beloved west coast.

His portraits include a diverse mix to celebrities, from Amy Winehouse to John Wayne, and then people closer to him like his wife and in-laws. The dogs even feature in some of Alan's work.

Alan has a studio in an out-building of the cortijo where he and Carol live and he is planning to open it up as a gallery for members of the public to visit soon.

When he's not painting, Alan says he is kept busy with the property as well as their various animals.



Mayor of Castell de Ferro, Toñi Antequera with Alan Wilkinson and the portrait. SUR

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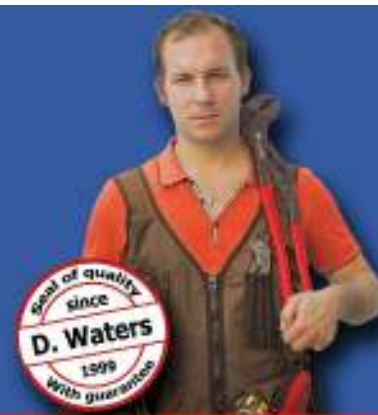
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# Press Club learns to adapt to new reality of photography

Award-winning photographer and club member Michelle Chaplow was guest speaker at the Río Real Golf Hotel

LIZ PARRY

MARBELLA. Michelle Chaplow, award-winning hotel and travel photographer, was the speaker at the November meeting of the Costa Press Club, held at Río Real Golf. Continuing with the press club's autumn theme of 'adapting', Michelle, who is a club member, shared her experiences of overcoming challenges during the Covid pandemic.

Her talk, which was beautifully illustrated throughout by her own work, started with a request to her audience to close their eyes and imagine taking a holiday snap of somewhere they would like to be. A straw poll at the end of the exercise showed that without exception, people had chosen to envi-

sion a holiday with plenty of open space and few people, showing that preferences have already adapted to new Covid-induced conditions.

This was followed by a description of how Michelle's commissions to provide images of historic and luxury hotels had also had to adapt to new health protocols, at a time when very few establishments remained open, and how on one occasion, she and her assistant had checked their equipment in at an otherwise empty airport and been the only passengers on the flight. Michelle's audience was also fascinated to hear details of the shoot itself, with all the preparation and precautions involved and every tiny detail - and every tiny crease in every pillowcase! - having to be ironed out in advance.

The speaker then moved on to talk about how the lockdown and enforced inactivity had led her to acquire new skills in different areas. When Prince Harry and Meghan Markle announced that they were expecting a second baby

and illustrated the news with a photo taken remotely with an iPad, Michelle was inspired to learn the art of remote portrait photography and put it into practice herself. She also had time to research the possibilities of using NFT (Non Fungible Token) digital certificates in her artwork, and has now had

some of her NFTs selected for international shows.

Members agreed that the venue for the meeting was ideal and very well adapted to precautionary health requirements and felt the following dinner put a finishing touch to a most enjoyable and instructive evening.



▲ Michelle Chaplow with CPC President Jesper Sander Pedersen. **KARL SMALLMAN**

◀ The talk started with a photographic thought experiment. **K. SMALLMAN**

## U3A members have senses awakened at holistic healing event

TONY BRYANT

FUENGIROLA. More than 30 members of the U3A Costa del Sol had their senses awakened at the Debating & Talks holistic healing event held at St Andrew's Church in Los Boliches last week. Four health professionals who specialise in complementary and alternative medicine offered their expertise in the importance of treating the whole person rather than just symptoms of a disease.

Physiotherapist and acupuncturist David Peromingo; alternative holistic medicine and reflexology specialist Nicola Kibble; sound therapist and gong master Souad Sbai, and Tai Chi monitor and teacher Maria Galan Laporta participated in the event.

Demonstrations included the benefits of sound healing 'singing bowls', followed by demonstrations of Tai Chi and Chi Kung, centuries-old relaxation practices.

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# Antonio Banderas brings the shine of Broadway back to Malaga with Company

3D projections, a revolving stage and an evolving backdrop make the second musical from the Soho factory spectacular

REGINA SOTORRÍO

MALAGA. "After many months, too many, we return to the theatre ritual". After interruptions in rehearsals "because of Indiana Jones" (Harrison Ford injured himself and they were forced to change the shooting dates for the fifth installment), and delays because of the microchip crisis, Antonio Banderas is now ready to meet the public again in his Teatro del Soho Caixa Bank.

He looks happy, "nervous" he confesses, playing the part of Bobby, the leading role in Company. The production is the second musical from his factory of which he offered a juicy preview. It opens on 17 November and will stay in Malaga for five months.

"I have made a great effort to relaunch the project," confirms the Malaga actor. Company is another step towards making his production factory Teatro de



Antonio Banderas and members of the cast of the musical Company. NITO SALAS

Soho Caixa Bank equal to those in Madrid and Barcelona. With the catchy theme song that opens the show and which gives the musical its name, Banderas showed the press in just a few minutes the technical and human potential of Company.

In contrast to the nudity in Chorus Line, the musical has spectacular 3D projections with

the audiovisual technique called mapping, a rotating stage and evolving scenery that literally takes over the theatre with Manhattan skyscrapers appearing in the stalls.

"It's a different, sophisticated stage but we aren't totally abandoning the idea of making pure and simple theatre," says the actor and director.

The twenty-six musicians in the orchestra, conducted by Arturo Díez Bosovich, are distributed on either side of the stage at different heights, integrated into the towers of New York like inhabitants of the city that never sleeps.

"I wanted them to be part of the show. At some point the brass section come out and be-

**With Company, Banderas continues his project to introduce Broadway musicals to local audiences**

come part of the action," he says, sitting on the stage, surrounded by the typical Manhattan fire escapes that also play a role in the musical.

With Company, Banderas continues his project to rescue Broadway musicals for the Spanish public. Stephen Sondheim, "one of the great living legends," of the genre, has signed off the compositions for this production.

The show does not have the traditional narrative (although what there is will be in Spanish), it works with a series of sketches based around a central character. The sketches deal with commitment, friendship and life as a couple, all with the aesthetics and styles of the 70s. "The humour which had an immediate reaction in those days now is regarded in a completely different way," he explained.

All that is needed now is for the response of the public. Banderas is confident that the audience will be amazed like they were with Chorus Line, the box office success that exceeded all expectations. However, the Soho Caixa Bank productions are not designed as a project to "make money" but to give "quality" he explains.

## Soroptimists celebrate 15th anniversary in Mijas

Club president Laura Domínguez reflected on the club's work so far and what its future holds

SHAY CONAGHAN

MALAGA. Soroptimist International Costa del Sol, based in Mijas, celebrated its 15th anniversary earlier this month.

Laura Domínguez, who joined in 2018 and became president in 2020, reflected on the club's achievement. "I believe that since its inception, SI Costa del Sol has worked for women to labour together and to support each other. We've also collaborated with other women associations from Mijas and on environmental projects," she said.

Laura was the recipient of the Soroptimist International of Europe (SIE) scholarship. "SI Costa del Sol works with those

affected by gender-based violence and women in education, so in a way it promotes female empowerment," she said. "Through education, we want to improve women's learning so they can have a better incorporation into the labour market and to be economically independent."

As for the next 15 years, Laura's ambitions for the club won't differ too drastically. "It's been a complicated year because of Covid-19 and we've had to adapt to this new situation," she explained. "Our work will be very important during these first years after the brunt of the pandemic. We want to be able to maintain the support network that SI Costa del Sol has been managing since 2006, and we want to make it stronger," she said.

Laura mentioned that they've started working on the Feed Your Optimism project, which she claims is "very important" to keep up the support network between



SI Costa del Sol 15th anniversary celebrations. SI COSTA DEL SOL

women, girls, people and, in the end, social assistance. "All that social capital, created 15 years ago here and on a global scale in 1921, should go towards the upkeep of that network."

### What is Soroptimist International?

Soroptimist International is a global club with the goal of creating an ample network of women, founded in California in 1921. Their 75,000 members represent different and diverse sectors of society, encouraging a spirit of service and to spur on

high ethical standards in businesses and professions.

In southern Spain, members Jytte Dam and Bente Lerche Christensen wanted to create their own club after failing to find one on the Costa del Sol.

Together with fellow Soroptimists Ellen de la Reguera and Agnes Schelde, the quartet organised several meetings to talk to local women about their proposal, but no one was willing to join them.

Jytte, Bente, Ellen and Agnes dubbed "Our Grand Old Ladies" tried to start their own club as an English-speaking one, but saw

strong opposition from the SIE, who did not like their proposal.

After a year of hard work and constant effort, an exception was finally made and the Grand Old Ladies got their wish. Recruiting began in February 2004 and by November 2006, the Soroptimist International Costa del Sol was born in Mijas town hall.

The club is unique for the variety of their members. Most are at least bilingual, useful when travelling or when receiving international guests. Many live on the Costa del Sol, having been there for an average of 25 years.



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The UK's autumn budget may not have included any new tax reforms, but the spring budget had a sting in its tail – the tax-free thresholds for capital gains tax, inheritance tax and the pensions lifetime allowance were all frozen until 2026. This is expected to increase tax bills in the long run, earning the government £2 billion.

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# Composers and conductors: women

**Towards equality.** Women are becoming more visible on the Malaga classical music scene, working with ensembles, premiering their own works and with a greater presence on concert programmes

REGINA SOTORRÍO



**W**hen the Malaga Philharmonic Society was founded a century and a half ago, women were not permitted to be members. Their presence was only ever contemplated if they were “the wife of” somebody. Now, 80 per cent of members are women and in most cases it is the men who are accompanying them. The city’s oldest musical institution, the most conservative because of its long history, has noted that times are changing and has reflected this in its programming. This season female performers and composers are taking centre stage in an agenda traditionally dominated by men, a clue that something is changing in society and, therefore, in classical music.

This is corroborated by the eight women who have gathered together on the stage of the Cervantes Theatre for this interview, eight professionals in conducting and composing in Malaga, the fields in which gender equality is most resistant. They belong to different generations - there are nearly 20 years between some of them - but they all radiate a sense of optimism.

María del Mar Muñoz was chosen a few weeks ago to conduct

the Malaga Opera Choir in one of the most ambitious opera seasons since the break during the pandemic; the Malaga Philharmonic Orchestra is including a work by Diana Pérez Custodio in its subscription programme at the Cervantes Theatre; Reyes Oteo will premiere a piece with the Philharmonic Society at the Unicaja María Cristina concert room this season, and Silvia Olivero has coordinated a book dedicated exclusively to contemporary female composers from Andalucía.

Olivero, Pérez Custodio and Oteo feature in this book, which is published by Monte Victoria, together with Isabel Royán, Ana Blanco, Cristina Gallego and Inmaculada Godoy -all of whom live in Malaga- and another five women composers from the region. Each accompanies her curriculum vitae with a piano score to reflect “the state of musical creation in Andalucía”.

“We are close to being able to abandon compensatory mechanisms now,” says Reyes Oteo (Seville, 1982), a composer and electronic luthier with the ability to create music with her body through sensors on the skin. Their challenge these days is to make their presence normal, and not have to pressure anyone to include them in their programming. The aim is to reach a situation in which “nobody comments on the names,” says composer Inmaculada Godoy (Málaga, 1972). “Because now, sadly, people think of

us on International Women’s Day, but we conduct orchestras 365 days of the year,” says Silvia Olivero (Malaga, 1975), a pioneer in her field in the province.

## Reflection of society

Diana Pérez Custodio (Algeciras, 1970) can justifiably claim to be a veteran composer, with 200 pieces to her name. She says women have always played an important role, but now they are starting to become more visible. “Women working in music is nothing more than a reflection of society. As things change to make life more livable, we are able to consider choosing this type of profession, which has always been particularly complicated for us,” she says.

Teaching is something they have in common. “We all know what culture is like in Spain. You have to do something else in order to make a living and do this in your spare time. If you add motherhood into the equation... the less help you have, the more difficult it is,” says Pérez Custodio.

“But when you are a mother you organise yourself just as a conductor who is a father does. We have to get away from those stereotypes where they decide for you what you are able to do,” insists Olivero.

When these women speak, they often repeat one word: confidence. “There is a lack of confidence in our work,” says Isabel Royán (Malaga, 1983), who spe-

**7** female students enrolled last year to study Conducting and Composition at the Higher Conservatory in Malaga, compared with 47 male students, a difference that has remained practically unchanged in recent years and shows that there is still a long way to go.

**A book features 16 female composers from Andalucía and one woman, María del Mar Muñoz, is to conduct the Opera Choir**

cialises in composing for cinema, videogames and multimedia. “They still demand more portfolio, more experience from us, and at times it seems that male composers don’t need so much background behind them,” she says.

“They question you. Let’s say a male conductor comes along and they take it for granted that he knows how to do his job, and when you get up on stage they say ‘let’s see what you can do’, or ‘let’s see how you do it’ or even ‘let’s see if you can do it’,” says Olivero. This is a problem of social education: “The position of conduc-

tor implies an authority and society still supposes that authority is masculine,” she says.

This is why it is still very difficult for women to access professional orchestras. The vast majority of female conductors work with semi-professional groups or ensembles.

“We have to demonstrate much more that we are prepared,” says Ana Blanco (Granada, 1987), composer and the conductor of the Municipal Band of Álora. This situation, as Cristina Gallego (Granada, 1989) explains, becomes even more difficult if a woman is young. “A young woman isn’t trusted as much as a young man, even when doing the same job,” she says.

## Advances

Yet despite the obstacles they still have to overcome, they all realise that the reality today is very different to that of just a few years ago, thanks to the many women who have fought this battle before them.

“I have never felt excluded, nor have I received disparaging comments or insinuations,” admits María del Mar Muñoz (Malaga, 1985), who is starting along a new path in opera by conducting the Malaga Opera Choir.

“And this year two women won the Goya for best original music,” exclaims Royán.

The new generations also have a decisive ally: social media. As Blanco says, online tools enable







# take the baton

◀ At the Cervantes Theatre. From left to right, Reyes Oteo, Silvia Olivero, Inmaculada Godoy, María del Mar Muñoz, Cristina Gallego, Isabel Royán, Ana Blanco and Diana Pérez Custodio. **SALVADOR SALAS**

them to handle their own publicity and promotion and make themselves visible. And Gallego says there are now more women as role models for those studying at music conservatories.

But at this point a barrier appears and it deserves to be analysed: there are many female students, even a majority sometimes at the professional level of music education, but the numbers decline when they enter the Higher Conservatory.

"When it is time to push ahead with a career, they fall by the wayside," says Godoy, who teaches at the Martín Tenllado. Of the 347 students in last year's course at the Higher Conservatory in Malaga, there were 144 women and 203 men. And more than half of the women were studying just three specialities: piano, violin or singing, where they are double or even triple the number of men.

However, their presence is practically negligible in the Conducting and Composing department: 47 men compared with seven women (four studying composition and three conducting). The difference fluctuates slightly each year, but there are no signs

of the gap closing in the near future. "The question is why these inequalities occur in these subjects, where it all comes down to the students' personal choice," says Reyes Oteo, who teaches Composition at the Higher Conservatory and is the equality coordinator.

Perhaps the answer lies in the slow and gradual integration of women into positions of responsibility, on stage, in the content of music studies and in the teaching centres themselves. They are more visible nowadays, yes, but still not enough. In this same department of Composition and Conducting, there are only three female teachers compared with ten men.

"It will take a bit of time. But the first women conductors and composers are inspiring and showing the way for girls, who are encouraged by it and see that it is possible to do this, that we're not weirdos because we're doing something that isn't traditional for women. We are lucky because we are experiencing this change for ourselves. I feel important to be here, making progress together with my colleagues," says Muñoz. And they all applaud.

## Women take centre stage at the Philharmonic Society

**R. SOTORRÍO**

MALAGA. Female composers and performers top this season's programme at the Malaga Philharmonic Society. They feature in nine of 14 recitals at the Unicaja María Cristina concert room to make up for their absence during so many years. Still to come: Judith Jáuregui is dedicating her recital to Clara Schumann and her relationship with husband Robert and their intimate friend Johannes Brahms (13 November). Clara Schumann will also be performed by pianist Sofia Melikyan, with works by Kaija Saariaho and Geghuni Chitchyan (24 February). Saxophonist Elisa Urrestarazu and a string quartet will premiere a work by Reyes Oteo and a composition by Fanny Mendelshonn (13 March). Soprano Laia Falcón will sing texts by writers such as Emily Dickinson (24 March). Oboist Nieves Carmona (28 April), violinist Hewich Helder (4 May) and viola player Isabel Villanueva (26 May) bring the series to a close.

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DENISE BUSH

READERS' PHOTOS



ROSALIND CAPLAN

Autumnal colours

Reader Rosalind Caplan sent in this photo of a part of her garden with some lovely contrasting, autumnal colours. From left to right: Echinacea, Euphorbia milii and the dark purple leaves of Alternanthera.



MARIA HILLEN

Countdown to Christmas

Maria Hillen's Poinsettia is preparing to get into the Christmas spirit already with some bracts already showing their festive colours.

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  
Cassia bakeriana

Cassia bakeriana is a fast-growing small tree native to Thailand and Myanmar but grown as an ornamental shade tree in many tropical and subtropical countries. Common names include pink Cassia and the pink shower tree as it has large fragrant pink flowers in spring that en-

fold the bare stems and resemble cherry blossom. Pink Cassia can reach a height of nine metres but around six is more common, making it ideal for patios as it can be grown in a large container. It has a rounded, open crown when mature and a

smooth, grey trunk. The bluish-green pinnate leaves are composed of five to seven pairs of oblong leaflets, giving it a delicate, fern-like appearance. The leaves as well as the new stems are velvety to the touch.

In spring, before the new leaves appear, Cassia bakeriana produces a showy display of pink or purple blooms which have prominent yellow stamens. They provide pollen and nectar for bees and early emerging butterflies. As the flowers age, they fade to light pink and white and can last for several weeks.

After flowering has finished, grey-brown, velvety seed pods develop up to 40cm long. Each pod can contain 30-40 disc-like seeds, each one separated by a spongy layer. The seeds can be sown to produce more plants but the resulting seedlings can take over two years to mature and start flowering.

In very mild areas, Cassia bakeriana will only lose a few of its leaves, in other, cooler areas it may shed all of them in winter. It will not tolerate frosts.

Although drought resistant once established, the pink shower tree will need watering during the hottest months of the year and needs a free-draining soil in a sunny spot or one with only partial shade. It has flexible branches and is not affected by strong winds.

Cassia is a member of the huge legume family (Fabaceae) and the specific epithet is in honour of John Gilbert Baker (1834-1920) who was curator at Kew Herbarium from 1866 until 1899.



Cassia bakeriana and close-up of blooms (inset). WIKIMEDIA



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WHAT HAPPENED TODAY?

12 NOVEMBER 1912

The assassination of a Spanish prime minister

Just two years after being appointed prime minister, José Canalejas Méndez was shot by an anarchist outside a bookshop in Madrid

NEVE MATTHEWS

On 12 November 1912, while window-shopping in front of the San Martín bookshop in central Madrid, Spanish prime minister José Canalejas Méndez was fatally shot by anarchist Manuel Pardiñas.

Canalejas Méndez came to office following a tumultuous time in the country's history.

In 1909 there was a series of violent confrontations between the Spanish army and anarchists, socialists and republicans of Barcelona and other cities in Catalonia in the last week of July.

This was known as Tragic Week, and after the events the prime minister at the time, Antonio Maura, resigned.

To replace Maura, José Canalejas Méndez became prime minister and leader of the Liberal party on 9 February 1910.

While in office, Canalejas (with the support of his sovereign, Alfonso XIII) introduced several electoral reforms that aimed to turn Spain into a true democracy.

These policies successfully faced the social turmoil that

radicals had been creating within Spain (and which had led, in 1909, to the bloody unrest in Barcelona).

On the fateful November day of the assassination, the aggressor, who was reportedly from the town of El Grado in the province of Huesca, fired three shots.

Only the third bullet reached Canalejas Méndez, who died almost instantly after the bullet pierced his skull.

This was just two years and nine months after he was appointed prime minister.



Canalejas was murdered outside a bookshop. SUR

Moments later, Manuel Pardiñas committed suicide by firing two shots with the same pistol from the attack.

It cannot be known with any certainty whether it was a premeditated attack or not.

It is theorised that Pardiñas' stay in the area could have been due to his intention to attack Alfonso XIII, since accord-

LANGUAGE FOOTNOTE

Asesino	Assassin
Muerte	Death
Asesinato	Assassination
Reformas	Reforms
Democracia	Democracy
Republicanos	Republicans
Socialista	Socialist
Anarquista	Anarchist
Pistola	Pistol
Bala	Bullet
Ataque	Attack
Radicales	Radicals
Agitación	Unrest
Ejército	Army
Calavera	Skull
Tumultuoso	Tumultuous
Semana Trágica	Tragic Week

ing to the police investigation, Canalejas Méndez's presence at the bookstore could not have been foreseen in advance.

A month later, a short film was released called Asesinato y Entierro de Don José Canalejas.

Directed by Enrique Blanco and Adelardo Fernández Arias, the film reconstructed the events of the attack and included footage from the burial of the prime minister.

**Bilingual crossword inside back page**

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## Winter-proofing your home with warm curtains and bedding

**Many of us have started new regimes to save money and soft furnishings are a great way to save cash on heating bills**

### COSTA DEL SOL

There has been a big change in Spain recently and electricity prices have risen astronomically. Many of us have started to adopt new regimes to combat the extra cost. Soft furnishings are a great way to make your home look fabulous but also to help save some cash. Statistics say that up to 40 % of the heat in your home can be lost through windows. In a sunny climate like here in Southern Spain, simply opening your curtains to let in the natural light and warmth of the winter sun will really go a long way towards heating up your home.

As the evening draws in, it is time to pull the curtains closed. Thick, lined curtains will help to stop the warmth from escaping from your rooms meaning that you won't need to put the fire on as soon as it becomes dark. And when you do flick on the heating, the temperature will be easier to maintain.

### Curtains for doors too

A draughty doorframe or arch way is also easily blocked off using a door curtain, any thick curtain will work as long as it covers the opening and it should fit fairly close to the wall (maybe with a track and pencil pleat heading), and it needs to be long enough to reach the floor. Draught excluders are another simple but effective way to prevent cold air

entering. Here at Yorkshire Linen we have some fun draught excluders in the shape of a long sausage dog or a very long cat! Rugs help to trap cold air underneath, stopping it from seeping up into the room. Not only can a rug be a focal point of a room but they make your feet feel warm and toasty. Over the last few years fleecy, Sherpa throws have become extremely popular as they are super soft and incredibly warm and snuggly; ideal for wrapping yourself up in on the sofa with a good box set.

Bedtime can be chilly in the winter. Not only can your bed feel cold but it can also be damp. An electric blanket is ideal to combat both dampness and the chill. Pop your electric blanket on for 30 minutes before you go to bed and switch it off as you jump in. The energy consumption is tiny but the benefits are enormous. Hot water bottles are another cheap and effective way to maintain your body temperature under the covers or on the sofa.

Fleecy bedding and flannelette or jersey sheets feel much less cold to the touch and help your body temperature stay optimal; use in conjunction with a decent duvet. We recommend a medium weight during the winter such as a 9 or a 10.5 tog (300 gsm) as a heavier weight may be too warm and a lighter weight not enough to stop you from waking up cold. As a rule of thumb we always advise our customers that you can't take the filling out of a duvet but you can always add another layer on top, so a light or medium weight duvet with a blanket or throw on the end of the bed to use when needed really works well during Spanish winter nights!





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## EXHIBITIONS

### Art Gaucín 2021

**GAUCÍN.** Until 28 November. In the new Town Hall, C/Convento 156. The Human Presence and the Vision of the Artist is the theme for this year's edition of Art Gaucín, a collective exhibition by many international artists.

### Kjell Sporrang

**ESTEPONA.** Until 17 November. Casa de Las Tejerinas, Plaza de las Flores. Twenty-six works of various sizes and using different techniques by Swedish artist Kjell Sporrang.

### Tatiana Saulskaya

**ESTEPONA.** Until 24 November. Casa de Las Tejerinas, Plaza de las Flores. Transformación is the title of this colourful and vivid exhibition by Russian artist Tatiana Ivanovna Pirogova



Tatiana Saulskaya, Estepona.

Saulskaya.

### Alexander Höller

**MARBELLA.** Until 30 November. Reiners Contemporary Art, Centro Comercial Camojan Corner. La Tormenta is the title of the exhibition of eight, large format works by German artist Alexander Höller. This is his first exhibition in Spain.

### Cristóbal Ortega

**ALHAURÍN DE LA TORRE.** Until 20 November. El Portón de Alhaurín de la Torre. Poemas de Piel is the title of this art exhibition by Malaga artist Cristóbal Ortega.

### Brigitte Bardot

**TORREMOLINOS.** Until 7 January, 2022. First floor of the Town Hall. The exhibition entitled, Mito y Clichés en Málaga, includes a series of photographs that record Brigitte Bardot's first visit to Torremolinos during filming in 1957.

### Salvador Torres Bueno

**MIJAS PUEBLO.** Until 29 November. Casa Museo. Self-taught artist Salvador Torres Bueno is exhibiting a selection of his works in this exhibition.

### ANEDA

**MIJAS COSTA.** Until 22 November. Centro Cultural de La Cala. An exhibition of art by members of the ANEDA art collective. They also hold individual exhibitions and workshops at their base in Calle Granada, 84, Nerja.

### MálagaCrea Artes Visuales OFF 2021

**MALAGA.** Until 10 December. Caja Blanca, Av. del Editor Ángel Caffarena. A selection of the works entered in the competition will be on display.

### Centro de Cultura Pedro Aparicio

**MALAGA.** Until 12 November. Teatro Cervantes. The 150th anniversary of the Cervantes Theatre is celebrated with this exhibition of old posters, photographs, tickets etc from some of the very first shows at the theatre.

### Daniel Quintero, Ibn Gabirol

**MALAGA.** Until 23 November. Centro Cultural de la Fundación Unicaja. The artist Daniel Quintero uses the philosophy of Salomón Ibn Gabirol, how he lived and the customs and costumes of the Jews during his lifetime around 1,000 years ago to create his painting. Thirty two of his works on this theme are on display.

### 2020 Imágenes de un Año

**MALAGA.** Until 30 November. Centro Cultural de la Fundación Unicaja. Around fifty photographs by seventeen photo-journalists from the EFE Agency that record the evolution of the Covid pandemic in Andalucía.

### La Luna en Málaga

**MALAGA.** Until 14 November. Museo de Patrimonio MUPAM. An exhibition of 60 photographs by ten photographers which reflect their feelings and emotions about the city of Malaga.



Divina Pastora, Malaga.

### 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.

### Dreams and Magic

**MALAGA.** Until 13 December. Galería Taller Gravura, Pje Ntra Sra de los Dolores de San Juan. Artist Caroline Krabbe will be holding her first ceramic exhibition entitled Dreams and Magic. galeriatallergravura@gmail.com

### Carmen Thyssen Museum

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

**Paul Strand.** From 16 November until 6 March 2022. The exhibition includes over one hundred photos taken by the legendary New York photographer.

**Sorolla in Javea.** Until 16 January 2022.

The past collections of the Thyssen museum can be viewed online at [www.carmenthyssenmalaga.org](http://www.carmenthyssenmalaga.org)

### Oliver H

**MALAGA.** Until 22 November. Alfajar Sala, C/ Císter, 1. Flashback is an exhibition of photographs that capture light and silence.

### La Divina Pastora de Málaga

**MALAGA.** Until 28 November. Salas Mingorance, Archivo Municipal. La Divina Pastora de Málaga. 250 años de perseverancia en Capuchinos is the title of this exhibition which traces the three hundred year history of the image of the Divina Pastora in Malaga with art, documentation, sculptures, jewels etc.

### Helen Purdie

**TORROX COSTA.** Until 29 November. Edificio Usos Múltiples, Avda de Andalucía, 7.

This first exhibition in Spain will consist of thirty paintings created in acrylic and watercolour on canvas, wood and paper. She is inspired by the energising and soothing blue sky of Andalucía. [www.helenpurdie.co.uk](http://www.helenpurdie.co.uk)

## Salón Varietés Theatre to host weekend of rock nostalgia

The Two Legends, One Stage tribute show will present the music of Cher and Freddie Mercury

### TONY BRYANT

**FUENGIROLA.** The music of two of the most celebrated names in modern music history will rock the Salón Varietés Theatre in Fuengirola this weekend. Under the banner of Two Legends, One Stage, the tribute show will present Michelle Daniels as Cher, and Gary Goodmaze as Freddie Mercury, in a concert that will reproduce the greatest hits of the two iconic singers, both of whom have been inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame.

Michelle made her name singing on luxury cruise liners, and her Ultimate Cher show has sold out at venues all over Spain.

Gary has been performing his Freddie tribute show for more than ten years and his incredible voice and electric



Michelle Daniels will reproduce the distinctive voice of Cher. SUR

stage presence has made him one of the most sought after tribute acts in Europe.

Along with all the panache and glamour of the Queen frontman and the rock god, the performances will be enhanced by the routines of two dancers: Marina Santiago Ramos, a professional flamenco dancer; and Aurelie Papineau, a French choreographer and dancer who

performed at the premier of Bohemian Rhapsody in Barcelona.

The first show will start at 7.30pm tonight (Friday), with a second performance at the same time on Saturday.

Tickets are available by phoning the box office (952474542) between 11am and 2.30pm, or on the door on the night of the performance. Masks must be worn.

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## EXHIBITIONS

## Luis Contreras La Galería

**ALMUÑÉCAR.** Until 13 November. Sala de Exposiciones La Galería. Artist Luis Contreras is a member of the Asociación Arte Sur and will be exhibiting around fifty pieces of his work.

## 48th International Art Exhibition

**GIBRALTAR.** Until 13 November. Gustavo Bacarizas Gallery. Artists from Gibraltar, Spain and Romania submitted a total of one hundred and twenty-eight works to the art competition. The entries are on display to the public.

## MUSIC AND DANCE

## A Touch of Class

**LOS BOLICHES.** 12 November, 7pm, 13 November, 4pm. St Andrews Church Hall. 10€. Remember The Days is a concert celebrating the songs from the war years. Call 684395018 or email: touchofclasstickets@gmail.com

## Ventana Abierta Jazz Club

**NERJA.** Hotel Plaza Cavana, C/Granada. 12 November, 8pm. Cookin Organ Trío. www.ventana-abierta.es



Cookin Organ, Nerja

## Museo Jorge Rando concert

**MALAGA.** C/Cruz del Molinillo, 12. 17 November, 7pm. The German Cuarteto Mandelring will be holding a recital in the museum. Free but by reservation: https://www.eventbrite.es

## Jazz Concerts

**VÉLEZ-MÁLAGA.** Until 10 December, from 7pm. Centro de Arte Contemporáneo. 12 November. The Malaga Tomaselli Guzmán Quartet.

## From Bach to Piazzola

**ALMUÑÉCAR.** 13 November, 8pm. Casa de la Cultura. 15€ on door, 13€ in advance. With guitarist José Luis Merlín, violinist Daniel Hurtado and dancers Arlene & Luis. Tickets from the box office.

## Unicaja concerts

**MALAGA.** 13 November, 7pm. Sala Unicaja de Conciertos María Cristina. Malaga soprano Mónica Campaña and Australian pianist Duncan Clifford present a varied programme of music including pieces by Verdi, Puccini,

Rossini, Amy Beach and Jules Masse-net. Tickets: www.unientradas.es

## Coplas and boleros concert

**MALAGA.** 13 November, 8pm. St George's Church, Avda de Pries. Soprano Elena Ramos Amores will be in concert. Tickets: www.stgeorge-malaga.com

## Clarence Jazz Club

**TORREMOLINOS.** C/Danza Invisible. 12 November, 8.30 and 10.30pm. Javier Denis tribute quartet. 13 November, 8.30 and 10.30pm. Scopes, Age of Reason. 18 November, 10pm. Jazz jam session. https://www.clarence-jazzclub.com/wp/

## La Cochera Cabaret

**MALAGA.** Avda de los Guindos. 12 November, 10pm. Space Surimi. Rap. 13 November, 12pm. JJ Fuentes. 13 November, 9pm. Sex Museum. Garage rock. www.cocheraentradas.com

## The Concerts of Picasso

**TORREMOLINOS.** 8pm. Centro Cultural Pablo Ruiz Picasso. 12 November. Klara Gomboc. Violin concert.

## Pianist Ben Roels

**ESTEPONA.** 19 November, 8pm. Auditorio Felipe VI. 10€. Belgian pianist Ben Roels will be playing pieces by composers Beethoven and Chopin. Tickets: www.taf-estepona.com or from the box office.

## Bill O'Haire

**ALMUÑÉCAR.** 20 November, 8pm. Casa de la Cultura. Blues music concert.

## International Jazz Festival

**GRANADA.** Until 13 November, 9pm. Teatro Municipal Isabel La Católica. With the Moisés P. Sánchez Trio, Jazz Granada Ensemble, Ernesto Aurignac, Chucho Valdés, Cecile McLorin Salvant, The Andrea Motis Quintet and Myles Sanko.

## International Andrés Segovia Guitar competition

**LA HERRADURA.** From 16 until 20 November. This year the event is in honour of the centenary of Ástor Pantaleón Piazzolla. The competition is one of the most important in the world of classic guitar. www.certamenandressegovia.com

## FLAMENCO

## Peña Flamenca

**MALAGA.** 13 November, 9pm. Museo de Arte Flamenco Peña Juan Breva. The Eva Bravo flamenco group with dancers Alberto Bataná and Eva Bravo, singer Vicente Román and guitarist Francis Cerdán. Reservations: 687607526 / 952221380

## International Flamenco Day

**ALMUÑÉCAR.** 13 November, 1pm. Parque El Majuelo. Flash mob flamenco performance for International Flamenco Day. Tickets: www.latiendadelasentradas.com

## Guided tours of the Roman town of Suel



Part of the excavation of the Roman settlement in Fuengirola. SUR

A total of eight free tours have been organised to take place during November

## TONY BRYANT

**FUENGIROLA.** Fuengirola town hall has launched a new initiative to promote the town's cultural heritage with a series of free guided tours of the ancient settlement of Suel.

The site, which is located on the slopes of the Sohail Castle, is currently being excavated by a team of archaeologists who have discovered remains that date back to the third century CE. The archaeological project consists of six phases. Currently, excavations continue in the area around the castle, where the archaeologists have carried out restoration of the

structures located so far.

The castle was built in 956 by the Caliph Abderramán III and sits above the area where the Roman town is thought to have been located - between the coast line and the mouth of the Sohail River. Evidence of the Roman town comes from a column pedestal used in the castle's construction. The column records the name of Suel, and also that the town was granted municipal status in CE 53, acquiring a certain importance in the Bética region as a result.

A total of eight tours have been organised twice daily (11am and 12am) on 19, 20, 26 and 27 November. Each tour lasts approximately 30 minutes and groups will be limited to 25 people.

Register: cultura@fuengirola.org or call: 952589349.



Kazuki Yoshida, Cervantes Theatre

## Semana Flamenca

**BENALMÁDENA.** Until 22 November, Casa de la Cultura. Details of the various concerts and performances: https://www.guiaflama.com/festivales-flamenco/semana-flamenca-de-benalmadena/

## Peña Flamenca

**ESTEPONA.** 12 November, doors

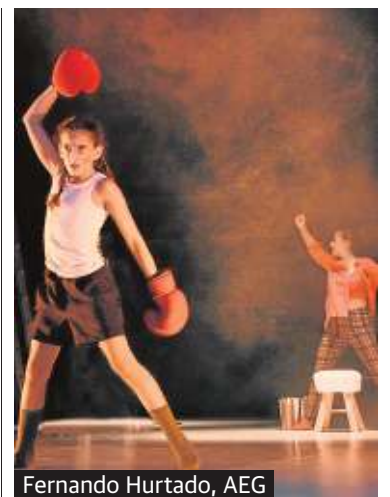
open 8pm. Plaza Fuerzas Armadas. Delia Membrive (vocals), José Fernández (toque) and Paula Salazar and Alberto López (dance). Reservations: 952803183 / 683141136

## International Flamenco Day

**MALAGA.** From 16 November. Various venues. 16 November, 7pm. Final del Concurso Cantes de Málaga at the Centro Cultural María Victoria Atencia in Calle Ollerías. 7pm. 17 November, 8.30pm. Rosi Campos - La Morena at the Peña Juan Breva, Calle Ramón Franquela. 18 November, 8.30pm. José Chaparro, Pepe de Campillos and Antonio Contreras at the Peña Juan Breva. 19 November, 8.30pm. Chelo Soto at the Peña Juan Breva. 20 November, 8.30pm. Amparo Heredia and Alejandro Estrada. at the Peña Juan Breva.

## Festival de Flamenco

**MALAGA.** 14 November, 8pm. Escula Ave María, Avda Sor Teresa..



Fernando Hurtado, AEG

A dance performance by the students of the Escuela de Danza Enrique Vicent.

## THEATRE

## Tutto Puccini

**MALAGA.** 13 November, 8pm. Teatro Cervantes. Sopranos Shoko Okada, Amanecer Sierra and Guiomar Cantó, tenor Kazuki Yoshida and baritone Luca Bruno perform opera songs from Puccini's most popular compositions such as Madame Butterfly, La Boheme, Turandot and Tosca among others. www.teatrocervantes.com

## Fernando Hurtado

**ALHAURÍN EL GRANDE.** 13 November, 8pm. Teatro Antonio Gala. Fernando Hurtado and his company will be performing Lo(w) Cos(t), a tribute to the ideals of the dance company since its creation and carrying forward into the future.

## CHARITY

## Opera for the regeneration of the Sierra Bermeja

**ESTEPONA.** 12 November, 8pm. Centro Cultural Padre Manuel. 15€. Clarice Williams, opera and classical singer and singing tutor is organising a night of classical music and opera for the Ayuntamiento de Estepona's Fund For The Regeneration of the Sierra Bermeja. She will be accompanied by baritone David Geary, the Magnum Mysterium choir, pianist Katie Rowlands and flautist Cat Wadell. All the performers and sponsors are donating their talents 100% pro bono. There will also be a raffle with prizes donated by the sponsors. Tickets on the door.

## Fashion Show for Cudeca

**LA CALA DE MIJAS.** 17 November, from 1pm. Olivia's Restaurant. 35€. Mapuchi Moda is a ladies fashion boutique in La Cala owned by Sara Haley. She is organising the fashion show with the support of Olivia's Restaurant to raise funds for Cudeca. After the lunch with unlimited Prosecco a team of professional models will model items from the boutique which can be purchased after the show. Seats must be pre-booked: reservations@oliviaasla-cala.com or call 952494935

## Art and Gifts Evening for Triple A

**MARBELLA.** 19 November, from 7.30pm. Bar Tamasís, Avda Arias Mal-



donado.

Roz James will be selling her abstract flow art . It is the art of layering paint in different ways and then manipulating it using all sorts of different techniques including air, heat and tools. All proceeds are to raise funds for the Triple A charity.

#### LECTURES AND TALKS

##### Guernica: Pervivencia de un mito

**MÁLAGA.** 18, 19 November. Auditorio, Museo Picasso Málaga or online. This is an international seminar on Picasso's contemporary painting Guernica. With dialogues and conferences with Pepe Karmel, professor of the History of Art at New York University; W.J.T. Mitchell of the University of Chicago; Timothy J. Clark of the University of California, Berkeley; Andrea Giunta of the University of Buenos Aires and South African artist William Kentridge. Fee 90€. [www.museopicassomalaga.org](http://www.museopicassomalaga.org)

##### The Arts Society de la Frontera

**SAN ROQUE.** 17 November, 11am. San Roque Golf and Country Club. Travels in Rajasthan with Rudyard Kipling: Palaces and Temples, Monuments and Forts in the land of Kings. Lecturer Elizabeth Merry. Visitors: 12€ includes a glass of wine after lecture. [delafrontera@theartssoci-](mailto:delafrontera@theartssoci-ety.org)



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#### FIESTAS AND FERIAS

##### Santa Cecilia

**ALMUÑÉCAR.** 28 November, 1pm. Plaza de la Constitución. To celebrate Santa Cecilia, the patron saint of music and musicians, the municipal band will be playing in the square conducted by David Pino Campos.  
**RINCÓN DE LA VICTORIA.** 20 November, 12pm. El Auditorio Municipal. Free. The Banda de Música will be celebrating the day of the patron saint Santa Cecilia, with a concert.

##### Trío Schönes Lieder

**ALMUÑÉCAR.** 22 November, 8pm. Teatro de la Casa de Cultura. Lourdes Arias, pianist, Lorena Fernández, trumpeter and Laura Sánchez vocalist will be in concert to celebrate Santa Cecilia, World Music Day.

#### MORE IDEAS

##### Sailing ship Nao Victoria

**BENALMÁDENA.** Until 14 November,

10am - 7pm. Marina at Benalmádena. The Nao Victoria is a replica of the first ship to successfully circumnavigate the world 500 years ago and is visiting Benalmádena port as part of its Anniversary tour. This historical ship is open to the public. Tickets: [www.fundacionnaovictoria.org](http://www.fundacionnaovictoria.org)

##### Tapas route

**RINCÓN DE LA VICTORIA.** Until 21 November. Thirty-six establishments in the town are taking part in the Tapas route. More information including partici-

pating bars and restaurants: [www.turismoenrincon.es](http://www.turismoenrincon.es)

##### Andalusí Market

**RINCÓN DE LA VICTORIA.** 15-17 November.

Belly dancing performances and workshops, pottery workshop, a procession, glass-making workshop plus stalls selling crafts, typical Arabic and Turkish foods and a corner especially for children.

##### Friday activities for pensioners

**TORREMOLINOS.** From Friday 12

November. Palacio de Congresos. Aimed at keeping the older generation active, Viernes de Guateque will take place once a month between 5pm and 9pm and will include a light afternoon tea and live music. The town hall has also organised a trip to Cadiz from 26 until 28 November visiting Chipiona, Costa Ballena, Cádiz, Sanlúcar de Barrameda and Jerez de la Frontera. Price is 180 euros per person. Register at the El Pozuelo, Playamar and Plaza Goya centres or call: 952371486.

##### Diabetes Day

**VÉLEZ-MÁLAGA.** 14 November, from 11am. Parque de La Vega de Algarrobo Costa.

Menu planning and advice for diabetics (in Spanish) at 12.30pm, a paella lunch, sports and other activities including ones for children. The Virgen de Los Remedios la Fuente de Ntra. Sra. del Carmen hermitage on the seafront will be lit-up blue to symbolise the importance of the day. Reservations: [adixa@hotmail.com](mailto:adixa@hotmail.com)



## MORE IDEAS

## EsteponaGO

**ESTEPONA.** 20, 21 November, 10am-3pm, 4-9pm. Caseta Municipal del Parque Ferial Deportivo.

Proceeds from the The V Salon de Manga los Videojuegos y la Cultura Alternativa will go to NGO Infancia Solidaria who provide surgery in Spain for children who cannot get operations in their own country.

## Diocese of Malaga Living Nativity Scene

**MALAGA.** 17 afternoon, 18 December all day. Casa Diocesana Málaga.

Students from diocesan schools will interpret different passages from the Gospels telling the story of Jesus' infancy. There will also be a bouncy castle, Royal Post Box, Christmas



Living Nativity, Malaga

crafts and workshops as well as live music. Every year the organisers, with the help of the Children's Oncology Volunteers (AVOI) collect toys and gifts for disadvantaged children.

## Lux Mundi

**TORRE DEL MAR.** Lux Mundi Ecu-

menical Centre, Avda Moscatel.

**Trip to Gibraltar.** 18 November. Various departure points. Purchase Duty Free items and English foods etc. Passport needed. 14€ with Friends of Lux Mundi card or 16€.

**Christmas trip to Puente Genil.** 15, 16 December. Various departure points. Staying at the 3-star Hotel Carmen in Puente Genil. Tickets 119€ per person sharing a double room. 135€ single room. Discount for Lux Mundi card holders.

## German style Christmas Market

**LOS BOLICHES.** 20 November, 10am-2pm. St Andrew's Church Hall. Stalls, games and refreshments.

## O. V. FILMS

SUR in English advises calling cinemas to check for any last-minute

time changes. Lunchtime and late night screenings weekends only.

## Yelmo Cines, Plaza Mayor

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

**Dune:** 21.50 (Tues).

**The Courier:** 22.30 (Tues).

**The Last Duel:** 19.35 (Tues).

**Eternals:** 12.15 (Sun); 19.00 (Tues), 20.45 (every day).

**Harry Potter and The Philosopher's Stone:** 13.20 (Sun); 19.15 (Tues).

## Yelmo Cines, Rincón

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

**The Last Duel:** 21.30 (Tues).

**Eternals:** 20.15 (Tues)

**The Courier:** 21.45 (Tues).

**Harry Potter and The Philosopher's Stone:** 19.15 (Tues).

## Yelmo Cines, Vialia

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

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

**The Courier:** 22.20 (Tues).

**The Last Duel:** 19.00 (Tues).

**Eternals:** 18.55 (Tues); 22.00 (every day).

**The Many Saints of Newark:** 22.35 (Tues)

**No Time to Die:** 21.40 (Tues),

## Cinesur Ingenio

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

**The Last Duel:** 19.20 (Tues).

**Eternals:** 20.35 (every day).

**Till Death:** 18.15 (Tues).

**Venom 2:** 18.10 (Tues)

# Javier Vilató exhibition at the Picasso Casa Natal Malaga

## MALAGA

Picasso's nephew, the son of his sister Loli, gained national and international recognition as an artist and sculptor

## REGINA SOTORRÍO

The temporary exhibition Vilató. 100 Obras para un Centenario, on display in the Casa Natal in Plaza de la Merced in Malaga, offers a complete retrospective of artist Javier Vilató. From the first piece he exhibited in public until his last, the museum is the epicentre of a tribute that is spread over five different venues, three of which are in Malaga province.

Javier Vilató grew up in his grandmother's house surrounded by the works of his uncle, Pablo Ruiz Picasso. It was his uncle who rescued him from the French concentration camp where he ended up after the Republican defeat. He introduced him to the artistic circles of Paris, showed him the world of the Montmartre workshops, taught him the technique of engraving and together they even signed four-handed paintings such as *Naturaleza Muerta* (1947). But Javier Vilató was much more than the nephew of the great Pablo Picasso. The artist knew how to step out of the long shadow of the universal genius and build his own original niche, a unique language that is now on view to the public in the Casa Natal on the hundredth anniversary of his birth.

"It is complicated to be a 'Picasso'", admitted Vilató's



Marianne, Vilató's second wife in front of her portrait. MIGUE FERNANDEZ

son Xavier Vilató, in a tour of the exhibition that he has curated and where questions about his great-uncle follow one after the other. He had the enormous "luck" to be nourished by the rich Picasso universe, but "in the eyes of others" there are always comparisons. However, Vilató achieved a style of his own that began to take on a new dimension in the 1950s.

His work is a reflection of his life. Along with the piece from his adolescence, there are two paintings from 1939 with a clear cubist inspiration, the first avant-garde, which he discovered when Picasso freed him from the concentration camp and he spent some time in a hotel where Frida Khalo was also staying.

When he returned to Barcelona in his early twenties, he joined a group of painters

looking for a place to exhibit their work and his art became neoclassical, with portraits like the one of his sister, Muchacha de las violetas.

His style changes again when he receives a grant to go to Paris and exhibits for the first time pieces like *Composition* (1946).

In the 50s is when Vilató "built his language". He said that he was born in a world where cubism already existed, so his contribution was to "give cubism curves," explained his son. It is post-cubism. In contrast to the abstraction with which some artists responded to that first avant-garde, in Vilató the figure continues to have an enormous presence in his work.

The forms are rounded and elongated in strange but recognisable compositions. In the fantastic *La Fuite avec le*



Xavier Vilató speaking at the inauguration. MIGUE FERNANDEZ

*Chien*, he uses a pointillist technique to portray a girl running barefoot with her dog.

The women in his life become his inspiration. First Germaine, Xavier's mother, and then Marianne who visited the exhibition to see herself on the walls of the gallery.

"I'm used to it," says his widow in front of several of his portraits (*Portrait aux couettes*, *La blouse blanche*, *La Cheminée*). Although she confesses that she never posed for him: "It was in his head."

His Andalusian roots are also present in striking works such as *Guitarrista*. Anything that "smelled of Spain" appealed to those who had been forced to live far from it. Vilató, who maintained his link with Barcelona, was Picasso's Spanish connection in France and brought him news of his family and wine from Malaga.

"Their relationship was very intense."

Françoise Gilot (the French artist who had a ten-year relationship with Picasso) used to tell me that when she was with Pablo, the person closest to him was my father," recalls Xavier.

A selection of Vilató's works can also be seen in the Pompidou in Malaga and the Museo del Grabado Español Contemporáneo in Marbella.

The exhibition will remain at the Casa Natal Picasso Malaga until 20 March 2022 and closes a circle that began when Vilató and his family travelled to Malaga in the late 1990s to visit the Casa Natal and its director Eugenio Chicano. Back then it was the only place that kept "the flame of Picasso" alive. Decades later, Vilató has returned to the museum.



# Does cork still float to the top?

ANDREW J. LINN



The war between cork and other forms of bottle closure has been waging for decades. Aesthetically and ecologically cork deserves to win, but accountants look only at the bottom line. For centuries there

has been no alternative to cork, a relatively expensive solution, but now there are many types of 'cork' made from sugar cane and artificial corks. The oak forests of southern Portugal would have no reason to be there were it not

for the cork harvest and the wildlife; the continued use of cork is vital to a large section of the population. The area provides half of the world's supply, and while expensive wines will always have genuine corks, metal closures and artificial cork are fast gaining ground. Shady tactics are commonplace and may be why the Portuguese Cork Association claims that cork-sealed wine increases in price twice as fast as wine stoppered with cheaper alternatives. The devious message is that if a

bodega wants its wines to increase in price it should use cork. As more wineries use non-cork closures, cork-use will shrink until it only embraces the highest-priced wines. It is inevitable that wines with cork closures will be the more expensive. The Portuguese are trying to con us into thinking that, like a man buying an expensive suit because it is silk-lined, all silk must be good, while the fact is that expensive suits are mostly silk-lined - and good wines mostly have real corks.

## WINE OF THE WEEK

### Viña Ardanza RV

This Reserva has been thirty-six months maturing in oak barrels and is made from tempranillo and garnacha grape varieties of the 2015 vintage. A Rioja classic that is a good example of why this region has become prominent as far afield as China. Around €22.



## PIZZA EXPRESS



# One Eden Launches First Ever Pizza Express in Spain

### ALCAIDESA

**SUR.** On 3rd November 2021, Pizza Express held a well attended inauguration party to celebrate its arrival in Alcaidesa, opening its doors to Juan Franco, the Mayor of La Linea de la Concepción among other distinguished guests. The atmospheric tone of the evening was set with local musician Yusef Moudden who gave an unforgettable acoustic performance.

The restaurant was buzzing with guests from the local community and Gibraltar, who enjoyed delicious, handmade pizza (of course). Firm favourites of the evening were signature dishes "Padana" a show-stopping goats-cheese and caramelized onion recipe and the famed "Fiorentina": a spinach, mozzarella, and black olive creation, deemed "controversial" on its release, due to being the first

pizza launched by PizzaExpress to include a free-range egg cracked in the middle. Founded in London in 1965, the PizzaExpress brand is loved around the globe, with nearly 600 restaurants across the UK, Europe, Asia, and the Middle East. After 10 years of success in Gibraltar, PizzaExpress has finally arrived in Spain. Alcaidesa has seen millions of euros of investment already this year, and this latest restaurant opening comes from One Eden, a Developer with exciting residential projects on the horizon, including recently launched Infinity Sea View Homes & Beach Club.

PizzaExpress in Alcaidesa is open 7 days a week and is also available for takeaway. Make your pizza dreams come true and reserve your table at the restaurant on +34 856 569 014 or visit the website on [www.pizzaexpressalcaidesa.es](http://www.pizzaexpressalcaidesa.es).

# The world's best cheese comes from Jaén

### GIJÓN

Cheese factory Quesos y Besos won the 33rd World Cheese Awards with Olavidia, a product made with goat's milk from its own livestock

JESSICA M. PUGA

**MALAGA.** After eight intense hours of tasting and deliberation at the 33rd Asturias Paraíso Natural International Cheese Festival, it was confirmed that the best cheese in the world is Olavidia, from the Jaén cheese factory Quesos y Besos.

The young cheese factory began operating in 2017, just a few months after its managers, Silvia Peláez and Paco Romero, returned to Jaén.

Both belong to families who have been working with goat's milk for three and four generations respectively, and selling it both as it is and in the form of goat's cheese.

The cheesemakers are farmers first. They have Malaga goats that graze in the southern mountains of Jaén, an exceptional area that allows the animals to produce high qual-



Paco Romero poses with his winning cheese. ALEX PIÑA

ity milk with which they make various types of artisan cheeses. Peláez has a lot to do with this process, as she is a chemical technologist and uses a method of curdling, which is the oldest form of fermentation that exists although not predominant in the area, to create a creamy, soft cheese.

The cheese is matured for 15 to 20 days on average with penicillium and geotrichum candidum mold spores, char-

coal and ash from olive stones (which took the judges completely by surprise) inside.

The judges awarded the dairy product a total of 103 points.

It was the only cheese in the afternoon to exceed 100 points.

Selected as the best in the world from more than 4,000 applicants, this dry-salted, soft goat's cheese caused a sensation at the awards organised by English publication The Guild of Fine Food.





# Food and exercise to prevent Alzheimer's

**MARTA FDEZ. VALLEJO**



**F**undación Maragall, a foundation which fights against Alzheimer's, has begun a campaign to promote healthy lifestyle habits for a healthy brain. Scientific evidence has shown that one in every three cases of this illness can be avoided through diet, exercise and keeping an active mind.

The prescription is not complicated: it ranges from eating oily fish and walnuts to walking for half an hour a day and doing macramé. Neuropsychologist Nina Gramunt, the technical director of the foundation's Social and Outreach department, tells us about ways of preventing Alzheimer's.

"There are some risk factors that can't be modified," she explains. Ageing is one of them. The older people are, the more cases occur. From 65 it affects one in every ten

people. From the age of 80, one in three. Gramunt points out that Alzheimer's is not a hereditary illness. Only in a small proportion of cases, around one per cent, is there a genetic component.

However, many other risk factors are in our hands and can be avoided with a simple change of lifestyle. First clue: everything that is good for the heart also protects the brain. It is important to control high blood pressure, cholesterol and obesity, not to smoke and not to drink a lot of alcohol. Healthy eating is essential in the battle against this cruel illness which leads to dementia and affects about 900,000 people in Spain.

"The work carried out by Barcelona Beta Brain Center, Fundación Maragall's research centre into Alzheimer's, shows the direct impact of the omega 3 from oily fish on strengthening the brain's resistance to developing this degenerative illness," says Gramunt.

## No more sedentary lifestyle

As well as oily fish two or three times a week, walnuts are other stars when it comes to healthy neurons. "A handful a day," she recommends. In general the Mediterranean diet is a great help in preventing Alzheimer's. That means fruit, fresh vegetables, wholemeal cereals and very little meat, sugar, sweets and cured meats. Drinking two litres of water a day and using virgin olive oil are other recommendations to ensure the health of the neurons.

There is also no doubt that a sedentary lifestyle increases the risk of cognitive deterioration. Everyone needs to get off the sofa and, simply, start walking. "Aerobic exercise facilitates cellular oxygenation and it has been demonstrated that it can even generate new neurons in sensitive areas of the hippocampus," says Nina Gramunt. It is precisely in that area of the brain that the first damage from Alzheimer's occurs. She recommends walking for at least 30 minutes a day, five days a week or more.

What about other types of exercise? "The ones that tone and work on strength and balance are also recommended," she says. They reduce the risk of falling and, in turn, protect the brain. "The first symptoms of Alzheimer's may not show for many years, even 20 years, but surgery, for example for a broken

**Lifestyle.** Eating oily fish and walnuts, walking every day and keeping the brain active are ways to slow down the ageing process, say experts

hip, can speed up the process by eliminating the barriers that protect the brain from the illness," Gramunt explains.

Keeping the brain active is another way of fending off the threat. It doesn't have to mean studying a language, learning about computers or doing crosswords. "Any activity that takes us out of our comfort zone is fine, it may be cooking, painting or even doing macramé. Manual skills strengthen neural connections," she says.

Interestingly, not top chess play-

ers have died from Alzheimer's and there are few cases among amateur players, as 100-year-old Manuel Alvarez Escudero revealed recently after winning a veterans' championship in Madrid.

A socially active lifestyle also helps to prevent cognitive deterioration, while loneliness and prolonged isolation contribute to it. "Go to a conference, go to an exhibition, talk with friends," says Gramunt. Such simple habits are very important to slow down the ageing of the brain.

And at night a good, restorative sleep is essential. Experts agree that deep sleep helps to eliminate certain toxins which are responsible for Alzheimer's and other neurological disorders.

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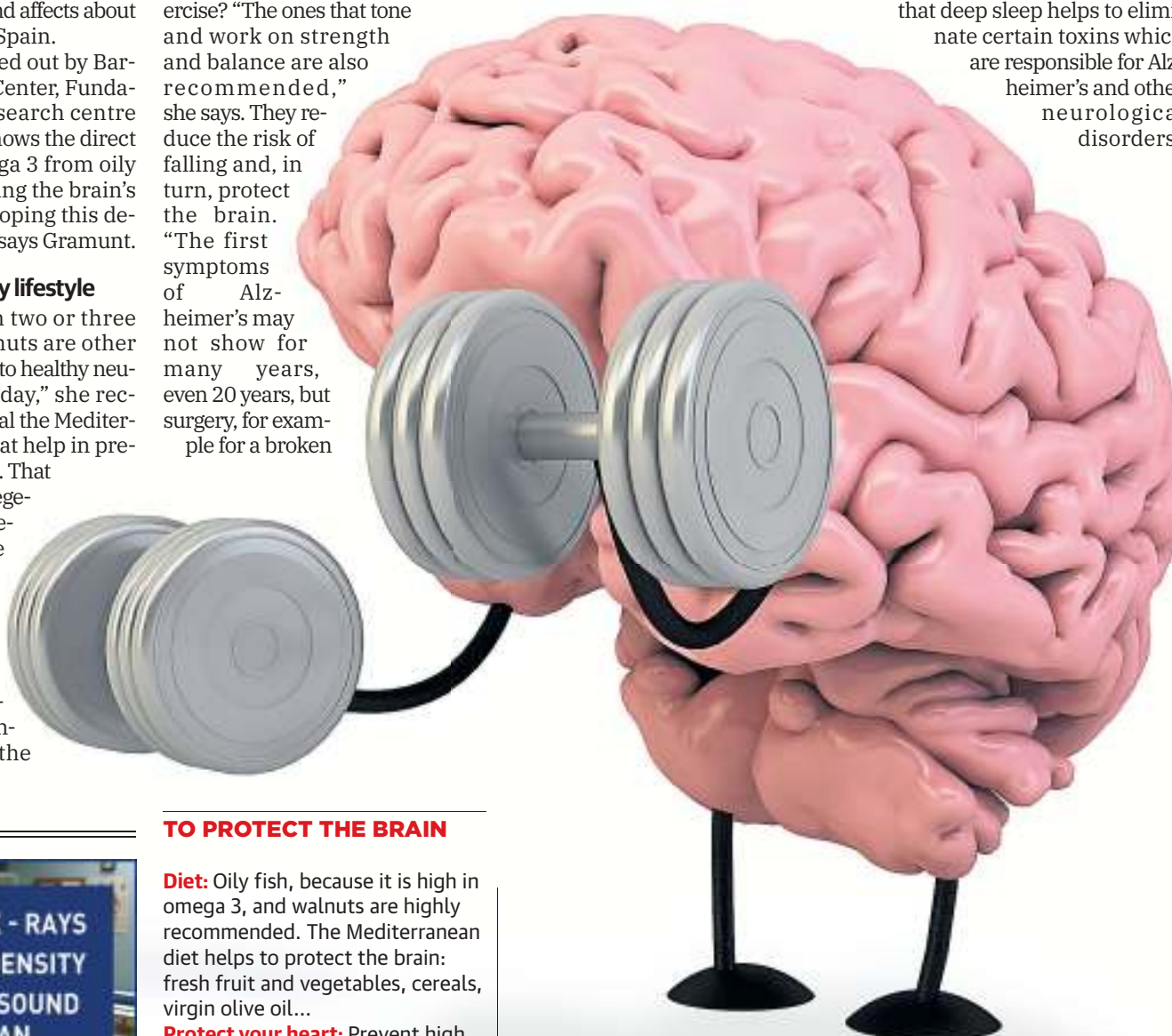
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## TO PROTECT THE BRAIN

**Diet:** Oily fish, because it is high in omega 3, and walnuts are highly recommended. The Mediterranean diet helps to protect the brain: fresh fruit and vegetables, cereals, virgin olive oil...

**Protect your heart:** Prevent high blood pressure, cholesterol and obesity. What is good for the heart is also good for the brain.

**Exercise:** Walk 30 minutes a day. Aerobic exercise oxygenates the cells.

**Keep an active mind:** Study a language, paint, cook...

**Social life:** Go to an exhibition, a conference, go out and chat with friends. Isolation favours cognitive deterioration.

**Sleep:** The hours you sleep aren't as important as the fact that it must be restorative. Toxins are eliminated from the brain during sleep.

## THE FIGURES

**900,000**  
people in Spain have Alzheimer's. It affects more women than men. It can take 20 years for any symptoms to appear.

**10%**  
of people over the age of 65 suffer from this illness. In the over-80s the figure rises to 33%, according to studies which have been carried out.



# La Cala de Mijas Lions get ready to mark World Diabetes Day

The Diabetic Support Group will hold its annual sponsored walk and family fun day at El Torreon in La Cala on Sunday

TONY BRYANT

MIJAS. In order to mark World Diabetes Day, the La Cala de Mijas Lions Diabetic Support Group, which has been working since 2003 to raise awareness of the disease, will hold its sponsored walk and fun day in El Torreon in La Cala on Sunday 14 November from 10.15am.

Registration for the five-kilometre fundraising walk along the promenade, which is open to seasoned athletes and fun runners, takes place at 10am.

Sponsor forms for the walk are available at the Lions Charity Shop.

Organised in conjunction with Mijas Town Hall, the event will offer a street market, a performance by the Drang Drummers, and Zumba lessons, while medieval Knights in shining armour



Volunteers and supporters warming up for Sunday's fun run. SUR

will offer mock battles to entertain the children.

Volunteers and nurses will also be on hand to offer free glucose tests and diabetic advice throughout the afternoon.

Volunteers from the group will

also be out and about offering random tests and advice in the Mijas area throughout November,

For more information, call Anne on 607 879 450, or see the group's Facebook page.

# Boy born without a penis completes first phase of genital reconstruction

ÁNGEL ESCALERA

MÁLAGA. A two-year-old boy from Valencia, born with testicles but not a penis, underwent a complex, urological surgery last Wednesday in an attempt to reconstruct his genitals. This will allow him to urinate with normality.

The operation was handled by Miami Children's Hospital's head of paediatric urology, Rafael Gosálbez, at Clínica Santa Elena, in Torremolinos.

The young boy suffers from congenital aphallia, which is an extremely rare anomaly with alterations of the genital tubercle and is also linked to genitourinary and systemic deformities.

This malformation exists in one in every 30 million newborns, and only 100 cases have been officially recorded.

Doctor Gosálbez explained to SUR about the operation. "It consists of creating a phallic structure that will allow the young boy to urinate from the base of this structure," he said. This operation was the first phase of

the penis reconstruction, which will be followed by another intervention next year.

The doctor also added that children suffering from aphallia have their urethra opened to the rectum and it has to be extended to the phallic structure, which will be built on the operating table. This allows, from a cosmetic point of view, for children to have a more normal appearance.

The operation was completed at the 18th International Practical Course for Urethra and Genital Hypospadias, which doctor Gosálbez is directing.

## Not a genetic problem

Congenital aphallia is rare, but does happen in all continents, said the doctor. He insisted it isn't linked to any genetic defects, nor is it related to any hormonal problems.

The operation serves a triple purpose: to prevent infections, to allow for normal urinating and to spare the youngster the psychological trauma of growing up without a penis.

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# Malaga still without an away win after 3-1 loss in Cartagena

With no ambition or control, the Blue and Whites were bettered by a superior Cartagena

**SERGIO CORTÉS**

MALAGA. José Alberto's Malaga side returned from the road last Sunday emptyhanded, suffering yet another defeat, this time to Cartagena. The result confirms their bad form away from home, being unable to win outside La Rosaleda. The Blue and Whites showed no ambition in Sunday's game. Some players lacked in every department, which singled them out to eagle-eyed fans, aided by a stubborn manager who seems unwilling to change his formation, instead filling in the gaps with whoever is available. Granted, José Alberto shuffled some men around, namely Brandon and Escassi, as was probable after a busy week with three matches. But the changes made little to no effect. Wingers Brandon and Antónín failed to connect with their respective full-backs while in attack and in the first half Malaga were at the mercy of their hosts. On the contrary, Cartagena, who played the same 4-2-3-1 formation that the visitors were using,



Malaga continue without an away win following last Sunday's loss in Cartagena. **PASCU MÉNDEZ / SUR**

did manage to strike up a connection between their men on the wing. Malaga's half-hearted pressure, which is usually much higher and better, made it easy for the hosts to play out from the back, through the middle and with all attacking players involved. The first half seemed poised to end goalless, although Cartagena did do more than enough to deserve the lead. Then, with only a few minutes of the first 45 to go, the hosts managed to get a some-

what questionable penalty in their favour, which Rubén Castro easily converted to put his side ahead. José Alberto then brought Brandon on for Kevin at the break to shake things up, restructuring Malaga's line-up, with Paulino returning to his usual right-wing position. But within ten minutes, and before the Blanquiazules had time to take advantage of the change, Cartagena doubled their lead with a header through another defensive mishap on Malaga's part.

The La Rosaleda outfit then made an immediate triple substitution, bringing on two strikers, Sekou and Jozabed, and Cufre at left-back, despite the problem existing in midfield and where no changes were made until 10 minutes from the end. At this point Malaga were broken and completely lacking in concentration, eventually gifting Cartagena a free-kick on the edge of the box. Rubén Castro converted it and bagged his brace. The visitors could not sink any

lower, and after their hosts took off their best players, they slightly improved as they had nothing to play for. Peybernes managed a consolation goal in the 82nd minute and Malaga had chances to score a couple more, but it was just papering over some very big cracks. The next game for the Blue and Whites is at La Rosaleda on Monday, (15 November), at 9pm, when they face a high-flying Tenerife team that has the second best away record in the division.

**SECOND DIVISION**

**Results of Matchday 15**

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

**Table**

Team	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	PT
1. Almería	15	11	1	3	29	11	34
2. Eibar	15	8	4	3	20	16	28
3. Tenerife	15	8	3	4	21	13	27
4. Las Palmas	15	7	6	2	22	15	27
5. Ponferradina	15	7	5	3	19	13	26
6. Valladolid	15	7	4	4	21	17	25
7. Ibiza	15	5	7	3	18	18	22
8. Sporting	15	6	4	5	16	16	22
9. Cartagena	15	7	1	7	21	22	22
10. Oviedo	15	4	8	3	16	15	20
11. <b>Malaga</b>	15	5	5	5	14	18	20
12. Zaragoza	15	3	10	2	12	11	19
13. Girona	15	5	3	7	16	18	18
14. Mirandés	15	5	3	7	23	26	18
15. Huesca	15	4	5	6	16	17	17
16. Lugo	15	3	7	5	17	19	16
17. Fuenlabrada	15	3	7	5	12	14	16
18. Burgos	15	4	4	7	13	17	16
19. Leganés	15	3	5	7	15	19	14
20. R. Sociedad B	15	3	5	7	14	18	14
21. Amorebieta	15	2	7	6	18	22	13
22. Alcorcón	15	2	2	11	12	31	8

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## Changes in store for the Blue and Whites in the winter transfer window

Injuries, greater spending power and the search for improvement in the team have led the club to consider reinforcements

**ANTONIO GÓNGORA**

Malaga are already planning to strengthen the team this winter, with the aim of climbing higher in the table and beating last season's result (12th). The club's plan is for the medium term, although they will have to seek reinforcements in the coming winter market to cover absences, at least that of injured defender Luis Muñoz. Raising the level of the team as much as possible now, therefore, will allow them to start planning for the coming season from January. The management is already

working on multiple possibilities to incorporate different profiles on to the team. Malaga are already working with their mind set on the second round of the championship and on future seasons. Their objectives have changed. Rather than just fighting to avoid relegation, their sights are now set on a position in the upper half of the table, without even ruling out a chance of promotion to Primera. The club can now compete with the teams in the upper zone, their accounts have changed. In fact, the manage-

**If anyone new is brought in it will be with the intention of significantly improving the level of play**

ment would have invested in a player of a higher level already if they had known that their income for the squad was going to improve. The confirmation of the increase in the salary cap arrived in the last phase of the summer transfer window, when the team was almost complete and players already ruled out. Malaga CF could in fact make several signings before January. The club has to watch the progress of players with injuries or physical problems. Apart from Luis Muñoz, who will be out for the entire season, others such as Hicham, Chavarria and Sekou are having difficulty. Club sources have said that whoever joins the club this winter will be brought in to significantly improve the level of play. It won't be a question of bringing in just anyone to fill a vacancy.





A LOOK AT LA LIGA  
ROB PALMER  
Commentator, Sky Sports

# The Xavi era

The hope is that he will follow in the footsteps of Cruyff, Guardiola and Zidane. The fear is that he won't quite make the transition like Solskjaer, Lampard and Pirlo



**X**avi Hernandez touches down. The Barcelona marketing department goes into overdrive, the President appears to be joined at the hip with new coach as he poses for countless photo opportunities and fans are pinning faith in the accomplished player becoming a great coach.

The hope is that he will follow in the footsteps of Johan Cruyff, Pep Guardiola and Zinedine Zidane. The fear is that he won't quite make the transition like Ole Gunnar Solskjær, Frank Lampard and Andrea Pirlo.

"I prefer to be in the Guardiola, Zidane group than the other one," joked the man with the biggest task in club football.

To be quite honest, nobody knows if he's capable of turning around a desperate situation. He can't do anything about the one-billion-euro club debt and he can't bring Lionel Messi back to the club. Those are the two biggest issues that can't be solved.

What is encouraging is the way he's attacked the matters he can impact. He's inherited 11 injured players. He doesn't have healing hands, but he's immediately changed the physio and physical trainer.

There are several senior players who are former teammates. How would they react to their pal now being the boss? Club captain Gerard Piqué, who has been outspoken at times, cancelled a planned television interview this week



Xavi Hernández. EFE

as there is a new discipline at the club.

Xavi is being authoritative from week one and installing new regulations for the players to adhere to. They must show up for training 90 minutes before, stay afterwards, and dine with teammates. Failure to adhere will result in hefty fines.

I remember one story from Pep Guardiola's first week as first-team coach. The players were told that training started at 11am on the dot. They duly arrived at the practise pitches five minutes early and chatted among themselves. As the second hand struck eleven, Guardiola surveyed his players and pointed to two of the most senior stars "You and you, both fined," the legend goes.

"Why boss? We are here five minutes early," said one of the shocked pair.

"Yes, but at 11am you were finishing your conversation and not ready to listen," explained the new coach.

So, Piqué, Jordi Alba, Sergi Roberto and Sergio Busquets better be on their toes. It's one the most often used tricks in management to make an example of a veteran player early into the tenure.

The way Xavi has handled himself, the confidence he exudes, the noises he's made... all suggest he can turn the situation around. Ronald Koeman looked like a beaten man and his team mirrored his demeanour.

It's a fresh start. He can't invest in new players, but he does have a full team to come back from the casualty ward. Many teenagers have been thrown in ahead of time and exceeded expectation. If they are drip-fed games and not depended upon to lead the club from the current predicament, he's inheriting some of the finest young talent in world football.

The excitement has returned to the Camp Nou; let the Xavi era begin.

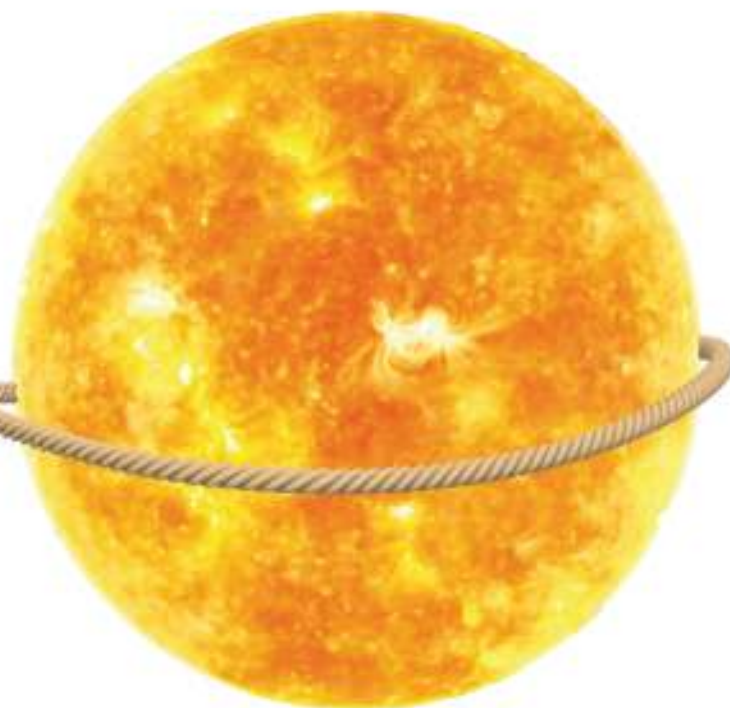
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## SPORT IN PICTURES



▲ **Malaga welcomes the Harlem Globetrotters.** The American exhibition basketball team entertained spectators at Malaga's Martín Carpena arena last weekend. The team stopped the game on numerous occasions to dance - even on top of the hoop - and encourage the audience to clap and cheer. They won 87-83 against the Washington Generals. **FRANCIS SILVA**



▲ **Genal Valley 'Gran Vuelta'.** Jesús Gil (above) was the winner in the Ultra category of the gruelling trail challenges through the countryside of the Genal Valley last weekend. The 100-Mile event was won by Víctor Lobatón. Some 750 athletes took part in the races. **P. A. GUERRERO CHITO**



▲ **Malaga Femenino beat Zaragoza 4-2 on penalties.** The second round of the knockout Queen's Cup tournament was hosted at La Rosaleda on Thursday, only the second official women's football match held at the stadium this century. **ÑITO SALAS**

## Brazilian Jiu Jitsu club picks up medals in national competition

The Torrox Costa club won a gold, two silvers and two bronzes in the FIJJD European Cup in Valencia, their first competition

**NEVE MATTHEWS**

MALAGA. A Brazilian Jiu Jitsu club located in Torrox Costa came back with five medals from the FIJJD European Cup in Valencia last month.

The club's first ever competition resulted in a gold medal won by Louis Donnelly, 14, two silvers earned by Lucy Birchall, 8, and Max Birchall, 12, and two bronzes achieved by Aaron Jones, 12, and Pablo Forrester, 14.

The club's instructor, Chris Birchall, moved to Frigiliana from Manchester in August 2020 to set up a BJJ academy, Progress Academia.

For the first few months, classes were held in his garage, but in spring 2021 they relocated to their own gym space located close to Peñoncillo beach in Torrox Costa.

Chris said, "This was an amazing achievement for the kids and for the club. The hardest battle of all for the children leading up to their fights was dealing with the nerves. But we all supported each other and they represented themselves and the academy brilliantly."

The next challenge for the club awaits at the Spanish Cup in Ma-

drid at the beginning of December, for which everybody is "preparing hard".

On offer at the academy are classes for children and adults, beginners and advanced.

Brazilian Jiu Jitsu is a martial art that revolves around the concept that a smaller, less strong participant can successfully defend themselves against a bigger opponent by using leverage and weight distribution.

"The academy is always looking to find new members. Brazilian Jiu Jitsu is a really fun sport but also a really effective form of self-defence," explained Chris.

**More information:**  
[Info@progressacademia.es](mailto:Info@progressacademia.es)



The medal winners at the competition in Valencia. **SUR**



The members of the club in Torrox Costa. **SUR**





The staggered exit on Avenida Manuel Alvar. **SALVADOR SALAS**

## Seven thousand take to the streets for the Malaga half marathon

Reasons for running included raising awareness for different causes, personal challenges and love stories in the thirtieth edition of the race, won by Cristóbal Valenzuela and Lola Chiclana

**MARINA RIVAS**

**MALAGA.** Almost 7,000 runners from all age groups and various parts of the world gathered in the streets of the capital of the Costa del Sol last Sunday for the thirtieth CaixaBank City of Malaga half marathon.

Winner of the men's category was Cristóbal Valenzuela from Cueva de Nerja athletics club, followed by Alberto González and Pablo Salcedo. Top of the women's was Lola Chiclana, also from Cueva de Nerja athletics club, with Sandra Schenkel and Fátima Ou-haddou coming second and third respectively.

For a few hours, thousands of people relived a pleasure that had been forgotten for a year due to the pandemic.

There were smiles, tears, pain, sweat and personal challenges,

all of which stemmed from the desire to accomplish a new challenge and feel the emotion of crossing the finish line.

No matter which age or gender, every participant wore a wide smile when entering the Malaga city stadium, the starting point for the thirtieth edition of the event.

Each participant had their particular reason to run, such as Borja Chica, winner of the wheelchair category and pushed during the 21 kilometres by one of the representatives from the Flying on Wheels Association: "It's my first half marathon, although I have done a marathon before. It has been very exciting, very emotional. With people like this from the association, I will continue to achieve goals like this," the young man in the wheelchair explained excitedly.

Also in the spirit of giving visibility to crucial causes like this, Encarna Prados, a grandmother from Almuñécar who has been running races of all kinds of distances for 17 years to give visibility to autism, decided to participate.

"I run for my grandson and always run wearing this shirt from the Altea Association of Almería, and now there are many of us who

run for him: my son, friends..."

Sergio Fernández from Alhaurín decided to forgo running shoes in favour of typical Mexican footwear similar to sandals, called huaraches.

"Why trust trainers and not our anatomy. There are many knee injuries caused by having too much cushioning...I've been like this for seven years, even running trails and marathons without shoes," he explained just after passing the finish line.

Accompanied by a baby stroller, Malaga resident Han Soo Kim pushed the youngest participant of the race, his son: "He has done very well...he has slept the whole race. He is only 9 months old so it's his first big race; I hope he becomes an athlete," he joked.

One local man ran the whole race and crossed the finish line with a skipping rope. "I'm from Aliquindoi, an open water swimming club. We also run and for us there is nothing that isn't possible. Many people run, but with a skipping rope...it has been brutal but everything has gone fantastically," explained Javier Cortés, without any sign of fatigue.

After almost three hours, everyone present waited expectantly for the final person to finish the race, a young Colombian named Estefanía Moreno, who, with a wide smile, concluded her first big race.

"It's my first half marathon and I am very proud to have run it here in Malaga...my boyfriend told me that he would be very happy if I ran this race with him here in Malaga... I have done it for him, he finished a little earlier than me, of course," she laughed.



Winner Cristóbal Valenzuela crosses the finishing line. **SALVADOR SALAS**



The podium winners in the women's category. **SALVADOR SALAS**



Borja Chica, winner of the wheelchair category. **FRANCIS SILVA**

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# SUR

## in English

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MALAGA PORT INFORMATION

CRUISE SHIP MOVEMENTS (SOURCE: MALAGA PORT AUTHORITY)

Ship	Date	From	Next port	Docks	Sails
Borealis	12/11	Cartagena	Liverpool	08.00	20.00
Seadream I	13/11	Tanger	Funchal	08.00	18.00
MSC Splendida	14/11	Funchal	Civitavecchia	08.00	14.00
Star Legend	14/11	Barcelona	Tangier	08.00	21.00
Costa Diadema	15/11	Marseille	Cadiz	09.00	19.00
Bolette	16/11	-	-	08.00	18.00
Marella Explorer2	18/11	Gibraltar	Barcelona	06.00	23.00
Vasco Da Gama	18/11	-	-	08.00	18.00
Ventura	18/11	Cartagena	Gibraltar	08.00	21.00
Viking Jupiter	18/11	Barcelona	Casablanca	08.00	18.00
Hebridean Sky	20-24/11	-	Motril	08.00	22.00
Brilliance ot Seas	22/11	Cartagena	Cadiz	08.00	17.00
Queen Elizabeth	23/11	-	-	00.00	00.00
Costa Magica	23/11	Barcelona	Casablanca	07.30	17.30
Silver Spirit	24/11	-	-	08.00	23.00
Marella Explorer2	25/11	Gibraltar	Barcelona	06.00	23.00



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<b>Ireland</b>	Avda. Los Boliches, Fuengirola	952475108	<b>Hungary</b>	Av. de Velásquez, (Crce aeropuerto) Malaga	952236966



THE STARS



**Aquarius**  
January 21st - February 19th  
With a potent Eclipse in your domestic sector, there may be positive news that might impact your ambitions. This time you'll be glad to hear it.



**Pisces**  
February 20th - March 20th  
If you're looking for major change, avoid impulsive action. The eclipse encourages you to develop a strategy that takes into account your financial as well as your emotional wellbeing.



**Aries**  
March 21st - April 20th  
A situation may peak and your first reaction might be to do something to relieve the pressure. Quietly assess matters first.



**Taurus**  
April 21st - May 21st  
The Lunar Eclipse could bring up many emotions but also be a release. If you need to let off steam or shed a tear it might ease tensions.



**Gemini**  
May 22nd - June 21st  
With a potent Eclipse on the cards, it might be time for a reset. Perhaps a shift is needed so you can enjoy a better way of living day-to-day.



**Cancer**  
June 22nd - July 23rd  
With the emphasis on your creative zone, this is an opportunity to invest energy in your talents and promote your skills.



**Leo**  
July 24th - August 23rd  
Don't do anything too hasty as it might backfire. The Lunar Eclipse in your career zone suggests you'll be the winner if you can make positive changes that benefit your family too.



**Virgo**  
August 24th - September 23rd  
If you want things to be different, then be ready to make changes slowly and steadily. The Eclipse encourages you to branch out and explore new opportunities.



**Libra**  
September 24th - October 23rd  
While you may be longing for a breakthrough in financial matters, don't spoil all your hard work by splurging. If you can keep a steady head you'll make the best use of a golden opportunity..



**Scorpio**  
October 24th - November 22nd  
The desire for freedom may inspire you to take a more independent course, regardless of what others might think. Need to clear the air? Talk about it and a relationship could change for the better.

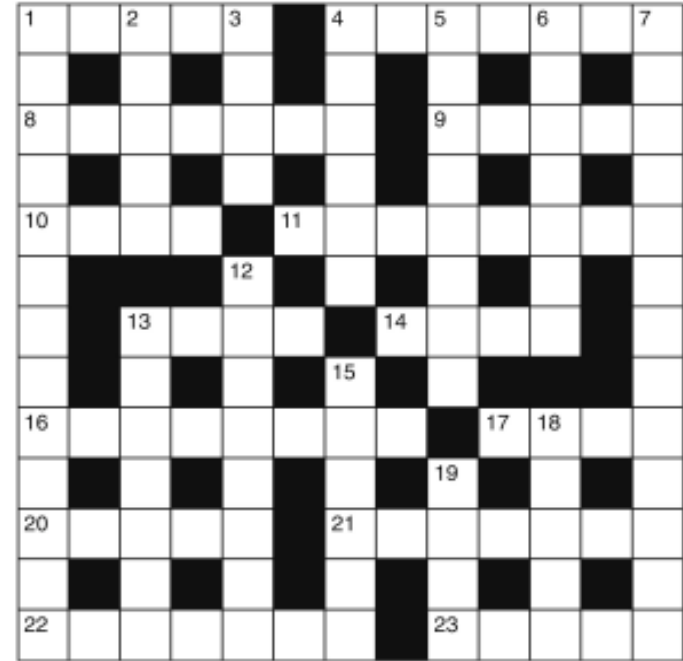


**Sagittarius**  
November 23rd - December 21st  
Feeling frustrated by your lifestyle? Perhaps you just need a break, and if so, including activities that are exciting and different might help. The Eclipse could bring a new and dynamic future.



**Capricorn**  
December 22nd - January 20th  
Find yourself falling head over heels? Give yourself some time before you dive in and commit further. An issue may seem overwhelming, but you have the strength to resolve it.

CRYPTIC CROSSWORD N° 11487



Across

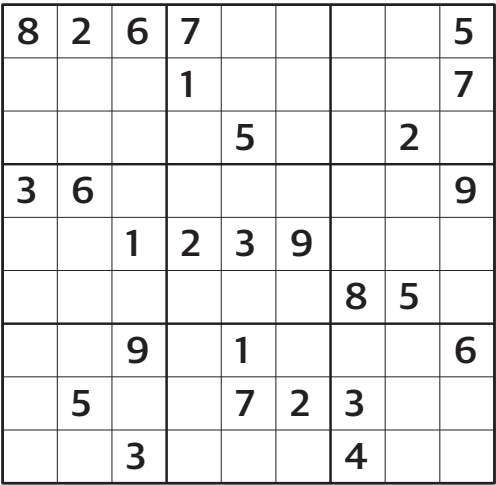
- 1 Near a quiet road (5)
- 4 Panicked and ran off without quiet father returning (7)
- 8 They're weighed at sea (7)
- 9 Handy trees? (5)
- 10 Exhaust or another car part, say (4)
- 11 Adolescent having to generate change (8)
- 13 One stopping in Ireland? (4)
- 14 The animal left one on (4)
- 16 Nonentities can make murder cases hard to solve (8)
- 17 Prime Minister of Paradise? (4)
- 20 Bird going over the Rhone (5)
- 21 One providing food in a terrace, possibly (7)
- 22 Snooker players who might get cups (7)
- 23 In which place we take the girl in (5)

Down

- 1 Ability of an artisan to get on a boat (13)
- 2 Part of Mr Magoo's cartoon gets an Academy Award (5)
- 3 Memo about a famous school (4)
- 4 He doesn't eat more quickly (6)
- 5 Supplement taken out in the theatre (8)
- 6 The parrot has flown off, I hear - there are many sides to it (7)
- 7 She tends to cover a certain area (8,5)
- 12 Woman showing discretion (8)
- 13 Naked in new act for the floorshow (7)
- 15 Fights with dealers in stolen goods (6)
- 18 Note in awful mourning song (5)
- 19 Dish the moderates served up (4)

SUDOKU BY HANZO

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



THE WORDPUZZLER



Can you identify the words that contain 'tor' from the clues listed below?

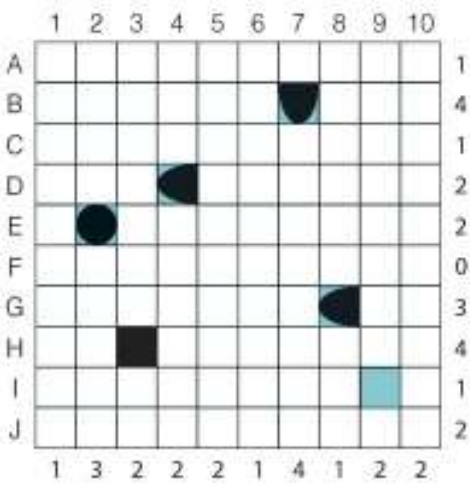
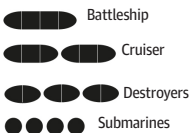
- 1. Trusted adviser
- 2. Performer
- 3. Steamy
- 4. Tempest
- 5. Conservative
- 6. Engine
- 7. Legal wrong
- 8. Wading bird
- 9. Floor
- 10. Handheld light

THE SEVEN DIFFERENCES

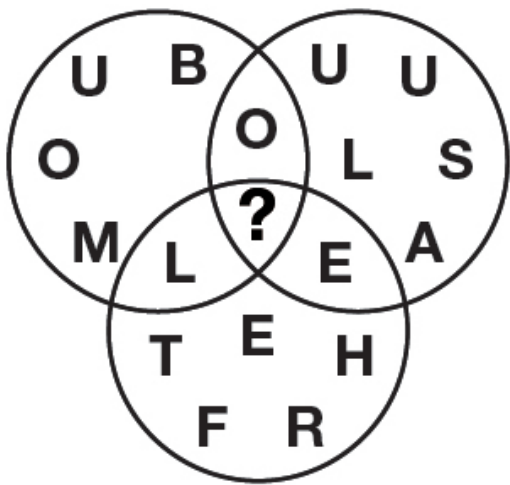


BATTLESHIPS

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



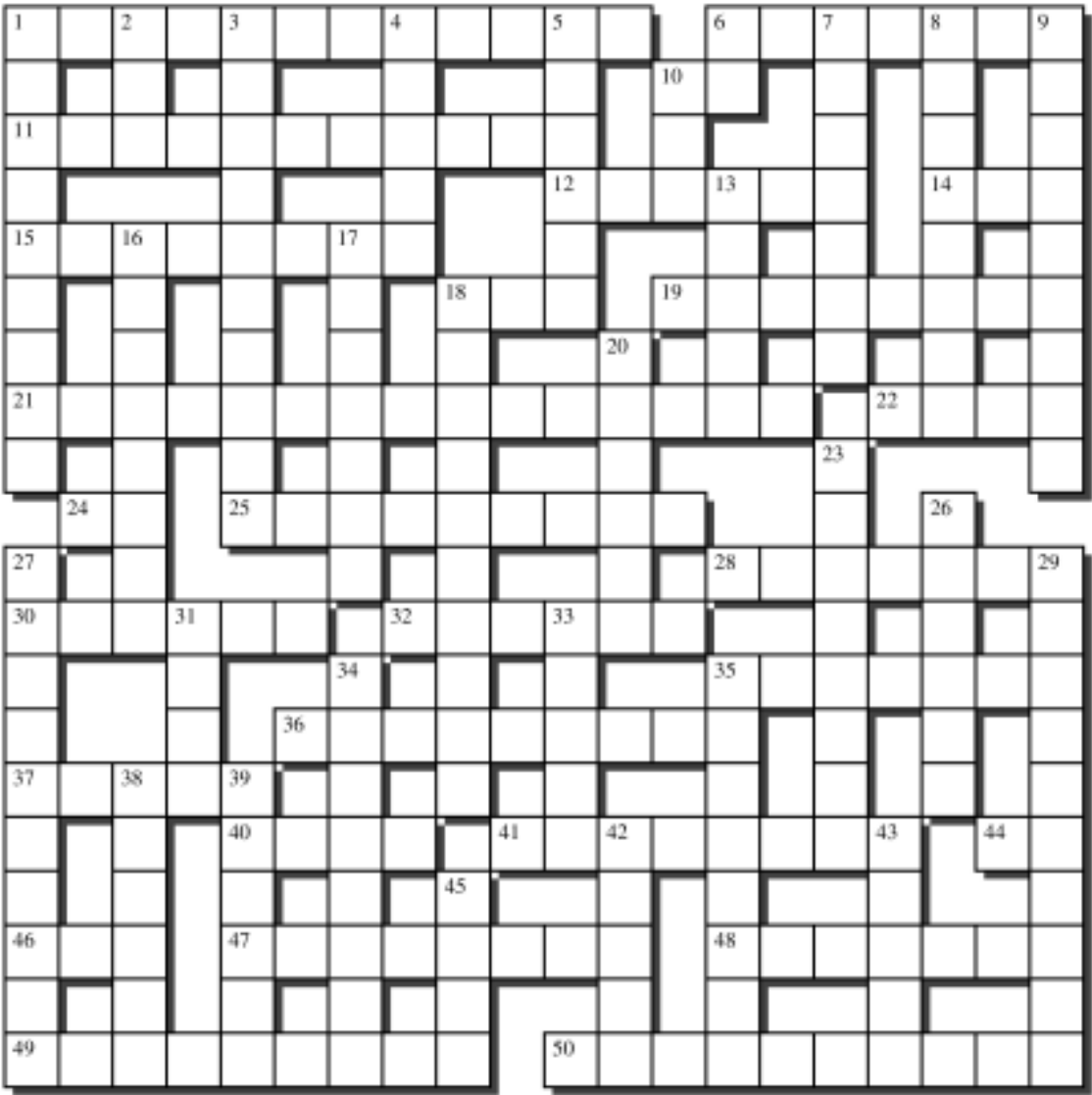
CIRCLEGRAM



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



LANGUAGE CROSSWORD FILL IN THE SPANISH WORD



- Across

  - 1) Republicans (12)
  - 6) Murderer (m) (7)
  - 10) You (pl) (2)
  - 11) Durability (11)
  - 12) Successes (6)
  - 14) I'll go (3)
  - 15) Whim (8)
  - 18) Uncle (3)
  - 19) Bookshop (8)
  - 21) Confrontations (15)
  - 22) Bullet (4)
  - 24) In (2)
  - 25) Run over (m) (9)
  - 28) She shoots (7)
  - 30) To oppose (6)
  - 32) Rope (6)
  - 35) Sunny (f) (7)
  - 36) Tiredness (9)
  - 37) Souls (5)
  - 40) Nails (4)
  - 41) They'll be back (8)
  - 44) You (2)
  - 46) To be (3)
  - 47) Army (8)
  - 48) Matters (7)
  - 49) Murder (9)
  - 50) Democracy (10)
- Down

  - 1) Radicals (9)
  - 2) By (3)
  - 3) Library (10)
  - 4) I fall (5)
  - 5) I order (6)
  - 6) Ace (2)
  - 7) Radio station (7)
  - 8) Untrue (f) (8)
  - 9) Tidy (f.pl) (9)
  - 10) I smelled (3)
  - 13) Wheat (5)
  - 16) Profound (m) (8)
  - 17) Tacky (f) (7)
  - 18) Tumultuous (m) (10)
  - 20) Unit (6)
  - 23) Rosegarden (8)
  - 26) Shoe (6)
  - 27) Socialist (10)
  - 29) Anarchist (10)
  - 31) Nothing (4)
  - 33) I snore (5)
  - 34) Skull (8)
  - 35) Sovereign (m) (8)
  - 38) Death (6)
  - 39) I suggested (6)
  - 42) I cried (5)
  - 43) Never (5)
  - 45) Leisure (4)

QUIZ

Which religious faith worships Krishna?

- 1. Buddhism
- 2. Hinduism
- 3. Sikhism
- 4. Jainism



What is cynophobia fear of?

- 1. robots
- 2. swans
- 3. dogs
- 4. being the centre of attention

How many languages are written from right to left?

- 1. nine
- 2. ten
- 3. eleven
- 4. twelve

THE SUR IN ENGLISH COLUMN

Keeping busy this season

As the days draw in and less time can be spent outside, many readers are looking to find things to do during the next few months. With the lifting of most Covid restrictions, social groups and clubs have started up again and there are lots to choose from. You might want to stretch your vocal chords and join a singing group, learn a bit more about the arts or broaden your horizons by taking up a new hobby or interest. There are also many charities in need of volunteers along the Costa del Sol. SUR in English works to link communities and is pleased to continue to give coverage to groups like these. Participants don't need to be expert socialisers. Most of the fun is in the taking part. Town halls along the coast can provide details of local groups through their foreign residents' departments. Email us your views and news at [surinenglish.su@diario-sur.es](mailto:surinenglish.su@diario-sur.es) or simply Tweet them to us @SUR\_English We are also on Facebook @SURinEnglish

ANSWERS

Quiz answers

The letter represented by the question mark is C. Columbo, Clouseau, Fletcher, all fictional detectives.

**Circlegram**

**Answer:** Hinduism

**Of interest:** Krishna, one of the most widely revered and most popular of all Indian divinities is worshipped as the eighth incarnation (avatar, or avatara) of the Hindu god Vishnu and also as a supreme god in his own right.

**Answer:** Dogs

**Of interest:** Cynophobia comes from the Greek words that mean 'dog' (cyno) and 'fear' (phobia). A person who has cynophobia experiences a fear of dogs that is both irrational and persistent.

**Answer:** Twelve

**Of interest:** Arabic, Aramaic, Azeri, Divehi, Fula, Hebrew, Kurdish, N'ko, Persian, Rohingya, Syriac and Urdu are all written right to left.

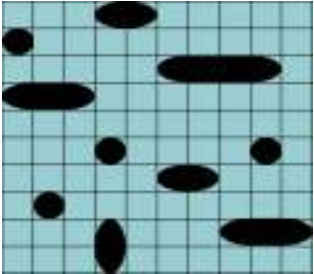
Wordpuzzler solution

1. Mentor	A	S	T	O	R	E	M	B	A	C
2. Actor	E	T	O	R	I	A	I	T	O	R
3. Torrid	O	R	G	A	S	T	I	O	R	
4. Storm	A	M	E	N	T	O	R	O		
5. Tory	R	E	S	T	O	R	E	S		
6. Motor	S	O	S							
7. Tort	A	N	T	O	R	I	N	I	T	O
8. Stork	E	T	O	R	A	S	T	O	R	
9. Storey	T	O	R	A	S	T	O	R		
10. Torch	K	E	R	A	H	E				

Language Crossword

ACROSS:	1. REPUBLICANOS 6. CASINO 10. TIRE 11. TEENAGER 13. CORK 14. LION 16. NOBODIES 17. EDEN 20. HERON 21. CATHERINE 22. POTTERS 23. WHERE 24. CRAFTSMANSHIP 2. OSCAR 3. ETON 4. FASTER 5. APPENDIX 6. POLYGON 7. DISTRICT NURSE 12. PRUDENCE 13. CABARET 15. FENCES 16. DINGEE 18. STEW.
DOWN:	1. RADICALS 2. POR 3. BIBLIOTECA 4. CAJAO 5. ORDENO 6. AS TEMPOS 8. KINCERTA 9. ORDENADAS 10. DOLU 11. TIRKAO 12. INFINITO 13. DORTERA 14. ZAVATO 15. SOCIOLISTIA 16. ANAQUA 17. ANADA 18. MONCO 19. ALVIRA 20. BERRANO 21. NUNTERI 22. BERRANO 23. ANUNCA 24. DICO

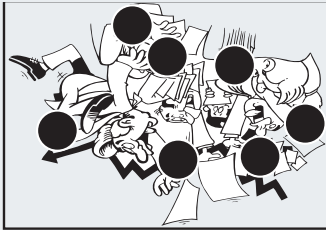
Battleships



Sudoku solution

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

The seven differences





**J**osé Núñez Sánchez, 16, has excelled from a very young age in mathematics, a discipline that has brought him many successes.

Currently in his first year of the Baccalaureate at the Maristas school, he has won several Olympiads in the field, and has most recently been selected for a global programme attracting mathematical prodigies.

The World Science Scholars (WSS) programme is an initiative by the World Science Festival, funded by the John Templeton Foundation.

The foundation was created in 1987 by the late investor and philanthropist Sir John Templeton, which allocates around 70 million dollars each year for scholarship and research programmes.

Only two young Spaniards have managed to enter this training programme (the second is a girl from Aragon), out of a total of 48 students from 16 countries worldwide.

The two-year programme will give them the opportunity to apply their skills to unexplored disciplines. Led by world-renowned experts (including Nobel laureates), they will examine the ways in which advanced mathematical skills can be applied to solve complex challenges in a wide range of multidisciplinary fields.

The ultimate goal of the programme, now in its fourth year, is to create an educational community of highly talented people who help to improve society.

José's interest in mathematics stems from his family. His father, Francisco Núñez, worked for Dekra until his retirement, and his mother, Eva Sánchez, is a maths teacher at the Jarifa de Cárta ma institute.



José Núñez Sánchez, in the classroom with his peers. NITO SALAS

## The Costa's own young Einstein

**World Science Scholar. José Núñez, 16, from Malaga, is one of the 48 selected worldwide by this American foundation, for its scientific talent recruitment programme**

FRANCISCO GUTIÉRREZ

His sister, María, who also studies at Maristas, has also participated in the national round of the Mathematical Olympiad.

José emphasised that his interest in science and particularly mathematics comes from his mother. His parents encourage him to participate in contests such as the mathematical Olympiads and have also been supporting him so that he could participate in the Estelmat project.

This project cultivates mathematical talent: 42 sessions were held in Granada for this programme, with his family taking him to the Faculty of Sciences in the city every Saturday.

José is very excited for the challenge that the World Science Scholars programme poses and to participate in this elite training project.

In June, the participants are scheduled to travel to New York to participate in the Science Fes-

tival organised by this same foundation.

It has been a "tedious" application process, he said, since he had to present the judges with evidence of his mathematical ability.

He thanks those who have made his selection possible: Rafael Ramírez, professor in the Department of Mathematics at the University of Granada, Enrique Viguera, professor of Genetics at the University of Malaga and María José Muñoz González, who is in charge of the curriculum enrichment programme at the Maristas school in Malaga.

As a highly skilled student, José Núñez participates in this specific syllabus enhancement scheme.

"Teachers allow me to delve into the topics and go beyond the basic content of the subjects, which allows me to be more active in class" he explained.

José is an excellent classmate, and does not hesitate to help the rest of the class if difficulties arise.

Students of a high ability often suffer discrimination or problems in class. This is not the case with José, who claims to have "great friends".

"I have never felt different from them; I treat them as equals and they do the same."

He also branches out beyond his studies; José studies guitar at the Manuel Carra conservatory, plays badminton and likes reading fantasy and mystery books.

In the future, José is certain that he wants to dedicate himself to scientific research. Although he still has one year to decide what to study at university, he is clear that Mathematics will be his choice, either alone or with Physics.

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