



Lanzarote

*Life*

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February 2020

GAZETTE LIFE

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## Ed's Letter

Lanzarote has never been more beautiful than in the last few weeks, with the sun shining on green hillsides and vivid yellow fields of wild mustard flowers. But the enjoyment of that beauty is tempered by the deep underlying knowledge that all is far from well here.

The resorts are ghost towns; long-standing businesses are closing, some of them forever. The pandemic is causing deep, grinding poverty and genuine want that does not have an easy answer. The only solution we can hope for is the return of tourism, because that – whether we like it or not – is what we do.

But when I sent interview questions to a senior Canarian tourist official for this issue of the magazine, he apologised and said “We don’t know the answers”. That honest response sums up one of the worst aspects of the current situation – the uncertainty that accompanies the flickering hope that the vaccine has brought.

For us at Gazette Life, one of the worst aspects of this confusing time is the knowledge that very little is

going to be happening in the next few months. Carnival has already been cancelled, live music barely exists, sport is suspended, hotels are closed and scores of businesses are paralysed.

Many of us will have more free time in the coming weeks, whether we like it or not, so we’d like to offer you the chance to publish something in the Gazette. Whether it’s a photo, a poem, an article, a reminiscence or something you’d just like to share, we’d love to see it.

There are a few rules: We don’t want rants or moans (we all know exactly where you can find those); we won’t print free adverts, and we’d prefer to see submissions that are related to the island we all share, but otherwise anything goes, whether it’s a recipe, humour, illustrations, photos or a report on a topical issue. Try and keep it short – 500 words is the upper limit – and send us a brief summary to [editorial@gazettelife.com](mailto:editorial@gazettelife.com). I promise it’ll be given full consideration.

So get out there on that gorgeous island, breathe some inspiration in, forget the misery and anxiety for a moment and get in touch. We can’t wait...

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Published By  
CANARY ISLAND IMPACT SERVICES S.L.

Avenida Central de Tías  
No.84, Local B  
Tías - Lanzarote

Cif: B76362367

DEPOSITO LEGAL: GC 786-2015

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# THE NIGHTMARE AFTER CHRISTMAS



**WE USUALLY SEND THE GAZETTE TO PRINT AROUND THE 20TH OF EACH MONTH, WHICH MEANS I'M WRITING THIS JUST BEFORE THE 20TH JANUARY. AT THIS MOMENT, THE NUMBER OF ACTIVE CASES OF COVID-19 ON LANZAROTE STANDS AT 948, WITH 39 IN HOSPITAL, AND YOU CAN JUDGE HOW SWIFTLY THE THIRD WAVE HAS TAKEN OFF ON THE ISLAND BY THE FACT THAT, THE SAME TIME LAST MONTH – THE 20TH DECEMBER – THERE WERE JUST 51 CASES AND 1 PATIENT.**

The alarming figures on Lanzarote are generally agreed to be a result of one overwhelming cause: large family reunions over the Christmas holidays that completely ignored the rules limiting meetings to 10 people from just two households. The result is that many of these families now see their elderly loved ones in hospital or struggling for their lives in intensive care.

Many of the mass infections took place in the municipality of Tías, and it is the over-65 age group that paid the highest price for irresponsible behaviour, with over two thirds of the cases in the municipality falling among pensioners.

Tías Mayor José Juan Cruz expressed frustration and anger at the news, saying “Tracing has shown us that there were gatherings of 30, 35 and 40 people, which is serious, tragic and irresponsible.”

None of the avalanche of cases has been linked to tourists, and while the island appears to have admitted a handful of arrivals with “false negative” test results in December, there is no evidence that these have spread the virus, either. It had already been here for months, and only required the right conditions to explode. Christmas

provided the perfect opportunity.

The result is that Lanzarote was elevated to Level 3 of the Canarian Government's Covid-19 protection measures, which were raised to level 4 days later. These measures include the closure of the island to everybody apart from travellers with just cause; a curfew from 10pm to 6 am; a ban on meetings with people who are not from your own household unless you are seated outdoors in a bar or restaurant, and a ban on indoor and joint sporting activities.

These measures work – they have already been successful on Tenerife – but it will take time, and during that time the chances are that some families on Lanzarote will pay a tragic price for their Christmas get-togethers.



# LOCAL NEWS



## COVID DEATH TOLL RISES

At the time of writing, Lanzarote's Covid death toll has risen by four to a total of 13 after four months without a fatality. Three of the victims were women, two of whom were in their 80s with underlying conditions. Another elderly man, also with previous conditions, died in his home. The death of a 38-year-old Venezuelan woman who had recently recovered from cancer, and who leaves two children and a husband, has shocked the island's Venezuelan community.

Increased occupation of intensive care beds means further deaths are likely, and that the third wave of

the virus will be the deadliest on an island that has managed to avoid the high death tolls of Tenerife and Gran Canaria. Both of these islands have populations roughly six to seven times larger than that of Lanzarote, but Tenerife's death toll, at 312, is 24 times higher than Lanzarote's while Gran Canaria's 150 total is 11 times higher. Meanwhile, several areas of Spain have seen far higher death rates than any of the Canary islands.

The Dr José Molina Orosa Hospital in Arrecife has been forced to extend its intensive care provision and open another Ward for non-critical Covid patients.

## ERTE EXTENSION DATE AGREED

The Spanish government has reached an agreement with unions, business federations and social groups to extend the existing ERTE furlough schemes until May 31st.

The previous ERTE scheme

expired at the end of January, but the paralysis of the national economy owing to the pandemic meant that there was general acceptance that the schemes must be extended. This means that many workers will effectively be furloughed for over a year.

## CANARYFLY SUSPEND FLIGHTS

Canaryfly, the only competitor to Binter in the field of inter-island flights, last month announced the suspension of all flights from 11th January until 21st March. The airline stated that the decision had been taken due to "the drop in ticket sales owing to the current restrictions on mobility."

## MIGRANT ROUTES RESTART

Several *pateras* (fishing boats) landed on or were escorted to Lanzarote in January after the stormy weather and rough seas of the start of the month were replaced by mild, calm conditions.

By the 20th of January, six boats carrying 132 people had arrived to Lanzarote, with several more on the other islands. Oswaldo Betancort, the Mayor of Tegueste and Deputy in the Canarian parliament, has demanded an "honest assessment" of the situation from the Canarian Government, and asked it to take up the issue with national government if they do not have the resources or capacity themselves.

"The Canaries can not become a prison for migrants because of the inaction of those who lead us", Betancort said, referring to the hundreds of minors being held in detention centres for young migrants.



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## ISLOTE REFORMS

Cabildo representatives recently visited the renovated Islote de la Fermina in Arrecife, which will reopen to the public in March.

The ill-fated island is one of César Manrique's least-known projects, a complex of pools and buildings lying on a small island just in front of the Gran Hotel. It has, however, never opened to the public for more than few weeks, and has long been subject to neglect and vandalism.

Also known locally as "El Islote del Amor" (Love Island), because it offered young couples some privacy, it is planned that the Islote will become a new centre for leisure activities in Arrecife.

## STORM PASSES

Storm Filomena soaked Lanzarote to the bedrock in early January, bringing wind, rough seas and much cooler temperatures than usual. The downpours



were accompanied by the usual floods and overflowing drains in Arrecife and other towns, but have been enthusiastically welcomed by farmers after two years of almost continuous drought conditions.

Filomena hit Spain much harder, causing heavy snowstorms and icy weather across the country, halting traffic and imposing another type of lockdown on much of the country.

## SUSPECTED MURDERER REMAINS IN PRISON

Raúl Díaz, accused of murdering his wife Romina Celeste in Costa Tegui in January 2019, will remain in provisional custody for another two years, a court has ruled. The judge also indicated that the first stage of Díaz's trial for murder is imminent.

25-year-old Romina Celeste, originally from Paraguay, went missing on 1st January 2019, but was not reported missing by her husband until a week afterwards. Later, Díaz admitted to dismembering and disposing of his wife's body, but has never owned up to her murder.



George, Ian and Joe

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# ISLAND INFO



## IN MEMORIAM: MAY MCKIE

*Areti Mallidou writes:* My granny May and my grandpa Colin McKie were born in Scotland but shortly after getting married, in the early 1960s, they moved to England to have and raise their five children. In 1973 they moved to a big farm-house near Harrogate, where they kept cows, sheep, horses, cats and dogs - all under brave May's care!

May Alexandra Smith was born near Glasgow, Scotland on December 29th 1936, the eldest of four children. She loved to play tennis (and even had a trial for Scotland once) and had a true passion for family, dogs and horses. Her favourite tennis player was fellow Scot Andy Murray, who she always cheered for.

Colin and May moved to Lanzarote shortly after their first visit to the island, as Colin fell in love with the wonderful Canary Island climate and the healing vibrations he felt just by being here. They found that Lanzarote was a "magical" place for them to spend the remainder of their years together.

After the sudden passing of her husband, Colin, in

March 2016, May moved back to the UK to be closer to her sons and her sister. She sadly passed away on December 12th, in Eastbourne, Sussex after suffering a stroke.

She was a caring mother and grandmother but most of all she was a very loyal and devoted wife. Always with a kind smile on her face and a wicked sense of humour, May made everybody feel welcome in her presence. During her 30+ years of living in Lanzarote, she made many good friends on the island.

On a personal note, it is because of my grandparents' decision to move here that I now live in Lanzarote. I came to attend my grandpa's funeral and by chance met the handsome Lanzarote local whom today I call my husband. I fell deeply in love, got married, and today have a 4 month old baby to be proud of! I too fell under the "enchanted spell" of Lanzarote, just like my grandfather did before me. Perhaps the island really is magic ;)

Our baby is named Alexandra, which was May's middle name, to honour her. Unfortunately, the two didn't have a chance to meet, but I know that May will forever be Alexandra's guardian angel.

## COMPETITION WINNERS

There was a good response to our competition for three copies of Chris Berry's hard-hitting rugby league crime novel, *Tough Season In the Sun*, which is set on Lanzarote. The answer to our question was, of course, the Bradford

Bulls, and the first three winners out of the hat were **Dominique Fennell, Kate Harmond and Bob Lake**. Well done, you three, and you can pick up your prize at our office in Tias any weekday between 9.30 and 3.30.



## ANGLICAN CHURCH SERVICES

In February, the Anglican Church on Lanzarote will (Covid permitting) hold services in Puerto del Carmen at 12.30 every Sunday. Services in Playa Blanca will take place on the 14th and 28th of February at 5pm.

All services will issue Holy Communion, and everybody is welcome. For more details go to [www.lanzarotechurch.com](http://www.lanzarotechurch.com) or call 606 835 590 or 928 514 241.

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35500 Arrecife - Lanzarote

#### By appointment only Tuesday & Thursday 9am - 1pm

**Playa Blanca Office** Call: 928 815 262  
Calle La Peña nº10, (above Foto Event)  
35580, Playa Blanca - Yaiza - Lanzarote

#### By appointment only

**Puerto del Carmen Office** Call: 928 815 262  
Calle San Carlos 1, Nº. 26 Local 2 - Pto. del Carmen  
(Opp. Lidl beside Hiperdino Express and Tias Land Registry Office)





## CAT OF THE MONTH

Alfa is perhaps SARA's loneliest cat, but that doesn't stop her smiling for the camera and hoping someone will take her home. She is a pretty, affectionate girl who is coming up to her 12th birthday. She adores people but doesn't get on with other cats, so has to live on her own at the shelter. She would need to be the sole feline in the home and would suit someone experienced with cats. Make an appointment to come and visit to meet her. Find out more at <http://saraprotectora.org/ficha-5653>. There are also limited places for people to help with socialising cats. Email [info@sara-lanzarote.eu](mailto:info@sara-lanzarote.eu).

## THE HELP AND CARE YOU NEED

Jan has contacted us to announce that she's a retired fully-qualified nurse with 45 years of experience in elderly medicine, who is offering her services in personal care and home help. She speaks English and Spanish, lives in Puerto del Carmen and is prepared to travel anywhere on the island.

**You can contact Jan on 675 151 572 or [jgild@live.co.uk](mailto:jgild@live.co.uk)**

## LA SANTA RESCHEDULES

Club La Santa has changed the dates for two of its classic events:

**- The XVII Club La Santa 4 Stage Mountain Bike Race Lanzarote** will now take place from 29th May to 1st June 2021.

**- The Volcano Triathlon**, the oldest triathlon in Spain, has been postponed until 6th November 2021.

For more info, go to [www.clublasanta.com](http://www.clublasanta.com)

## DOG OF THE MONTH

Mozart is an 8 and half year old Bardino mix. He didn't have the best start in life and was rescued from the streets by SARA. At first unsure of people, he has blossomed into a happy, confident



and loving dog. He's a real ladies man and adores his female kennel mates, so he would suit being an only dog or with another female. Find out more at <http://saraprotectora.org/ficha-7244> or book an appointment on 928 173 417 (English spoken). Dog walkers welcome from 10.30 - 13.00 Monday-Saturday (Saturday by appointment only). If it is your first visit, please bring ID.

## BOOKSWOP NEW HOURS

Bookswop at CC Costa Luz opposite the San Antonio Hotel would like to announce a change in opening hours. The shop will be open from 10 am until 3 pm from Monday to Friday, and 10 am to 2 pm on Saturdays.

Bookswop now has a full range of Valentines cards and UK Mother's Day (March 14th) cards so there's no excuse for upsetting your other half or your dear old mum. And, in line with the new normal, Bookswop also now takes credit cards.

## What paperwork problems?

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# 90 DAYS AND OUT

BREXIT BITES NON-RESIDENT PROPERTY OWNERS.



**"A LOBBYING CAMPAIGN HAS BEEN LAUNCHED TO CHANGE THE LAW."**

*Post-Brexit British travellers are about to get many more stamps on their new blue passports.*

**Despite Boris Johnson's claims for his Brexit deals, there are some areas where it is clear that the UK came off with the less savoury end of the stick. One of those is the 90 day rule.**

The UK has been more generous in this respect than the EU. Any EU citizen can spend up to 180 consecutive days in the UK without a visa, but the same does not apply in the Schengen area of Europe. Here, third-country nationals without visas are only permitted to spend 90 days out of every 180 day period in the Schengen area.

The 180-day period does not reset when you leave the Schengen zone. Instead, your passport is stamped on arrival in the Schengen zone, starting a 180-day countdown. If you leave briefly during that time, further stamps will record the period of your stay.

The rule is likely to affect "swallows" - British citizens who spend the winter months in the warmth of the Canaries before returning to the UK in summer. Many swallows spend significantly more than 90 days in the Canaries, but to do so in future they will have to request visas.

British Consul for the Canary islands Charmaine Arbouin told us last year that she was confident that an agreement would be found with the Spanish authorities to get around the 90-day rule, but recently told the Gazette that, due to the Covid crisis "I doubt that anything is likely to move soon."

Meanwhile, campaigns have arisen among holiday home owners, who are also affected by the rule. The 180 days in Spain Facebook site addresses issues in Spain, while 180 Days Visa Free is a site devoted to lobbying the authorities for a change in the laws.

The Schengen calculator at [www.schengenvisa.info](http://www.schengenvisa.info) is a useful tool for working out your schedule under the 90-day rule.

## RESIDENCY REQUIREMENT

The 90-day rule also means that it is now imperative for UK citizens to carry residency documents when leaving and returning to Lanzarote. If they cannot show that they are resident in Spain, their passports will be stamped and the 180-day countdown will begin. There's little chance that you'll actually be ejected when it expires as long as you can prove residency, but it's probably best not to invite these worries in the first place.



# What does Brexit mean for your new life in Lanzarote?

If you are planning on moving to Spain, you need to understand how your position has changed now that the UK has fully left the EU.

Blevins Franks specialises in providing residence, tax and financial planning advice to UK nationals living in and moving to Spain. With offices in both the UK and Canary Isles, we are ideally placed to advise on the potential impact of Brexit and help you prepare for residence in Lanzarote. Talk to our local Partner Paul Montague for personalised advice.

Talk to the people who know

928 433 411

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# A SHOT IN THE ARM

Vaccination is the great hope of 2021 – the key to kicking Covid-19 out and returning to something approaching the normality we lived in until March 2020. Everything from major national economies to the ability to hug a loved relative depends on getting this right, and the Canaries seem to be off to a good start so far.

Here are some questions and answers on the Spanish vaccination programme.

## Who is being vaccinated?

The first phase of Spain's vaccination programme involves four groups. They are:

- **Group 1:** Residents and staff in old people's homes. The first round of vaccinations on this group began on 27th December and was completed in mid-January. The second doses of the two-part vaccination began to be administered on 16th January.
- **Group 2:** Front-line health professionals in public and private hospitals and other health centres.
- **Group 3:** Other health workers. Vaccination of this group will take place once the first two groups have been completed.
- **Group 4:** Extremely dependent people. These are people who, although they are not in care homes or residences, require a high level of care.

Groups 3 and 4 will begin once the first two groups have been completed. After that, the vaccine will be made available to the general public.

## I'm not in any of the priority groups. When will I get my vaccine?

The second phase of the vaccine programme is still being finalised, but is likely to administer the vaccine to the general population on an age basis, with older citizens being contacted first.

## How will I know when it's my turn?

You will be contacted by your local health centre/hospital, usually by telephone. It is, therefore, worth checking that your contact number is up-to-date with your local health centre.

## I'm a Spanish resident who relies on private healthcare. Will I get the vaccine?

The Spanish government has pledged to offer the vaccine to all residents, but at the time of writing there is no agreement between private insurers and the Spanish health authorities. You are advised to contact your insurer for more information.

## Why is the UK so far ahead?

The UK decided to follow the recommendations of its own regulating agency, the MHRA, on 8th December. However, EU members decided to wait for a green light from the European Medical Agency, which approved the Pfizer/BioNTech vaccine in late December.



“**I did it because the virus has to be stopped.**”

*-Araceli Rosario Hidalgo, 96, was the first person in Spain to receive the Covid vaccine on 27th December.*

#### Which vaccines are being administered?

Three main vaccines are expected to be widely available now or in the near future. They are:

- **The Pfizer/BioNTech vaccine.** This was approved first and is the most widely used vaccine in Spain to date.
- **The Moderna vaccine,** which was approved by the EMA on 6th January and is also now being distributed and administered in Spain.
- **The Oxford/AstroZeneca vaccine,** whose manufacturers applied for EMA approval in mid-January. At the time of writing, this vaccine is awaiting approval for use in the EU.

#### Which vaccine will protect me best?

Preliminary research shows that the Pfizer/BioNTech and Moderna vaccines have an estimated 95% rate of effectiveness. The Oxford /AstroZeneca vaccine offers 60% -90% immunity.

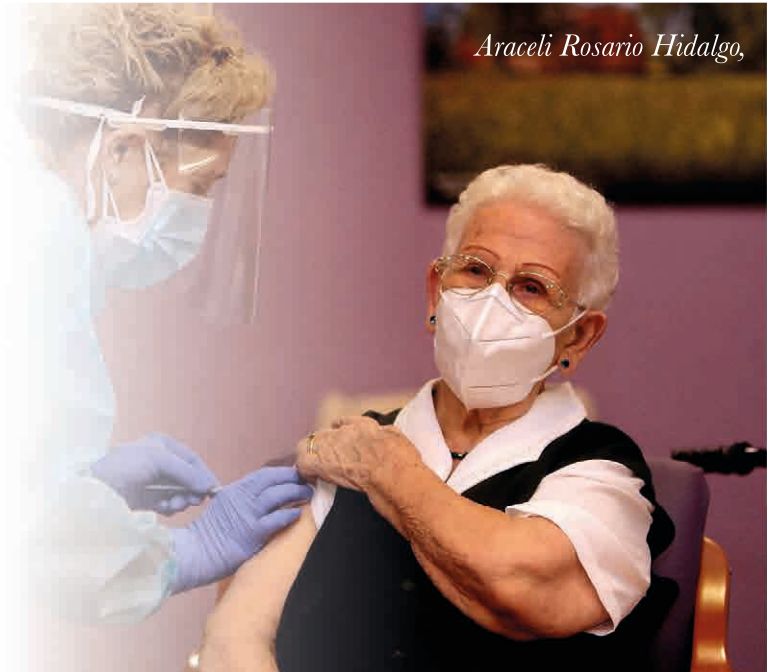
#### Are there supply problems?

Yes. Pfizer reduced production in mid-January to improve its manufacturing process, which it claims will increase production capacity in February and March. At the moment, the Canaries has administered over 99% of the vaccines available to it, and claims it is capable of increasing the rhythm of vaccinations as newer vaccines become available and larger amounts are distributed.

Lanzarote's island status also adds an extra risk to the supply chain, although it is mainland Spain that has experienced delays so far, owing to the heavy snow of Storm Filomena. Canarian authorities have assured islanders that they have a chain of refrigeration in place for the -70 degree conditions required by the Pfizer/BioNTech vaccine.

#### Can I refuse the vaccine? What will be the consequences if I do?

Spanish law gives every resident the right to refuse



*Araceli Rosario Hidalgo,*

the vaccine. The Spanish government has confirmed that it will create a register of those turning the vaccine down, but insists that this is to avoid future accusations of missing out citizens.

Further in the future, it seems that certain employers may have the right to refuse to hire those who have not been vaccinated. The European Commission has also welcomed the idea of a “vaccine passport” that will permit people to travel without the requirement for testing or quarantine, meaning that refusal may come at considerable price.

#### I’ve already had Covid-19. Will I be offered the vaccine?

Yes. We do not know how long immunity lasts for those who have had it, and they will all be offered the vaccine.

#### Are the vaccines safe?

A normal vaccine approval process can take from 5 to 10 years, but the Covid Vaccine was developed in less than a year. Nevertheless, manufacturers and, more importantly, the health regulators of several countries and the EU, have approved the safety of the Pfizer/BioNTech and Moderna vaccines, while the Oxford /AstroZeneca jab is not far behind.

There is no scientific evidence that you are likely to experience any other effects than perhaps some resulting muscle pain and a mild temperature.

#### When will things finally be back to normal?

This depends on how you define “normal”. There are currently no plans to ease laws on mask-use, testing before travel, or quarantine restrictions, and these measures are likely to remain in force for many months yet.

Spain’s aim is 70% coverage, which it claims will create herd immunity. This does not mean that there will be no new cases of Covid-19, but that they will be infrequent enough for the virus to eventually disappear.

The return of tourism to the Canaries also depends on the success of the vaccine campaign. Even if everything does go according to plan, the island will require years of recovery from the economic crisis caused by the pandemic.



# THE SOCIAL NETWORK



**Isidro Alonso Gil is the Social Services councillor for Lanzarote's largest municipality, Teguise, and he and his team have certainly had their work cut out for them over the last year. We spoke to him last month.**

## **Isidro, when did the crisis really start for your department?**

From the first day, the 14th March, we began to realise very quickly how many people in Teguiise live day-to-day, relying on the next wage packet. If that doesn't arrive, then there are problems, and we faced a very complicated situation from the start.

## **Teguise is a big territory to cover, isn't it?**

Yes, it covers everywhere from Los Cocoteros and Guatiza in the east to Mozaga in the west. There's Famara, Muñique, La Villa, large populations in Tahiche and Costa Teguiise and La Graciosa, as well.

## **What were the main problems?**

At first, during the lockdown, it was a question of getting emergency food and supplies to vulnerable people who were unable to leave their homes. Soon afterwards, the extent of the challenges we were faced with became clear. This Ayuntamiento immediately stopped funding its fiestas department and channeled all that money towards social services.

## **Has the crisis exposed shortcomings in our society?**

I think so. We became aware that, in Spain, there are a lot of people who live precarious lives. Those who had no contracts were left exposed, but they weren't the only ones. I think many middle-class households on the island suddenly realised how unstable their lives were.

## **What about the delays in the ERTE system?**

They've caused problems, but the ERTE payments themselves have also



*Isidro Alonso Gil*

caused problems. People who live on €1,000 to €1,2000 a month must plan every penny, and a cut in 30%, such as the ERTes involve, can lead to serious problems.

## **Do you work with charities?**

We try and get all charities to co-ordinate their activities with us. That way, we know that we're not helping the same people twice and wasting resources that could go elsewhere.

## **Who do you deal with?**

All sorts of people, but also not enough. There are people who know how to use the social services department, but there are others who are not even aware of it, especially in areas such as Costa Teguiise, where a large percentage of foreigners are found. Then there are those who are too proud or ashamed to accept help from social services.

## **Can you help everyone?**

We can only help those who are on the padrón in our





Isidro with AFOL president Carmen Arrocha



Costa Tegui has seen much hardship.

Ayuntamiento. If you aren't, there isn't much we can do.

**This is why the British Embassy has been urging people to sign onto the padrón for several years, now.**

Once you're on the padrón, you're instantly entitled to aid if you need it.

#### How does the system work?

If you need immediate aid, we can give food and supply parcels from the emergency fund, always with the recommendation of a social worker. These will allow the purchase of emergency supplies which will not include alcohol, tobacco or beauty products. You can also apply for payments into your account, which are assessed on a priority basis, with children top of the list, for example.

To take a concrete recent example, the police informed us of children wandering around a local town unsupervised, so our social workers tracked them down, found they had nothing to eat and organised emergency supplies for the family.

#### Who has suffered worst?

I'd say Costa Tegui is the worst-affected zone, simply because so many people who live there rely on tourism. Bartenders, hotel workers, waiters etc, there are a lot of casual workers there.

#### When do you think the crisis will be over?

I don't know, but I'll trust the government's estimate that we'll have 70% vaccination by the end of summer.

#### What have the economic consequences of the crisis been?

The most worrying situation is when businesses close. Some will never reopen, regardless of what happens in the future, and that means there is less work available.

#### Do you think the island should have locked down at Christmas?

Perhaps. But I think the authorities took a calculated risk. They could have closed bars, restaurants and shops, but it would have meant the end of many of those businesses. As it is, they received a boost when they most needed it.

#### How do we get out of this ?

By working hard and by respecting the laws.

#### How do you see the future?

I'm very optimistic, despite the challenges ahead of us. The vaccine gives us the light at the end of the tunnel, and I've got a great team of social workers, home visitors, educators, psychologists and others.



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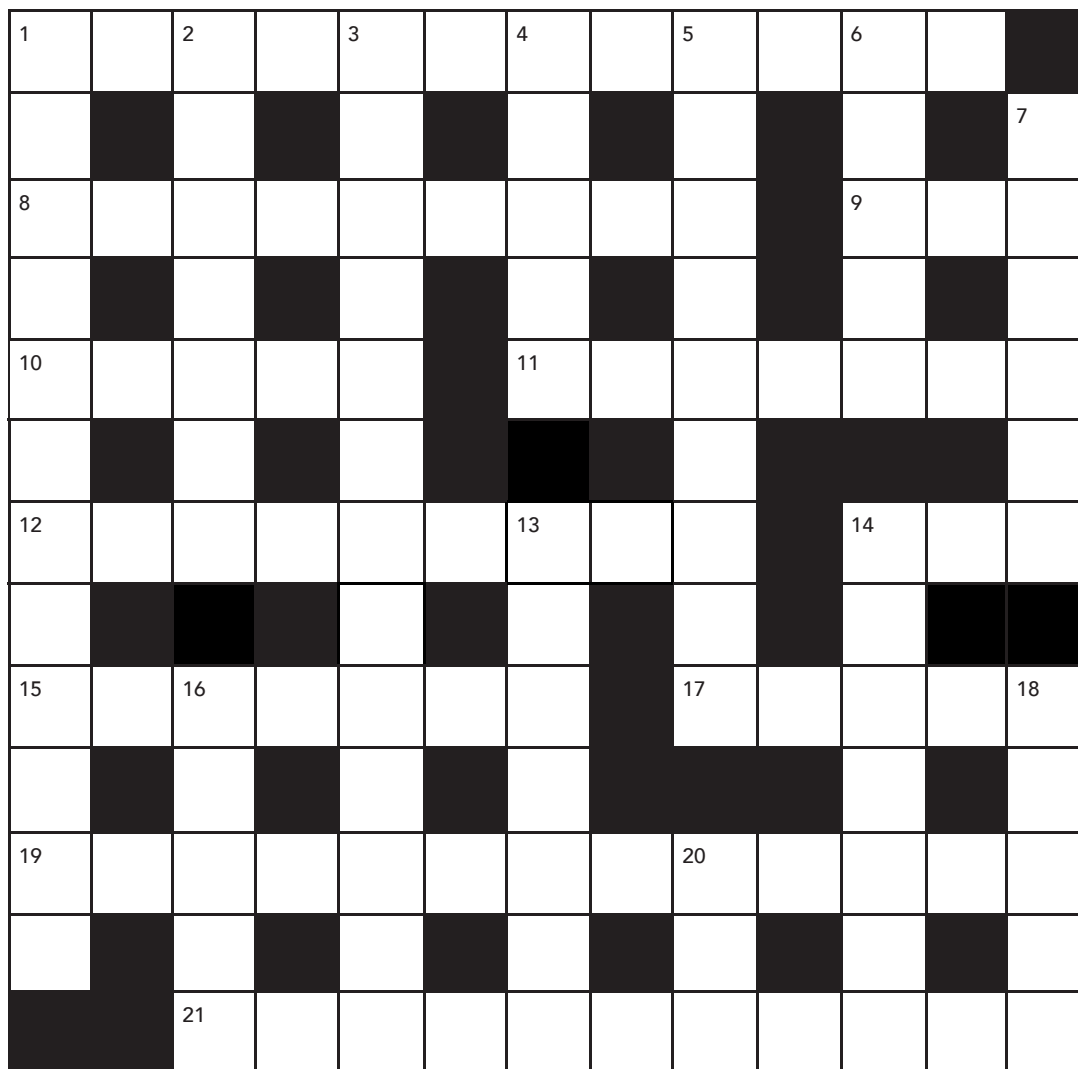
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# Prize Crossword



LANZAROTE  
DENOMINACIÓN DE ORIGEN



For Valentines Day, this month's crossword celebrates one the greatest singers and writers of love songs. So fill in the answers and sign, seal and deliver them to us by email, WhatsApp (628628083) or post, and a bottle of Lanzarote wine from La Geria could be yours.

Last month's winner was Sara Bega from Costa Tegui. Well done Sara, and contact us to pick up your wine.

## DOWN

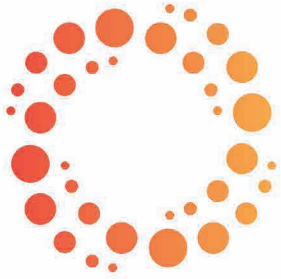
1. "You Are The ..... Life" 1973 love song by 1 ac. (8,2,2)
2. Cry out suddenly in joy, shock or surprise (7)
3. 1 ac's 1976 song dedicated to his daughter Aisha (4,3,6)
4. John Lennon's 1980 love song, released shortly after his death (5)
5. Emotional and sentimental longing for the past (9)
6. Surplus; an actor only seen in the background (5)
7. Spread limbs out awkwardly; poorly-planned urban spread (6)
13. .... Standing, 1983 Elton John hit (2,4)
14. Actors Hopkins, Quinn or Perkins (7)
16. Opposite of virtues
18. Greek island in the Ionian sea (5)
20. All Terrain Vehicle (1.1.1)

## ACROSS

1. Blind singer/songwriter born Stevland Judkins in 1950 (6,6)
8. Substitute names, used fondly or mockingly (9)
9. Gratuity (3)
10. Alternative to Tails (5)
11. Famous waterfall on US/Canadian border (7)
12. Writing 1,2,3... etc on pages, for example (9)
14. Carpenters or cobbler's tool, used for making holes (3)
15. Unmistakeable (7)
17. Mexican empire and culture from 1300-1521 (5)
19. "....., Lovely as a summer's day" 1969 love song by 1 ac (2,6,5)
21. What 1 across just called to do in his 1984 love song (3,1,4,3)

**Last month's answers. Across:** 1. Diego Maradona 8. Andrew Lincoln 9. Freedom 11. Sips 14. plateau 15. Tokyo 16. John 17. Herb 18. Sob 20. Molar 21. Richard 22. Son 23. Explosion **Down:** 1. Dwarf 2. Eddie Van Halen 3. Overdoes 4. All 5. Aunts 6. Ono 7. Acne 10. Mousetrap 12. Pakistani 13. Joe Biden 14. P D James 15. Tobacco 19. True





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# Pet Theories

**LANZAROTE VET JANE BURKE RECALLS A TRANSFORMATIONAL FRIENDSHIP WITH THE MAN WHOSE IDEAS OF PET BEHAVIOUR AND PSYCHOLOGY REVOLUTIONISED THE LIVES AND RELATIONSHIPS OF PETS AND OWNERS.**

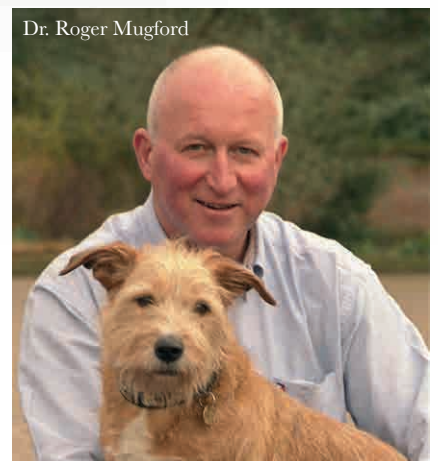
I often think it is curious how life seems almost to travel in circles! I was boring someone recently with reminiscences about my friendship with Dr. Roger Mugford back in the early days of opening my own practise. The days when, as now, I lived and worked in the same building.

With all the energy of youth, I had such a magical time developing the first female small animal practice on the Fylde Coast. In fact, it was the first real small animal practice at all in that area as my competition consisted of men who had qualified before small animal

veterinary surgery was taught in college and long before any continuing education had occurred, let alone become mandatory.

These guys didn't like pet animals and worked with no equipment or staff, so it wasn't hard for me to expand and succeed beyond any and all expectations. My mother was head receptionist (and the best in the business, as she had a genuine interest in my clients and their lives). My dad did all the paperwork and handled the money (as, even then, I was considered fiscally incompetent).

Dr. Roger Mugford



After a slow start, when I filled my time making chess sets, I was soon overwhelmingly busy. Living in the premises, I was able to watch and learn from hospitalised cases. To make extra money to cover our increasing staff wages and to constantly upgrade our facilities I was veterinary surgeon at the Blackpool greyhound track for several hours for four nights a week, and vet superintendent of the local quarantine kennels. I attended courses and organised courses on subjects ranging from veterinary

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dentistry to advanced aural ablation techniques. I was energetic and driven enough to pursue and enjoy continuing education in the incredibly rapid expansion of small animal veterinary knowledge and equipment.

By accident, I also stumbled into a friendship with the man who actually started the professional pet behaviour boom that developed after his incredibly simple idea of using a halter rather than a neck collar to control a boisterous dog. This alone enabled many isolated, frail and/or elderly people to walk their furry family again - walks that kept both owner and pet healthy and in touch with the outside world; Walks that gave them both a sense of freedom.

Roger's quiet perspicuity, coupled with a real observational gift, also led him to the novel concept that consistently treating our canine companions as if they were the dominant animal in the household led to the majority of dominant aggressive problems.

In those days vets treated this behaviour with euthanasia. Indeed, statistics from Liverpool College demonstrated that, in the 70s, more young dogs were destroyed or dumped in dogs homes for behavioural problems than for medical reasons. However, animal behaviour was still a long way from being included in the veterinary curriculum. So when I randomly consulted this man about destructive problems in my own household, his amazingly straightforward thoughts on cause and solution forged a common bond and before long I opened a separate clinic for half day a week specifically for behavioural problems, often with his generous input and assistance.

We ran a weekend course that sold out. We tried to film

an educational tape for the Royal College, but failed due to too much laughter (and possibly gin). Actually, much of our footage appeared in the college's own educational tapes which were to follow.

But it was not all plain sailing! Then, as now, I attracted some silly, spiteful, invented complaints. In the early eighties, with no Facebook to spread malicious libel, my long-suffering elderly local veterinary competition repeatedly submitted claims about about my imagined transgressions to the Royal Vet College.

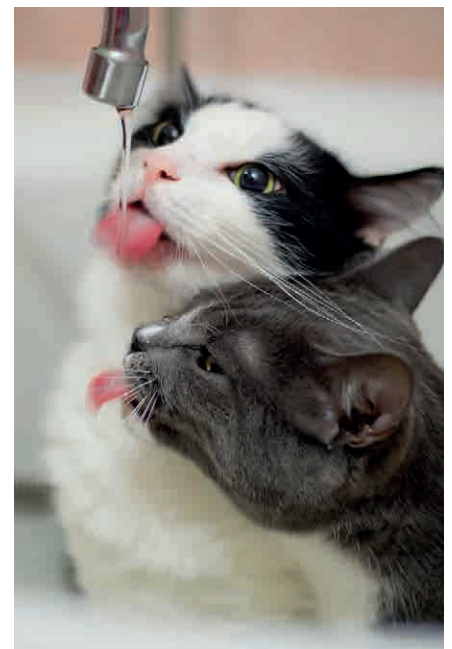
They were mostly silly (eg; that I was running market stalls in disguise or pretending I was collecting for the RSPCA, or handing out business cards in the local town centre when all advertising was banned at that time).

Some, however, were serious enough to deeply distress my parents (eg: I was only cutting and suturing the skin as my incision wounds were too small for me to have completed ovario-hysterectomy or joint surgery etc).

Though no one suggested I had God-like skills to operate without anaesthesia, as my present trolls have claimed, their ultimate and final accusation was that I was bringing the profession into disrepute by running behavioural clinics with a man who had no veterinary qualifications! Very fortunately for me, Roger - though he did indeed not have a veterinary degree - was at that time adviser to the Queen herself about her corgis' behavioural problems. As she was the 'Royal' in the 'Royal Veterinary College', her letter of appreciation saved the day! The College not only dismissed the case but warned every member in the Fylde Coast that any further complaint that could not be upheld would result in the complainer being struck off. So it all stopped.

At a distance of 40-plus years, my luck at meeting and being mentored by this man remains a random blessing I am most grateful for. He helped me with my own pack and enabled me to help many, many others. I am aware that the behavioural world he started has recently moved away from the simple notions of dogs being the wolves we live with, but largely only because they have developed new words and for the same problems and solutions.

Let's wash and fill our pets bowls with clean water and raise a glass to safely reaching the other side of this Covid crisis with them.





# ED'S POSTBAG

Readers are reminded that views and comments expressed within the Ed's Postbag page are those of the contributors and may not necessarily reflect the opinions or standpoint of our staff. It should also be noted that we are an independent publication free from political persuasion or governmental censorship.

Send your letters to Facebook @Gazettelifelanzarote or our email [editorial@gazettelife.com](mailto:editorial@gazettelife.com)

## WILL IT BE WORTH IT?

*Dear Editor,*

As a "would-be" stuck in cold, dark, wet, Covid-stricken UK, I do hope that the Canarian Government will realise that, if the EU's three months in any six months visiting rule is adhered to, it would make second home ownership in Lanzarote unattractive. It would mean that, in the six winter months starting on the first of October, one could only stay a total of twelve weeks.

It simply would not be worth paying council and catastro taxes all year and water and electricity charges just for the twelve weeks in winter that are permitted. This is without taking

into account the capital investment, normal maintenance and the insurance and bank charges.

The Island must offer value for money, or it will become yesterday's destination.

I would be very grateful if you would pass my thoughts on to those in a position to do something about it.

*Nick Williams*

*Ed: The Canarian Government may have some influence, Nick, but this decision will ultimately be made at the state level. Fortunately, there's a Facebook page dedicated to passing thoughts like yours on. It's called 180 Days in Spain, and is organising a lobbying campaign on the issue.*

## BUY LOCAL

*Dear Editor,*

Why on earth have the island authorities closed the weekend markets at Arrecife, Haría, Tegui, etc? Not only do they have stricter anti-Covid measures (temp checks, handwash, distancing etc) than most supermarkets and shops (which remain open), but they take place in an extremely well-ventilated area called outdoors!

They have been one of the few pleasures available in these bitter times, and I understand other islands haven't closed their markets.

Local traders will continue to suffer while Lidl, Spar, Mercadona and Hiperdino remain unaffected. Please, people, do your best to support shops and suppliers that sell local island produce, and, if you can afford it, use local restaurants whenever you can. It's time to stand together.

*Dan Cox, via email*

*Ed: I think the only possible reason for this decision is that they are seen to be doing something, Dan. The markets I've been to have been exemplary in observing the measures.*

## POETRY CORNER

*Dear Ed,*

I have just sent a piece of verse intended to get away from the doom and gloom of today and instead focus on the good old days.

It was fun writing something light hearted. Hope you like it.

### Sunday Morning Market

Bargains, bargains, everything on show,  
It's like the Casbah, but not so far to go,  
The place to easily spend your dough,  
Is the Sunday morning market.  
Handbags, glad rags hanging on a rack,  
If they don't fit, you cannot take them back,  
Apart from that there's everything you lack,  
At the Sunday morning market.  
Dodgy CDs, cheap at half the price,  
Local pottery, looking rather nice,  
Wooden carvings and little sugar mice,  
At the Sunday morning market.  
Vintage wine, made just yesterday,  
Toys that really are for children's play,  
In truth you could spend more than half a day,  
At the Sunday morning market.  
Coloured shirts, in many different styles,  
Brightly glazed artesana tiles.  
Lots of enjoyment, judged by all the smiles,  
At the Sunday morning market  
I could say more about the many stalls,  
That put to shame fancy shopping malls,  
But I haven't time, I fear that nature calls,  
At the Sunday morning market.

*John Leppard*



# PUTTING PEN TO PAPER



Sue Almond founded the Lanzarote Writing Group in 2005, hosting the group's early meetings at the Crafty Cow in Puerto del Carmen. When Sue returned to the UK, surviving members decided to continue the group, which is still going strong and meeting up each Friday on Costa Teguise.

We met Rebecca, Ann, Aileen and Jenny at the Ohana Café in Costa Teguise. According to Rebecca, "When Sue left we thought it would be a shame to lose the social aspect, so we continued meeting up."

"We all write individually," explains Jenny, "and we'll pass comment on what each of us has produced." The group also do writing exercises and larger projects such as a flash fiction project to create a 500-1,500 word story.

Each member has their own forté: Fiona is a poet; Jenny has recently written a horror piece, Jim Loughrill has published a book, Aileen creates humorous pieces based on real life experiences, Ann works in the classic mystery genre, Rebecca writes poems and stream of consciousness pieces and absent member Jimmy is writing a children's book.



## OUR BUNCH

We meet Fridays 11.30, try not to be too late,  
For cups of tea and coffee and a healthy word debate,  
Rebecca is our soul searcher, sent from heaven above,  
What she writes and shares with group is written out of love,  
Then there is our dark horse Ann, as sweet as sweet can be,  
Astounds us all every week with murder and mystery,  
Aileen writes with truthfulness  
She writes the here and now  
We couldn't do it without her, Aileen take a bow,  
Jimmy he likes to keep us going with tales of truth and expertise,  
He likes to draw and paint and sing about his moon made out of cheese,  
Jim he writes his words of wisdom, they come straight from the heart,  
Deep and soulful to make you think they're really works of art,  
Jenny's quite prolific she writes with passion and has lots in store,  
She leaves us, the audience waiting and always wanting more,  
And last but not least I have to tell there's just the little old me,  
I write short stories of dead pets and flowery poetry,  
We are just a bunch of authors, a happy little team,  
So very blessed and lucky to be out here, living the dream.

*Fiona Kershaw*

Why do they write? Aileen says "Putting pen to paper is what's important. Once you start, you trigger and release memories." Other members agree, and Jenny explains that, as motivation for writing, the group are planning to publish something by May.

From Britain, Sue Almond told us "I am really happy to know that a version of my writing group continues to exist on the island, The fact that it has thrived for

so long - over 15 years by the time I left - suggests that people have enjoyed being members and got something worthwhile out of it, which is very gratifying."

Sue added "The 'swallows' who regularly joined us when they spent time on the island will be delighted to find it is still there when travel restrictions end and they are able to come back. With a bit of luck I will be one of them."

*To find out more about the writing group, contact Jenny at [jgraham67@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:jgraham67@hotmail.co.uk)*





Lanzarote has exploded into bloom after the drenching that Storm Filomena gave the island in early January. There's no better time to get those walking boots on, head into the country and enjoy the spectacle that nature has put on for us.

The best place to see the extraordinary growth that the rain brings is almost certainly the north of the island, which is the coolest and wettest area of Lanzarote. Nevertheless, there are corners all over Lanzarote where you can find surprising outbursts of flowers.

The places to look out for include barrancos – which channel rainwater down to the sea; valleys, sheltered hillsides and volcanic craters. Life is persistent and unquenchable, and nowhere is that more obvious than on an island that is dry and parched for at least nine months of the year.

The arrival of millions of flowers will also bring insects to pollinate them, and the birds that live on these will literally have a field day.

*Photo 1: The yellow flowers of the wild mustard plant, *Hirschfeldia incana*, can be seen all over the island.*

*Photo 2: The purple *Viborina lanceolottenseis* is a Lanzarote native that blooms all over the island.*

*Photo 3: The grasslands and plains of Máquez are full of life after the rain.*



Photo1

Photo2



# RAINS

*Photos by Rens Königs*



Photo3



# THE LAST TOURNAMENT



**Last year, when lockdown rules prevented us from distributing the magazine, Gazette Life went exclusively online for three months. In the first of those digital issues, we ran a piece about a visit to one of the most popular sporting events on the island - the Bola Canaria Torneo de Abuelos Conejeros (The Lanzarote Grandparents' Canarian Bowls Tournament).**

**W**e had headed down on a sunny afternoon just before lockdown to find out more about this event, which we'd been told was a bit of a spectacle. We were expecting a busy scene, but nothing prepared us for what we actually saw –

scores of Canarians, almost all over the age of 60, gathered around several dirt bowling pitches where at least twenty games were in progress.

Most of the teams wore special kit that bore the name and colours of their

home territory – green for Tegui, white for Yaiza, blue for Tinajo etc, – and they came from every corner of Lanzarote. One group, conspicuously wearing the bucket-shaped woven palm hats of La Graciosa, had sailed over from that island to take part.





They couldn't have been more welcoming, and many of the participants were happy to pose for Sabrina's camera, delighted that someone was taking an interest in their hobby. What none of us knew was that this would be the last gathering of its kind for a year. Like almost every other sporting event on Lanzarote, the tournament has been cancelled for several months, with no date yet fixed for its return.

Looking back now we noticed how Sabrina's photos captured a time and a place that this island is still dreaming of returning to. The memory of that day - when hundreds of island's pensioners converged on Tegoyo to try to thrash each other at Canarian bowls, drink and eat afterwards and, most importantly, chatter and socialise - lives on, and gives us a clear glimpse of what we're fighting for today.

Let's hope that some day soon we'll once more hear the clicking and clacking of bowls, the hubbub of friendly, competitive conversation and see the *abuelos* dressed up and ready to roll.





## DAVID'S DETOURS

# TEGUISE CIRCULAR WALK



### WALK INFO

**Distance:** About 5 kms

**Time:** Approximately 2 hours

**Terrain:** Tarmac, dirt paths, slightly challenging uphill stretches.

**Type of walk:** Circular.

**Public transport:** Buses 7, 9, 10 & 26.

**Tour guide David Penney leads us up to one of Lanzarote's most historic castles and through the delightful rural landscapes of Teguise.**

This walk starts at the car park next to the Policia Local station and the Centro de Salud de Teguise on the LZ10 main road. From there, cross the road and walk to the entrance of the Castillo de Santa Barbara, then take the tarmac road up the hill. It's a gradual climb and a slightly challenging trek up around the bends.

This castle was previously the Museum of Emigration, dedicated to the Canarians who left the islands, but was changed to the Pirate Museum in 2010. It's often referred to as Guanapay Castle by some locals, after the volcano it sits on top of.

The construction of the castle began in the 14th century when it was first built as a watch tower for the local tribes. Then, over many decades it was reinforced and acted as a vantage point to



look out for the pirates who regularly attacked Lanzarote. From this point you can see both coastlines: to the south lie Costa Teguise and Arrecife along towards Playa Honda, and on the other side to the west coast around Famara.

At this time Teguise was the island's capital and this vantage point gave the people advanced warning that pirates had been spotted on the ocean, and enough time to hide in the many caves which are scattered around the island. The castle has been closed for most of 2020 as it has been under major construction work and renovations.

Walk to the right-hand side of the castle and take the path clockwise





around the ridge of the crater. This leads you to the trig point which is the highest point of the crater, then follow the path down to the tarred access road. From here you can see a narrow track which leads downhill cutting off the corners and the need to walk on the road. You can make a wee detour to your right here and walk over to the twin arches set into the picón hillside.

Once you arrive at a sign post there are two choices:

**Option 1.** Take the left track and head over towards the east coast. Stay on the track and get a good view across to Teseguite. This is a horseshoe-shaped track which adds about 30 minutes to the duration, as it leads you through farmers'



areas and back round to the other path.

**Option 2.** Continue across the fields where the track takes you down past the big water-pumping station in front of you.

We have done both variations in the past, but for this walk we chose Option 2 so we could stop off and enjoy all the fields full of grass after the recent rain showers. It was soooooo good to see the yellow flowers and acres of real grass.

Both options will lead you to a well-established track which you turn right on for about a kilometre, with views over the top of Nazaret and eventually back to a public road called Calle Tazacorte which takes you down past the houses to the roundabout on the LZ10.

Turn right and walk along the pavement past the pharmacy on your left until you reach the car park where you started off from.

*Photo's supplied courtesy of Kristine Cleland and Sarah van Scheltinga.*

For further information about walks around Lanzarote please contact, DAVID Penney via **email [lanza888@yahoo.com](mailto:lanza888@yahoo.com)** OR via **WhatsApp message 0034 649389888**

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# THE OTHER HEALTH CRISIS

As we continue to suffer the greatest health crisis of our lifetimes, perhaps it's time to stop for a moment to focus on other aspects of our health, and how they have been affected by the Covid-19 pandemic.

At the time of writing, Lanzarote has had almost 3,000 cases of Covid-19, the vast majority of which have been mild or asymptomatic. That's about one case for every 50 people on the island. There have also been 13 deaths from the virus to date.

These are serious figures, but Lanzarote has fared far better than many other places. Meanwhile, patients wait for treatments and a host of other health problems are slowly worsening.

## **Health and fitness**

We've heard several jokes about lockdown love handles and the binge-eating that followed the panic buying last year, but for many people this has been a serious matter. Eating is one of the most common ways of dealing with stress, and the pandemic has made may take refuge in comfort foods.

Fortunately, we were only prohibited from exercising for seven weeks, but while running, swimming and cycling are all fine, other team sports have been much worse affected and close-contact sports such as Canarian wrestling have been cancelled, as well as popular activities with the elderly such as an *“Abuelos”* bowls tournament. Even the dancing and singing of carnival has been stopped.

## **The mental toll**

This time last year, the coronavirus was something we'd vaguely heard of happening in distant parts of the world. It's rapid, unstoppable spread by March caused huge amounts of anxiety, simply because we didn't know what to expect. As we learnt that it was, blessedly, less lethal than many of us had feared, those anxieties were transferred to worries for



vulnerable loved ones. But it's fair to say that worry and anxiety has been a constant and unwelcome companion to many of us during the last 10 months

The pandemic has bereaved millions, and kept families apart for almost a year; it has killed millions of jobs, businesses, projects and plans; it has wiped out live music, clubbing, cosy nights in the pub, weddings and many other social activities that we used to take for granted, and it has paralysed tourism on the island we live on. All this takes a brutal toll in terms of mental health, with studies showing that depression has increased seven-fold and stress is rocketing.

### The back burner

The Covid crisis has taken priority in the Canarian health service, as it has in many other places. This has led to the suspension of non-urgent medical procedures during lockdown, as well as long delays for treatments for non-urgent. Many



patients feel they've simply been placed on the "back burner".

This means that now, more than ever, may be the time to seek private health treatment. If it eases your mind and calms your worries, it'll be worth every penny.

### Pulling through

The vaccine means that an end to Covid may be in sight, but it'll be many months before we can resume our previous activities. In the meantime, it's important to stay as positive as possible. Don't suffer problems alone – the internet and smartphones now offer brilliant ways to stay in touch with those you love, as well as find new friends and companions. Don't be shy, just get yourself out there.

One thing that will improve your attitude is exercise and a good diet. Nobody expects you to do an Ironman or live on kale and lentils, but once you start looking after yourself, your body and your mind will be grateful.

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# THE MASKING EFFECT

We'll be wearing masks for some time yet, it seems, so perhaps it's time to stop seeing them as a temporary measure and see how you can stay beautiful with a band of fabric stuck over your kisser.

Masks have been a godsend to some of us. If you have a face that's a little jowly or weak-chinned, a wonky nose or a toothy smile, a face mask will instantly cover up all these faults. Instead, all attention will be on your peepers, so it's a good idea to spend extra time making the most of them.

Before you do, get the mask size right. If in doubt, go for the larger option, but nothing is better than a correctly sized mask that covers you snugly above the nose and chin.

Standard surgical masks use pleats, which provide a straighter upper edge than curved, polyurethane foam masks. These can provide

a simpler, bold statement, but also tend to look muzzle-like.

## COLOUR AND MAKE-UP

Plain coloured masks are guaranteed to work, and because everybody looks at your face first, it's more important than ever to make sure they match or complement the rest of your wardrobe. A mask may feel like an accessory, but visually it's a dominant item.

Vivid single colours are a powerful statement and can really work, while tartan check, soft florals and light patterned masks are also a good choice for everyday wear. Novelty masks

are popular, but you shouldn't wear them too often.

It's worth testing out a few looks for your eyes, because this is where you can really ring the changes, as well as make an impression. And now that one half of your face is covered up, you need a dramatic look to get attention.

Smoky eyes have been big for years, but now is the time when you can really work that look, while the winged, feline eye or sunset shades of gold, purple and coral are amazing eye-openers.

Remember that the top part of the mask can cast a shadow on the under-eye area, so try and keep that bright or shiny instead of going shady. Also, go easy on the on-trend dewy look while wearing a mask – it can easily be mistaken for perspiration.

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# REACH FOR RETINOL

By **Susana Villa**, beauty consultant at **Estética Los Arcos** C.C. Los Arcos in Puerto del Carmen.

Retinol is the flavour of the month in the world of beauty; the active that everyone is talking about when choosing treatments to end wrinkles. A derivative of Vitamin A, it is considered to be one of the most well-researched and science-backed active ingredients and, at the same time, is one of the most effective against aging, offering great capacity for cell renewal.

**R**etinol is a very small molecule, and this allows it to penetrate and reach the deeper layers of the skin, where it has the power to affect collagen and elastin, the proteins that support and firm our skin.

Retinol is a vitamin – specifically Vitamin A, which we all require for a healthy diet. However, it was the development of Retin-A or retinoic acid that allowed it to be incorporated into beauty treatments. Since then, it has become a firm favourite.

At the Los Arcos Aesthetic Center we recommend it for older clients who seek to

improve the texture of their skin and fight wrinkles and fine lines. This is achieved by an intensive treatment for the winter months to obtain a "new skin" effect.

“**RETINOL HAS BEEN CALLED THE HOLY GRAIL OF SKIN TREATMENTS**”

The skin also has to “get used to” the application of retinol, and this usually varies from a few weeks to a few days, depending on

the concentration of the formula and the type of skin you have. Initially it is recommended to apply it once or twice a week, then on alternate days, increasing its use progressively until the skin becomes completely accustomed to the vitamin.

During this type of intensive treatment it is also important to use sunscreen at all times. My personal number one recommendation is for Esthderm Laboratories. Their intensive anti-aging treatment is one of our best sellers. Esthderm Retinol cream and serum work as a great epidermal renewer and anti-wrinkle treatment that all our clients love.

## BENEFITS OF RETINOL

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CAROLINA HERRERA  
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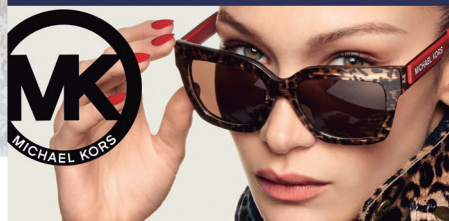
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# SCHOOLS RESIST COVID



concept of “key workers”, whose children are permitted to attend schools while others remain at home. Here, it's all or nothing, and there is an immense pressure to keep educational centres open, not only to ensure that children do not miss out on vital class time they will never recuperate, but also to permit their parents to continue working.

As a result, protocols have been adopted to prevent contagion in all educational centres. Children are kept

**Lanzarote's schools appear to have managed to handle the Covid crisis well. There have been just a handful of cases involving teachers and screening programmes have failed to detect significant amounts of the virus. In an educational population of 25,000 pupils and teachers just 45 have tested positive.**

Eight teachers tested positive in January, and they and 22 of their colleagues were placed in quarantine. A further 286 pupils were told to isolate after the Christmas outbreak as a precaution. Several screenings have also taken place in schools on the island, with only a tiny handful of positive cases detected as a result.

This situation was not imaginable in May last year, when the Canarian Education Minister handed in her resignation after accusations of incompetence in addressing the crisis. While some other Spanish regions managed to send children back to school for a few final weeks, the Canaries failed to do so.

Since then, there has been a gigantic push to get kids back to school. Spain does not operate the British



in bubbles, and remain in one classroom, with teachers moving between rooms. Mask use is compulsory, desks are distanced and classrooms are constantly ventilated and regularly disinfected. Each school has a Covid monitor, whose job is to keep the centre up to date with laws and protocols, handle any possible cases and inform pupils and parents.

Children may be ordered to quarantine if they turn out to have had close contact with active cases, and in this case, teachers prepare online lessons, in addition to the teaching of physical classes and the preparations and supervision of anti-Covid measures.

In addition to the protocols demanded by Canarian authorities, private schools have also introduced further measures of their own, and the result have been positive so far.

So far - and fingers crossed - the commitment of schools, the hard work of teachers and the patience and tolerance of schoolchildren, who are experiencing far tougher times than their parents ever did, have been hugely impressive.



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A romantic dinner setting featuring a large red rose in the background, a silver fork resting on a white napkin in the foreground, and a small red heart-shaped cookie next to the fork. The scene is softly lit, creating a warm and intimate atmosphere.

# Dinner

## FOR TWO

Christmas, New Year, Easter, carnival, fiestas, birthdays – almost all our annual days of celebration have been affected. But there's one date that Covid can't touch, and that's because love conquers all.

Some think that Valentine's Day is a fairly recent development, invented by card and gift manufacturers like Fathers Day. They're wrong, though. Declarations of love on 14th February are one of our oldest traditions, going back to late medieval times.

And this year, limits on the amount of people who can sit at a table aren't going to affect the thousands of couples who'll be making a special reservation for an evening of fine food and wine in each other's company. Nor are early closing times likely to affect couples who are probably planning on an early night in any case.

More importantly, Valentine's Day will give us a moment to celebrate the sheer thrill and excitement of romantic

love – something that has been overlooked as we focus on distancing, safety and protection.

Despite closures, Lanzarote will still offer plenty of places where you can book a table just for you and your special someone, and this year there's no excuse for not trying to make it an evening you won't forget. This, at long last, is a chance to get dressed up, look your best and show how proud you are to be your partner's partner.

Book your table, enquire what's on the menu, ask for a sneak peek at the wine list and do a bit of research, go clothes shopping, get a haircut and a massage/

beauty treatment, book a taxi and make the most of an evening that Covid can't touch.

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in by force if you have to - we will be gentle with them. If you throw a party, call us. We'll cater it and it will be the talk of the town for quite a while. Food has always been a passionate subject for us.

**We love it here** – Lanzarote is really our home away from home – but most of all we love you, our dear guests. So enjoy, and if there is anything we can do to make your experience more pleasurable, do not hesitate to ask.

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# HOW I LEARNED TO LOVE

# Gofio



Gazette editor Shaun Addison describes the meal that converted him to the Canarian staple.

Gofio is a Canarian cultural touchstone – a toasted, milled meal of maize, wheat, barley or millet that was eaten by the original natives of the island before the conquest of the islands. It's the fuel that has raised countless generations of strapping Canarians - go to any Canarian wrestling match and you'll see what gofio can produce.

And I hated it ever since I went to a barbecue shortly after arriving on the island. This was at a local fiesta, with fish on the grill and kids running riot. At one point, an old lady offered me a tray of strange delicacies, saying it was gofio she'd prepared herself. Politely, I accepted a piece, put it in my mouth and nodded approvingly.

This wasn't easy, as it was disgusting. A cloying mass of slightly gritty, burnt tasting meal, which the sugar and chocolate failed to conceal. After she'd left, I spat it out behind a cactus, and noticed that someone else had already done the same.

I barely touched gofio for years after that, although we often stirred it into our son's milk as a baby, born on the island, this little *conejero* couldn't get enough of it.

Then, a couple of years ago, I reached a restaurant in the centre of the mossy laurel forest at the centre of La Gomera, a magical place perched on a hilltop with rough wooden benches for diners to sit on. We ordered the *potaje de berros* for which the establishment was famed, and received a thick, hearty peppery watercress soup. Beside it was a bowl of plain, dry gofio, and the waitress explained how to stir the broth into this for *gofio escaldado*.

It was delicious, and all those flavours I'd disliked before suddenly made sense in a savoury setting. It's an easy side dish I've prepared several times since, often with the red onion scoops that are used to eat it, and it's quickly becoming the taste of home for me, too.

Recent great news for Lanzarote gofio fans was the 2017 reopening of the island's gofio mill in San Bartolomé. The gofio from La Molina José María Gil is sold in many local shops, comes in several varieties that use maize, wheat, barley and chickpeas, and is fantastic stuff.



# SALMON WITH COCONUT AND LIME SAUCE



A spectacularly flavoursome, easy-to-prepare dish with a Thai touch.

Heat some vegetable oil in a deep frying pan until almost smoking, then sear the salmon fillets quickly until a brown crust is formed. Flip the fillets, sear on other side then remove. Leave tasty fish residue in pan.

Zest one lime and fry zest with finely chopped garlic, ginger, sugar and chilli paste in pan, stirring continually until lightly caramelised, then add the coconut milk and fish sauce. Place the salmon

fillets in the sauce and poach for eight to ten minutes with pan covered.

Remove, garnish with coriander/basil, red chillis and lime wedges, and serve with jasmine, basmati or another long grain rice.

## ***Chef's tip***

*Fish sauce (nam pla) and finer spring onions can be bought in Chinese stores. Otherwise, you can use the larger cebolletas sold in local*

## **Ingredients**

- Four salmon fillets or two large salmon steaks
- 1 tin (400g) coconut milk
- 2 finely chopped spring onions
- 2 limes
- 1 tbspn fish sauce (optional)
- Two cloves garlic
- 1 tbspn grated ginger
- 1 tbspn brown sugar
- 1 tspn Chilli paste
- Bunch basil and/or coriander
- 2 red chillies , finely sliced

*supermarkets. Use Thai red curry paste in place of chilli paste if you like.*



# FROM TIFFIN TO THALIS



*Ramesh & Sara in their restaurant Indian Delights.*

We all love Indian food, but how much do we really know about one of the most varied and sensual cuisines in the world? We met up with Ramesh, the owner of Indian Delights in Playa Blanca, and his wife Sara, to find out a bit more...

## **Sara and Ramesh, where are you both from?**

**Sara:** I come from the western region of Maharashtra, famous for its capital Mumbai, while Ramesh hails from the Bangalore region in the south, where ingredients such as coconut and peanuts are important.

## **What sort of meals would the average Indian eat during the day?**

**Sara:** Here on Lanzarote, I start the day with a cup of chai, (Indian spiced tea), while Ramesh will have black tea with ginger, sugar, maybe some cloves, and maybe a couple of chapatis. I also love the idli, sambar and chutney that is sold as tiffin (mid-morning meal) all over India. Idli are white, steamed savoury cakes made from fermented rice and lentil batter. They're eaten with a sambar, which is a rich lentil and vegetable stew, and accompanied by chutney.

**Ramesh:** Masala dhosa are light, crispy pancakes made of the same batter, and filled with a lentil and potato mix.

## **These sound as though they're vegetarian.**

**Ramesh:** India is full of vegetarians, and any business that wants to succeed will cater for them. And it's important to point out that this is street food – most Indians won't have time or energy to prepare idli and sambar in their home, they'll buy it from street vendors, just as the Spanish often have a light breakfast in a cafe or bar.



*Maharashtra, India.*



### What about lunch?

**Sara:** We'd usually have a simple lunch of rice dal or sambar, accompanied by some meat perhaps, such as pepper chicken.

### And later?

**Sara:** We'll have a tiffin – a light afternoon snack, and the evening meal will be chapatis, vegetables and rice.

### So the lavish curries and thali dishes that are served in Indian restaurants aren't an everyday thing?

**Ramesh:** No, these are usually for a special occasion, and a thali involves so much preparation that it will only be served on special occasions, or, of course, in restaurants.

### Are there any ingredients you can't find on Lanzarote?

**Sara:** Not really. It's hard to get hold of fresh curry leaves, which are important for south Indian cooking. We've got a supply, but I've tried to grow them myself and failed, because of the wind. Fresh fenugreek leaves are hard to find, too.

**Ramesh:** Drumstick seed pods from the maringa tree are also popular in south India. They're very healthy and good in sambars, but aren't easy to find here.

### How hot do Indians really like their food?

**Ramesh:** It depends on where they're from – south India, for example, likes spicier food than other regions. But I have a Colombian friend who sells chillies that no Indian would ever eat because they're too hot. And, of course, there are the British diners who order a faal – I always ask them four or five times if they're absolutely sure, because this recipe is far too hot for any Indian.

### What do you think is the most important spice?

**Sara:** Turmeric. Each and every meal, and especially meat dishes, starts with turmeric because it is so healthy and has an antiseptic effect.



*Idli, sambar and coconut chutney*

### You mention health a lot. Is it an important part of Indian cooking?

**Ramesh:** Of course. But it's more than just healthy ingredients. There are also ayurvedic principles involved in balancing spice mixes in masalas, for example.

### And a piece of equipment you can't do without?

**Sara:** A pressure cooker. They're not fashionable in Britain, but they're used every single day in Indian kitchens, for pulses and long-cooked meat stews.

### Why don't the Indian meals I prepare at home taste as good as those in restaurants?

**Ramesh:** Probably because you haven't marinated the meat or fish for long enough. Every meat, chicken or fish dish we serve will have been marinated for hours – that's what brings taste and flavour. Also, yoghurt marinades help to soften and tenderise meat.

### Any other secret tips you're willing to share?

**Sara:** Ginger and garlic paste is essential. It's half-and-half ginger and garlic with a little oil, and it's used in so many dishes. We prepare a batch every few days and keep it in the fridge to use whenever we need.

### Which other cuisines do you like when you're not eating Indian?

**Ramesh:** Spanish food! I like it so much I once opened a Spanish restaurant in India.



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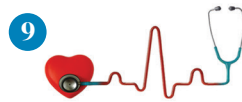
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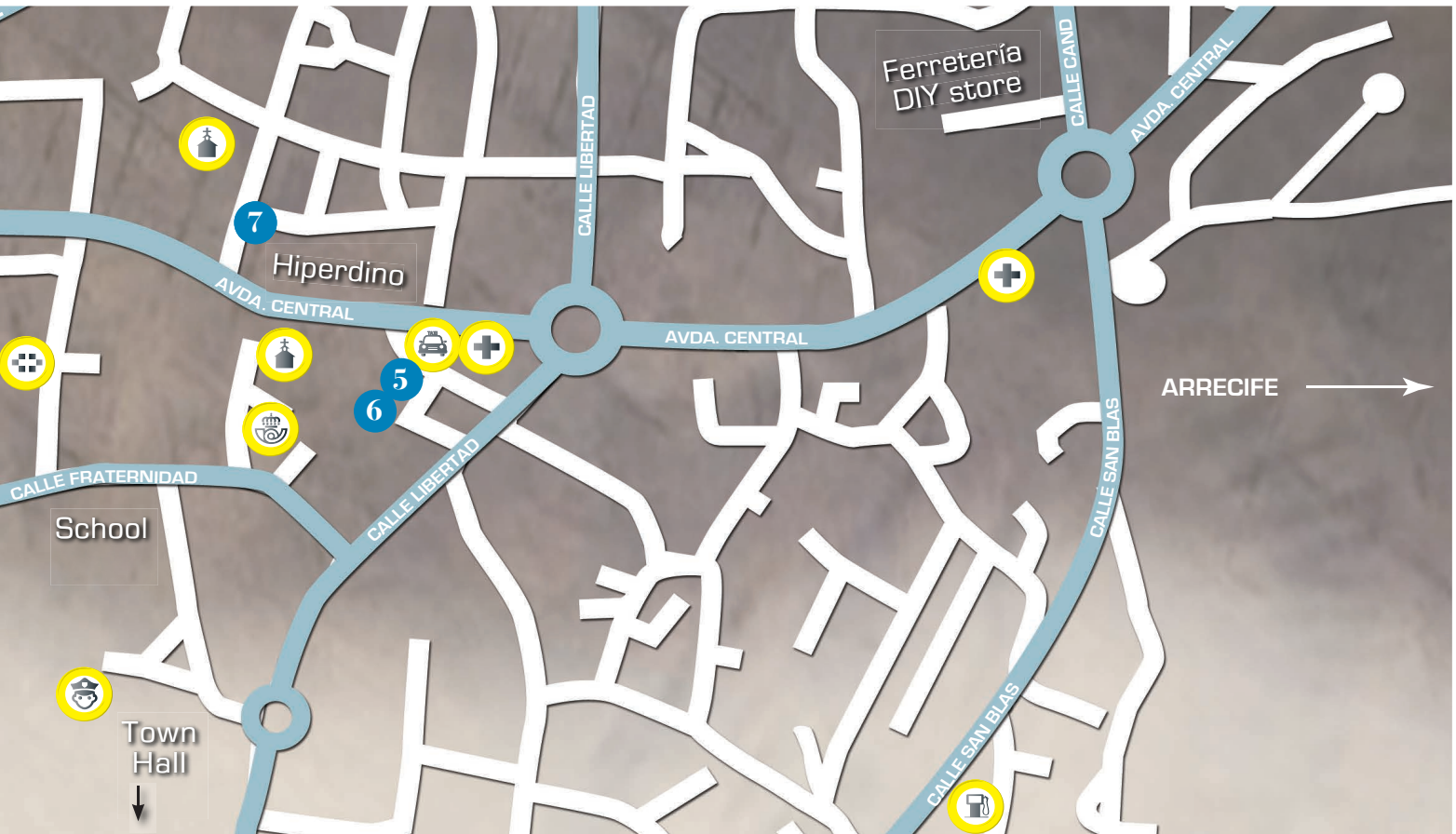
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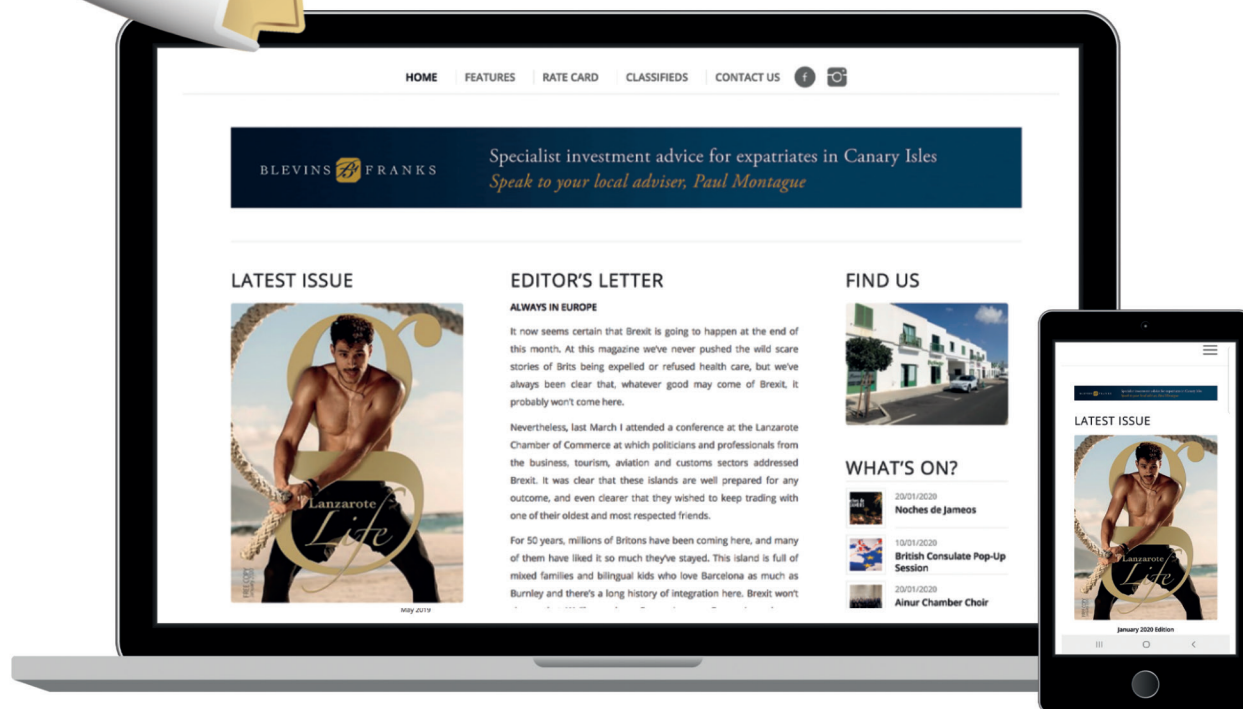


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# PROPERTY SHORTS

## THE VIRTUAL LOCKDOWN

Lanzarote is not under lockdown, but it may as well be, as large amounts of the rest of Europe suspend flights and issue stay-at-home orders.



As a result, the foreign housing market is, once again, almost at a standstill, with clients unable to view properties or even reach agents or notaries offices. However, now we have a better idea of how to use this time.

Expect a rise in construction and renovation over the next few months, as hotels and rental villas make the most of low-occupancy. As we're not actually locked down on the island, there may also be more movement in the local property market. It's a time to watch trends closely.

## USED PROPERTY PRICES HOLD FIRM

The Canaries saw the second-highest rise in the price of used property in December, according to the annual report of Spanish property portal pisos.com.

The Canaries saw a rise of 3.4% on the previous year, just behind Madrid, which saw a rise of 4%. At the other end of the scale, rural areas such as Andalucía and Castilla y León saw falls of between 1 and 2%.

Ferran Font, research director of pisos.com,

said "The pandemic has speeded up the process of adjusting prices, but the rupture has not been too severe."



## LOCKDOWN PROMPTS MOVES

7.8% of respondents to a Spanish Línea Directa survey have said they have moved house or conducted internal reforms after last year's lockdown. The experience of being confined for seven weeks made many Spaniards acutely aware of the limited possibilities of small urban apartments, and has already seen a mini-exodus to rural areas, where larger properties with gardens and other outdoor spaces are cheaper.

Another reason for moving has, of course, been the earthquake in the rental market. As the Airbnb market almost totally disappeared due to the pandemic, owners have sought to gain income from residential lets. As a result, more rental properties are available and prices are starting to become more accessible.



## CANARIAN HOUSING PLAN ANNOUNCED

5,971 new subsidised homes; 600 empty homes brought onto the market; more than 10,000 renovation projects and 600 new homes in rural areas. These are the main pledges of the Canarian Government's new housing plan, which was proposed by housing councillor Sebastian Franquis and approved by the regional parliament before Christmas.



The Canarian Government estimates that the plan will not only go towards addressing the dire housing situation on the islands for younger people and those on lower incomes (there are currently 17,000 applicants on the Canarian housing list), but that it will also create 28,300 jobs in the construction sector.



## RENEGOTIATION TIME

The changes in the rental market mean that it may be a good time to think about renegotiating your rental agreement, but to do so, it pays to be sure of what you're doing.

First, bear in mind that many renegotiations have already been taking place - landlords everywhere have agreed rent reductions to

clients who have seen their income affected by the pandemic.

Before renegotiating rent, find out about the market locally so that you can point out to your landlord that there are alternatives open to you. If you have been a reliable, responsible tenant, this will also stand in your favour.

Once you've renegotiated any rental agreement, be sure to get it in writing.



## GOLDEN VISA NOW AVAILABLE TO BRITS

Spain's Golden Visa scheme has been offering residency to third country nationals for well over five years, and has seen thousands of wealthy Chinese, Indian and Russian individuals buy property and invest in Spain in return for the visa that sidesteps almost all of the obstacles that Brexit has caused.

Now that the UK has third country status, wealthy Brits are taking a closer look at the scheme, although those who don't have spare half a million lying about can forget it. To get a Golden Visa you need



to invest half a million Euros in property in Spain or place a million Euros in a Spanish bank or company share scheme.

The Visa will allow holders to move seamlessly throughout the Schengen areas, and restores many of the advantages Brits enjoyed before Brexit to its holder. However, if you really want the full range of EU benefits, then you'll need to think about switching nationality.

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# STEP ON IT!

Rugs and area carpets are exactly what you need to make your Lanzarote home welcoming, beautiful and atmospheric.

On Lanzarote, fitted carpets are about as common as trains and snowmen. They're simply too impractical and unnecessary to be of any use whatsoever. But it's also rare to find homes here without something on the floor – for decorative purposes, for warmth underfoot and to protect wooden floors. The answer, of course, is rugs and smaller carpets.

The advantages of smaller, easily removed carpets are obvious. They can be moved, changed, cleaned and taken outdoors for a good beating – which will be necessary on an island where airborne dust is frequent.

Individual rugs can also form the keynote to a room without completely overpowering it in the way a fitted carpet tends to do. They are an absolute godsend to the creative decorator, offering myriad possibilities to make your home just that little bit special.

The first thing to do is choose your rug or area carpet. The first thing to bear in mind is texture – you'll be surprised by how much

wear rugs in certain areas can undergo, so you'll need to choose tougher materials such as hessian or coconut matting for zones that see a lot of use, while lesser-used areas can afford more delicate, finer rugs.

“ A KEYNOTE  
RUG CAN BE THE  
PERFECT STARTING  
POINT FOR YOUR  
ROOM. ”

Think where your feet are going to be before planning your room. Rugs are usually placed under dining tables, in front of sofas and armchairs and in other places where you may be barefoot for long periods of time (a kitchen rug can be a real lifesaver on Lanzarote).

Then choose your style. In this case you have, literally, a world of choice. Kilims - woven rugs from Asia - have been popular for decades now, and are perfect for Lanzarote homes, offering bold colour combinations and attractive patterns that can really set a room off. Whether you're going for an ornate north African look or something a little more hippy-style, they're just the job.

Bold, bright patterns can also form the starting point for a spectacular room, and you'll find plenty of more modern rugs and carpets on offer throughout the island, especially those that represent the hugely popular Scandinavian style. For areas where it's likely you'll want to chop and change a lot, go for cheaper cotton or rag rugs.

Make sure rugs are held down and don't slip underfoot - especially important on Lanzarote where tiled floors can often be slippery, and ensure that all rugs and carpets are beaten and cleaned regularly.



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# HOW TO

# Chill Out

## YOUR HOME



The essence of chilling out is comfort and sensory pleasure - the simple joy of relaxing while surrounded by pleasing sounds, lush textures, exotic fragrances and fascinating colours.

Here on Lanzarote most rooms have access to the outdoors, so try to situate your chilling area in a place that you can extend by opening a window or patio doors to take in gorgeous warm evenings, full moons or starlit nights.

Next think about positioning. You'll want comfortable yet attractive sofas and perhaps armchairs to flop down in, arrange these in a way that will encourage interaction in the room, rather than focused towards a TV screen – however, if you're going to use your den for watching movies or even the soaps, then make sure items can be easily moved around.

“Relax in  
style and comfort.”

The tiled floors and white walls on Lanzarote lend themselves easily to the chill out idea, but soften them up a little by choosing some attractive textured rugs for the floor, and tactile throws for the sofa and chair. Think carefully about the artwork you'll be putting on the wall, try to look for something abstract and enigmatic that blends in without overpowering the space.



Once the room has been created, you can start to think of those little touches that make all the difference, and once again, the idea of sensual appeal should be top of your list. Scented candles, attractive plants that also provide fragrance, a warm, inviting colour scheme and subtle lighting that creates pools of peace and tranquility should be top of your list.

Don't be afraid to go overboard on cushions and throws, all of which will add to the inviting aspect of the room, but always make sure that the overall impression is one of space and freedom, rather than clutter.

Once you've created your perfect zone, put on a cool, chilled out CD, pour yourself a long drink, open the windows and enjoy the view and let yourself float away.



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# DUSTBUSTING!



At this time of year, houses in northern Europe have to be prepared for icy, wet weather and shoes that are covered with mud and slush, but on Lanzarote, cleaning problems like this are unknown. What you will have to deal with is dust...



Dust is a fact of life on dry, arid Lanzarote. Not only do calimas from the Sahara desert bring thousands of tonnes of the stuff over every year; there's plenty billowing around already, kicked up by the pedestrians, vehicles and the eternal breeze.

Even if you keep dust out of your home, you'll still shed dead skin – one of the main components of household dust – so it needs to be kept on top of.

## Controlling dust

To stop dust entering your home, keep a close eye on the weather and try and keep windows and doors shut when there's a calima. Ventilate the house early in the morning, when outdoor dust is at its lowest.

Even more importantly, make sure your doors and

windows are fully sealed against the outdoors, and ensure that any air ducts or grilles for air-con are kept perfectly clean.

## Removing dust

You'll need equipment that can actually remove dust and not simply redistribute it. A feather duster, for example, will simply knock dust down to lower surfaces.

Your best friend here is a vacuum cleaner equipped with a soft brush nozzle attachment. Damp cloths will wipe up every speck of remaining dust, and it's worth investing in one of those broad floor mops to give dusty floors a real clean after the floor's been vacuumed.

Brushes are useful for larger items of dust and

dirt, but they can also kick up smaller dust particles, so keep their use to a minimum.

Always dust from the top down, and don't make the mistake of assuming that vertical surfaces don't gather dust. They'll need a Hoover or a wipe every few months, too.

## DUSTING TIP!

If you're dusting a very dusty area, see if you can get your hands on something called a "face mask" that will keep you from breathing in dust particles. You can buy them from chemists shops, but apparently they have become even more widely available recently, for some reason.



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# SAFE AS HOUSES



When making your home on Lanzarote, there are three things you'll want to take into account before any other.

First, you'll want it to keep the weather out. This is an island with scorching sunshine during the summer months, occasional torrential rains in the winter and spring, and winds from the north east which bring fine weather, or south-easterlies that can cause dusty calimas.

We welcome sun, rain and cool breezes, but we don't necessarily want them in our home. This is the same everywhere in the

breezes in our homes. Later, we'll want shade and calm coolness or comfortable warmth. We need to let air get into our home to ventilate it and, of course, we need to get in and out of the house easily.

Finally, you'll demand safety, and the assurance that the materials that your home is constructed of are not a hazard for children or careless adults, as well as the peace of mind that comes from knowing that, although burglaries are rare here, your home is capable of being locked down absolutely securely while you're away.

These demands have been addressed by generation after generation of architects and builders and technology has given us an amazing array of choices. Here are just a few of the materials that you'll find on Lanzarote, and their respective benefits.

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## Wood

Wood is almost certainly the oldest material that has been used to seal property. Light, workable, tough and attractive, it's still one of the most popular choices for doors and window frames. It's also a brilliant insulator, a low-conductive material that never heats up or cools down too much. However, one look at the older, abandoned tumbledown houses dotted around the island will illustrate one thing – wood needs maintenance.

Wood needs to be sealed to avoid damp, rot shrinkage and warpage, and the paint, varnish or other sealant we use needs to be reapplied every few years. Another drawback is that, while wood is flexible, it can't be worked as easily as plastic or metal. That's why we need putty for window frames, and why skilled carpenters are still in high demand. You'll also spend a lot of money to make wooden doors and window frames fully secure, against intruders.

## Aluminium

Light, tough, malleable and lustrous, aluminium is a great choice for all sorts of elements in our home, from window frames to balcony rails.

If you have large, sliding patio doors, aluminium will almost certainly be involved – other metals are simply too heavy. Aluminium shutters are also everywhere on Lanzarote, once again because of their lightness and the way they can incorporate adjustable slats. And while aluminium is not the strongest metal, the fittings are designed to give the greatest of structural strength. An aluminium door or window shutter is as secure as you'll ever need it to be, and will last for several decades.

## Plastic

UPVC is probably the most versatile material for doors, windows and other fittings – easily moulded into any shape required, tough, waterproof, low-maintenance, non-conductive and available in a dizzying range of colours and styles.

Plastic is also stronger and tougher than ever before, and relatively cheaper than metals. On Lanzarote, its insulating properties and sound-proofing are also an important consideration in certain areas. It's also one of the most secure materials you can use on your home.

## Glass

It's hard to imagine the world before glass, but you only have to visit some of the older farm buildings on Lanzarote to see the dark, smoky, conditions many people lived in before it became widely available. It allows light into our home while keeping the worst of the weather out, and recent technology has ensured that it is tough and safe.

Double glazing also insulates your home from excessive heat as well as cold, and new developments in air conditioning mean that glass is becoming a much more frequent feature in Lanzarote home design.

Your choice of material will depend on many things. Budget will be an important consideration, but so will the use you get out of your home. For example, if you have a pretty rural property, you may feel that the maintenance of wood is well worth it for the traditional look. In urban areas, metal and UPVC provide secure solutions and sleek, attractive looks.



## Steel

Stainless steel is chosen for its strength, its cheapness and its lustrous beauty. That strength comes into play when you need genuine security, such as with rolling doors and shutters to protect business premises, or garage doors. Steel doors will often be motorised, meaning the weight of the material is not a problem you'll have to worry about. Steel is also tougher than almost any other material, and will make most burglars turn and walk away.



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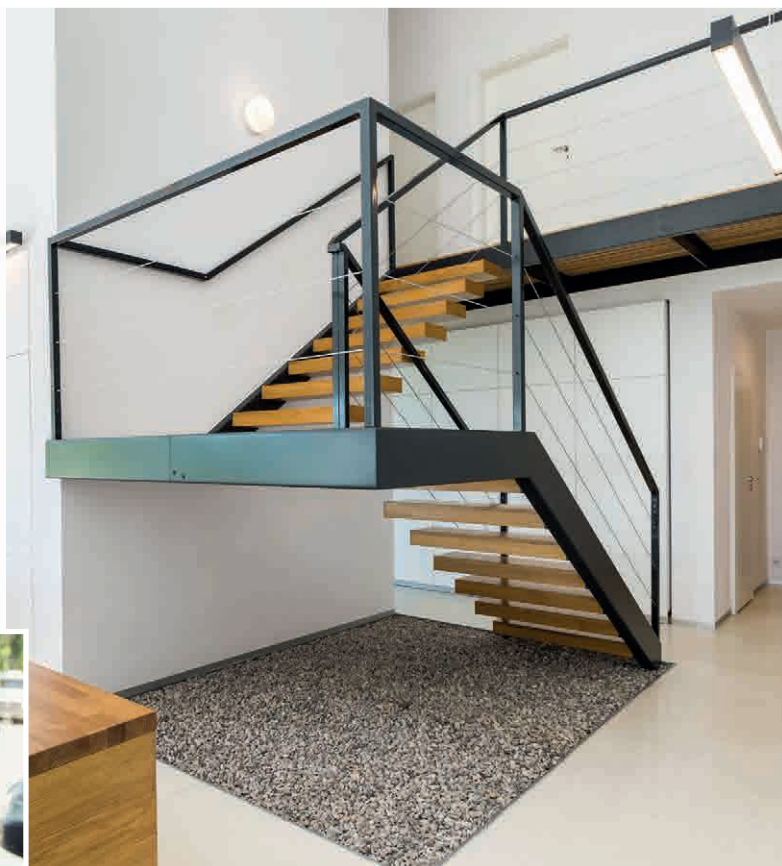


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# METAL HEADS

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But 5,000 years ago things were very different. Back then, although we were surrounded by it in the form, of ore, the only metal humans knew came from meteorites. Our mastery of fire is what allowed us to extract metal from the earth, and was such an important step that two of the ages of mankind bear the names of metals.

Bronze was the first stage – an alloy of copper and tin, both of whose melting points are low enough for early civilizations to melt them. Bronze was hard, tough and malleable, which gave any civilization with access to it a technological edge over all others.

Iron smelting arrived a couple of thousand years later, and transformed things again. At last, humankind had a genuinely hard, tough and resilient material that could be used for tools and weapons. The blacksmith suddenly became the most important and valued job in any community.

Nowadays, our reliance on metal is greater than ever, but despite the million ways we employ it, we still find comfort and pleasure in the purer forms of metals or alloys.

The warm shimmering glow and attractive green patina of copper; the soft beauty of brushed aluminium, zinc's misty greyness, the gleam and swagger of brass and the slick, flash of chrome – all have found their

**“Strong with a fatal flaw, steel is the superhero of metals.”**

places in our homes, and all have become central to entire aesthetic looks. Then, of course, there's steel – the superhero of all metals – strong, flexible enough to be used thousands of ways, but with a fatal flaw – rust - that means that it must wear protective coats of paint, plastic or zinc at all times.





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# EVERYTHINGS GONE GREEN!

Lanzarote's spring explosion of greenery is a delight that isn't always guaranteed... so make the most of the explosion of fauna this month.



Tourists may not have noticed, but farmers and gardeners have been well aware that Lanzarote has recently suffered a drought lasting roughly two years. During that time there's been the odd shower and one heavy downpour, but nothing that was enough to give the parched island the soaking it yearned for.


That's changed with recent rains, including those left by storm Filomena in early January. Lanzarote has been drenched a good few times, and that's enough to give farmers hope, gardeners joy

and sightseers a brief paradise of greenery and flowers.

They'll already be out by the time you read this, a wide range of daisies, vetches, violets, mustard, bugloss and other flowers. It's not really a landscape you can hope to recreate in your own garden, but it will fill you with pleasure. Meanwhile, discovering other green landscapes on Lanzarote will inspire you with ideas and maybe get you hooked on this island's utterly fascinating native flora.

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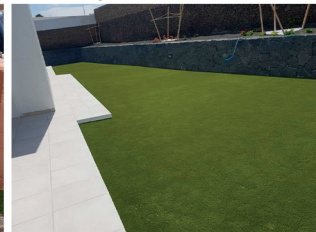
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## WHERE TO SEE WILD PLANTS

### FAMARA CLIFFS

The Famara cliffs are home to the greatest variety of species on Lanzarote, and at this time of year they are literally bursting with life and vitality. Head up to the Ermita de Nuestra Señora de las Nieves and amble down the track that leads down to Teguise. You'll find one of the most delightful landscapes on Lanzarote, with aeoniums, wild fennel, thistles and much more.

Other great areas to discover the fauna of the Famara cliffs are the Mirador at Yé, and El Bosquecillo

### LLANOS DE MÁGUEZ

The walk down through the meadows of Máguez is one that most Lanzarote schoolchildren have done on school trips. It's chosen for educational visits because of

“The dam at Mala is one of the most important repositories of fresh water on the island.”

its range and variety of wild flowers and grasses, but it's an absolutely charming walk in its own right, which also passes through tumbledown cactus fields and more recent plots of agricultural land. If you're lucky, you may spot a mighty Egyptian vulture, too.

### VALLE DE MALPASO

The hairpin bends leading down into the Valle de Malpaso are an unforgettable aspect of any trip to Haría, but it pays to pull over in one of the parking places and explore the hillside. This is one of the places where aeoniums, those strange Canarian succulents, are the most widespread, and also a hotspot for Canarian daisies and many other local species.

### PRESA DE MALA

The dam at Mala is the largest concentration of fresh water on the island following heavy rains, and never fails to burst into bloom as the waters subside. This large pool of fresh water means that the dam is also a magnet for bird life. Take care on the dam structure itself, but don't forget to explore the barrancos above and below the dam, where you'll find flowers and plants galore.

### BARRANCOS

Barrancos are gullies that channel rainwater down to the sea, and some of the examples on Lanzarote are ancient, dating back thousands of years. This water means that they're also packed with plant life following the rains.

Try exploring the barrancos that lead down from the hills of Femés to the sea, or head into the little-known Barranco de Tenegüime, a protected marvel of nature that lies between the heights of Los Valles and Guatiza.

One word of warning: stay clear of barrancos in heavy rain, as they can become raging torrents for short periods.

### CALDERAS

Volcanic craters are another naturally protected area on Lanzarote which also turn green when the rains fall. It's worth heading into a few calderas following the rains just to get an idea of how rich their wildlife can be. We'd recommend the Montaña Caldereta, Montaña Teneza, the Volcán de Tamia and the Caldera Riscada.



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## IN SEARCH OF A WIN... OR EVEN A GAME.

The Rojillos (the Reds) have only played one match since the last report, writes *Ian Lane*, - a home game against Gran Canarian side UD Villa Santa Brígida on the 13th December.



Lanzarote dominated the match but they could not find a way through, with the game ending goalless. This means that the Rojillos found themselves in an unusual position by going into the New Year at the bottom of the league.

There have been countless problems the squad has suffered this season, which have already been highlighted in this column. However, the most important issue to address now is the inability to put the ball in the back of the net.

Out of the seven matches played Lanzarote have only scored on

four occasions, and what's even worse is that in their last three games they do not have a single goal to their name. Hopefully, this will be rectified with new signing from CD Tenerife, Giovanni Rodríguez. Despite being only 22 years old, this striker has played 111 times in the Third Division (83 in starting line-ups) and has scored 35 goals. He has signed until the end of the season.

Lanzarote are determined to move up the table and, even with this terrible form, they are just six points off a playoff spot so anything can still happen. Unfortunately due to the recent spike in Covid cases in the Canary Islands and the arrival of Level 3 restrictions on Lanzarote, it does look as though matches will be suspended for a short while.

**For more up to date info check out the Facebook Page or website (details below)**

### FORTHCOMING HOME GAMES

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## GOLF NON-STOP!

After sterling service establishing this column, Jean-François Crinquand has now stepped down as our golf correspondent and handed the task over to Paul Kelly. Many thanks, Jean-François, and step up to the tee, Paul!



*Captain's wife Marymar Hernandez, Tamara Soloshenko and Esther Hernandez swinging the blues away at the Xmas lunch*



Anecdotally in conversations, I have found one of the more surprising aspects of our much-changed Covid-19 lifestyle is the feeling expressed that time is passing us by just as quickly, if not even more so, than when we had 'busy and fulfilled' daily activities to keep us 'occupied'. Whether it is a new-found appreciation of wintering in the warmth of daily sunshine or the sheer bliss of enjoying the outdoors during Northern Europe's bleak and cold Jack Frost season, we have also had the benefit of almost totally uninterrupted golf apart from a very short period during the first full-blown lockdown.

Even at the time of writing (these few words have to arrive at the publishers some weeks before appearing in print), as we unfortunately have to re-enter the red level 3 restrictions, it looks as though a few slightly more prohibitive and perfectly sensible tweaks will infringe on our lives, but our Tuesday and Friday LPGS outings will

continue non-stop.

What has also been most heartening through 2021 is the steady and sustained growth in membership of the LPGS and, while some of the growth can be attributed to the sad current closure of the course in Tias, we have had a genuinely large influx of new members and a most welcome surge in visitors. We hope that many of these, as they experience the enjoyable golfing competitiveness and good fellowship of the society, will also join us as members for the modest annual fee of 40 euros that includes our gala Christmas lunch and a few other membership perks through the year.

Unlike previous years, last December's celebrations took place in the clubhouse, rather than externally, and as a lunch rather than dinnertime event - to pretty much universal acclaim. On the clubhouse terrace, with wonderful warm, sunny views over the course down to the glistening Atlantic, and just 5 days before Christmas one could hardly ask for a more relaxed and pleasant venue, catered superbly by Stephy and Sebastian.

Finally with the turn of the year we have some new society officers with a new **Captain, Andy Farr: CaptainLPGS@gmail.com Tel: + 34 680 85 26 21** and a new **Treasurer, Anne Rees: lpgstreasurer@gmail.com Tel: +34 662 11 28 70** with **Jean-Francois Crinquand lpgs2016@gmail.com** continuing as Secretary.

**The Society email is: lpgs2016@gmail.com. I look forward to hearing from you. More info on our website Visitor section: [www.laspalmerasgolfsociety.blogspot.com](http://www.laspalmerasgolfsociety.blogspot.com)**



# CAR WASH!



**Carwashes aren't a luxury on Lanzarote – they're an absolute necessity on an island where calimas and showers combine to make your car filthy, and where washing your car in the street is prohibited.**

Washing your car in the street is classed as “polluting the public highway” in Spain, and can get you a nasty fine. But if you park your car outside, you'll surely have come across the splotchy effects of a post-calima shower. It's time to get on down to the car wash.

Take a rag and an old towel, and get to know your carwash before you use it. It may have a foam brush as well as the usual spray wand, and many carwashes have racks for your rubber foot mats.

The buttons will tell you which cycle of wash

you're on – pre-wash, soap, rinse and wax, and you'll usually get a digital display of the time left remaining.

It's worth doing a quick pre-wash to get the very worst dirt off your car and give it a soak. Use the rag to wipe off any caked-on muck, then start again – if your car is really dirty, this is the time to use the foam brush, if available.

Stay about three feet away from the car – the high-pressure jet from the wand can damage paintwork at close quarters, and always wash from the top down, cleaning the roof first and



“chasing “ dirt down to the floor.

Another circuit of the car will be sufficient to rinse the car, and then it's up to you to choose the wax finish or not (you'll get a much better job with a tin of wax and a chamois).

You may want to towel down the windscreen or other areas of the car, as cars dry out fast on Lanzarote and this can leave residue or film.

If you're cleaning inside, too, sort out all the clutter and dispose of rubbish first, use a hand brush to get rid of loose stones and *picon*, then have a good Hoover with the tube that is provided by many garages. You can wipe down inside surfaces with a damp cloth or baby wipes, and On Lanzarote, it's a great idea to use a proper window cleaner on the inside before rubbing the window down with crumpled newspaper.





## SCOOTER LAWS

From Saturday 2nd January, it has become illegal to ride electric scooters on the pavement. A law proposed by the traffic Department and approved on Saturday now means that motorised scooters are classed as a vehicle, and as such, they cannot be driven or left on pavements.

Other rules that apply to vehicles will also apply – it will be an offence to ride a scooter drunk, for example, and every scooter will require registration.



## FINES FUND LEARNERS

The Unidas Podemos party has proposed that traffic fines be used to subsidise driving lessons for younger people.

In many parts of Spain, public transport barely exists and the car is king. This means that a driving licence is often vital for youngsters seeking work, but Spanish lessons are notoriously expensive.

Unidas Podemos has proposed that fines for speeding and other traffic offences could go towards funding lessons for young people. They also claim the initiative would boost driving schools and slow down rural depopulation.



## ROAD SAFETY AWARDS

ONCE, the Spanish National Association for the Blind, has been awarded a medal for road safety in a recent award's show hosted by Spain's Interior Minister, Fernando Grande-Marlaska.

ONCE were praised for promoting road safety on their official lottery tickets, sold everywhere in Spain, and also run the oldest school of safe driving in Spain, located in Brunete.

Other awards were given posthumously to three Guardia Civil officers and the National Renting Association, while film director Raquel Troyano was also awarded for her moving documentary on road deaths, One Cold Morning.



and now it's me time...

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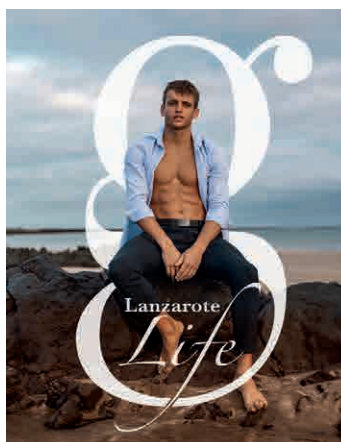
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Flight Information .....	928 846001
Thomson.....	928 516930

## AYUNTAMIENTOS

Arrecife .....	928 812750
Haría .....	928 835251
San Bartolomé.....	928 520657
Teguise .....	928 845001
Tías .....	928 833619
Tinajo .....	928 840021
Yaiza .....	928 836220
Lanzarote Cabildo .....	928 810100

## BRITISH SCHOOLS

British School of Lanzarote .....	928 810085
Colegio Europeo Daos .....	928 515818
Colegio Hispano Británico.....	928 173066
Colegio Arenas .....	928 590835
Queen's School (Playa Blanca) .....	928 518899

## CHEMIST

Puerto del Carmen .....	928 513207
Puerto del Carmen (Old Town) .....	928 512282
Playa Blanca.....	928 518942
Costa Teguise (CC Jablillo).....	928 826628
Costa Teguise (Islas Canarias) .....	928 590423

## CHURCHES

Anglican Chaplain.....	928 514241
Family Church .....	618 186755
Christian Worship Centre .....	620 309684
Sunday Worship.....	630 175810
Pastor Norwegian Church .....	616 407693

## CONSULATES

Britain .....	928 262508
Ireland.....	928 815262
Germany .....	928 491880

## CREDIT CARDS - LOST OR STOLEN?

4B .....	902 114400
AMEX.....	900 814500
Visa International .....	900 991124

## EMERGENCY SERVICES

Police, Fire, Ambulances.....	112
Spanish Emergency Services.....	061
Red Cross (Ambulance).....	928 812222

## FERRIES

Naviera Armas .....	902 220225
Fred Olsen .....	928 517266
Líneas Romero .....	928 842055

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Mobile.....	621 274473
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British Surgery Lanzarote .....	928 514274
OR FREEPHONE .....	900 811555
Hospital Arrecife .....	928 595000
Alcoholics Anonymous.....	638 484113
Dr. Mager Clinic.....	928 512611
Hospiten Lanzarote .....	928 596100
Overeaters Anonymous.....	662 116415

## POLICE

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Haría .....	928 835252
San Bartolomé.....	928 520712
Teguise .....	928 845252
Tías .....	928 834101
Yaiza .....	928 830107

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Costa Teguise .....	928 827268
Playa Blanca.....	928 518389
Puerto del Carmen .....	928 510381

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Puerto del Carmen/Tías.....	928 524220
San Bartolomé.....	928 520176
Tinajo .....	928 840049
Yaiza/Playa Blanca .....	928 524222

## TELEPHONE (MOVISTAR)

Faults .....	1002
Directory Enquiries .....	11811
International Directories .....	11825

## TOURIST INFORMATION - LANZAROTE

Arrecife .....	928 813174
Costa Teguise.....	928 592542
Puerto del Carmen .....	928 513351
Playa Blanca.....	928 518150

## TOURIST INFORMATION - 7 ISLANDS

Lanzarote .....	928 820704
El Hierro.....	922 550302
Fuerteventura .....	928 860604
Gran Canaria .....	928 771550
La Gomera.....	922 870281
La Palma.....	922 423340
Tenerife .....	928 635192

## TRANSPORT

ITV Station (MOT) .....	928 582555
Intercity Bus .....	928 811522

## UTILITIES

Endesa (Electricity) .....	800 760909
Canal Gestión (Water).....	928 814400
Iberdrola .....	900 225235

## VETS

Jane Burke.....	928 513895 or 649 910784
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# Need to Know



## PUBLIC HOLIDAYS 2021

These are the remaining public holidays for 2021. Canary Islands Day on May 30th falls on a Sunday and is not classed as a holiday as a result.

## NATIONAL HOLIDAYS

<b>1 April</b>	Easter Thursday
<b>2 April</b>	Good Friday
<b>1 May</b>	Workers' Day
<b>16th August</b>	Assumption
<b>12th October</b>	Spain's National Day
<b>1st November</b>	All Saint's Day
<b>6th December</b>	Constitution Day
<b>8th December</b>	Immaculate Conception
<b>25th December</b>	Christmas Day

## ISLAND HOLIDAY

<b>15th September</b>	Fiesta de Nuestra Señora de los Dolores
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## MUNICIPAL HOLIDAYS

### • Arrecife

<b>16 February</b>	Carnival Tuesday
<b>25 August</b>	San Ginés

### • San Bartolomé

<b>16 February</b>	Carnival Tuesday
<b>24 August</b>	San Bartolomé

### • Haría

<b>16 February</b>	Carnival Tuesday
<b>24 June</b>	San Juan

### • Tías

<b>2 February</b>	Day of Candelaria
<b>16 February</b>	Carnival Tuesday

### • Teguise

<b>16 July</b>	Nuestra Señora del Carmen
<b>24th June</b>	San Juan

### • Tinajo

<b>16 February</b>	Carnival Tuesday
<b>24 June</b>	San Juan

### • Yaiza

<b>7 July</b>	San Marcial
<b>8 September</b>	Nuestra Señora de los Remedios



# NATURE'S VICTORY

Beatrice Rugiada Ferrari sent us some gorgeous photos of how Lanzarote bursts into life following a rainstorm.



Beatrice told us “Just a few days after the rains, I visited a friend who lives near Masdache. This remote, inland part of the island isn’t as well-known as many other landscapes, and there are a lot of abandoned buildings and overgrown farmland, as well as this abandoned car that had long been overtaken by nature.

We walked for an hour and a half, and it was amazing how things had exploded into life. People think Lanzarote is a desert island, but the soil is so fertile and there is so much life waiting for its chance, such as the hundreds of little mushrooms that had suddenly sprung up.

It helps me to remember that I am loved by the earth, who asked me to be here with it for a very little while.



Life will never give you anything you can’t transmute into love. Because everything living that shoots up to the light has roots crawling back down. This life is your life, you hold the map and the compass and the treasure chest. The gold is revealed when you become the most you, and no-one before or after will ever do it quite like you.

Nature takes my breath away.

*Follow @onespaceoflove on Instagram for more photos!*



---

*Do you have any photographs with stories behind them that would like to share? Email us at: [digital@gazettelife.com](mailto:digital@gazettelife.com).*





## Tide Times February 2021

Tide Tables for Arrecife, Lanzarote. Height is in metres.  
(Times may vary by a few minutes around the island)

Day	Hour	Metres	Day	Hour	Metres
<b>1</b>	H: 03:20 L: 09:40 H: 15:46 L: 21:51	2.9 0.3 2.6 0.5	<b>17</b>	H: 04:19 L: 10:35 H: 16:40 L: 22:46	2.4 0.7 2.2 0.9
<b>2</b>	H: 04:03 L: 10:24 H: 16:31 L: 22:37	2.8 0.4 2.5 0.6	<b>18</b>	H: 04:57 L: 11:13 H: 17:21 L: 23:31	2.2 0.9 2.0 1.0
<b>3</b>	H: 04:50 L: 11:13 H: 17:23 L: 23:31	2.6 0.6 2.3 0.7	<b>19</b>	H: 05:43 L: 12:01 H: 18:14	2.0 1.1 1.9
<b>4</b>	H: 5:46 L: 12:11 H: 18:24	2.4 0.7 2.2	<b>20</b>	L: 00:32 H: 06:46 L: 13:08 H: 19:30	1.2 1.8 1.2 1.8
<b>5</b>	L: 00:37 H: 06:54 L: 13:20 H: 19:40	0.9 2.2 0.9 2.1	<b>21</b>	L: 01:59 H: 08:17 L: 14:36 H: 21:00	1.2 1.8 1.2 1.9
<b>6</b>	L: 02:00 H: 08:18 L: 14:41 H: 21:03	1.0 2.1 0.9 2.2	<b>22</b>	L: 03:31 H: 09:46 L: 15:56 H: 22:13	1.1 1.8 1.1 2.0
<b>7</b>	L: 03:28 H: 09:43 L: 15:59 H: 22:17	0.9 2.1 0.9 2.3	<b>23</b>	L: 04:38 H: 10:48 L: 16:54 H: 23:06	1.0 2.0 0.9 2.2
<b>8</b>	L: 04:42 H: 10:54 L: 17:03 H: 23:17	0.8 2.2 0.8 2.5	<b>24</b>	L: 05:27 H: 11:35 L: 17:39 H: 23:49	0.7 2.2 0.7 2.5
<b>9</b>	L: 05:40 H: 11:49 L: 17:54	0.6 2.4 0.6	<b>25</b>	L: 06:08 H: 12:14 L: 18:19	0.5 2.4 0.5
<b>10</b>	H: 00:06 L: 06:28 H: 12:35 L: 18:38	2.6 0.4 2.5 0.5	<b>26</b>	H: 00:28 L: 06:46 H: 12:52 L: 18:56	2.7 0.3 2.6 0.3
<b>11</b>	H: 00:49 L: 07:10 H: 13:15 L: 19:18	2.8 0.3 2.6 0.4	<b>27</b>	H: 01:06 L: 07:23 H: 13:29 L: 19:34	2.9 0.1 2.7 0.2
<b>12</b>	H: 01:28 L: 07:48 H: 13:52 L: 19:54	2.8 0.3 2.6 0.4	<b>28</b>	H: 01:43 L: 08:01 H: 14:06 L: 20:11	3.0 0.1 2.8 0.1
<b>13</b>	H: 02:04 L: 08:23 H: 14:26 L: 20:28	2.9 0.3 2.6 0.4	<b>29</b>		
<b>14</b>	H: 02:38 L: 08:56 H: 14:59 L: 21:01	2.8 0.3 2.5 0.5	<b>30</b>		
<b>15</b>	H: 03:11 L: 09:28 H: 15:31 L: 21:35	2.7 0.4 2.4 0.6	<b>31</b>		
<b>16</b>	H: 03:44 L: 10:01 H: 16:04 L: 22:09	2.6 0.6 2.3 0.7			

H=High Tide L=Low Tide



February 2018 did not bring the best weather, with 10 days of rain and cooler than normal temperatures averaging 17 degrees in the daytime. This was actually reflected recently in January 2021, with some areas seeing almost 100mm of rain in just under a week. As a result the island, once more, is beautiful and green.

February 2019 was a real mixed bag weather wise, with wind and wave warnings to start the month and temperatures of 20° in the day, we also had a polar vortex, heavy rain

and then ended with calima and high temperatures of 27°.

February 2020 brought the biggest, heaviest calima dust cloud in over 20 years covering the island with dust and sand brought over with the easterly winds. We ended the month with temperatures of 26 degrees and it is normally at this time of the year that we start carnival season and the weather, on the whole, is very kind to us - last year the parade in Puerto del Carmen on February 29th did go ahead, although all others following this were cancelled.

So I think we should embrace FebYOUary and take some time out to reflect on all the last year has delivered. The best way I can put this into weather terms is that even the most raging storm eventually runs out of energy, life isn't about waiting for the storm to pass - it's about learning how to dance in the rain.

Follow @TerrieWeatherLanzarote on Facebook for  
Weekly weather videos and daily posts!

## What to Expect in February



### Day Time Temps

21°C (Ranges from 20°C to 24°C)



### Night Time Temps

Average 13°C (ranges from 10°C to 15°C)



### Sunshine Hours

7 hours



### Sea Temp

18°C



### Rain

3 days showers, heavy but not long lasting.



### Wind

NW trade winds dominate up to 25kph



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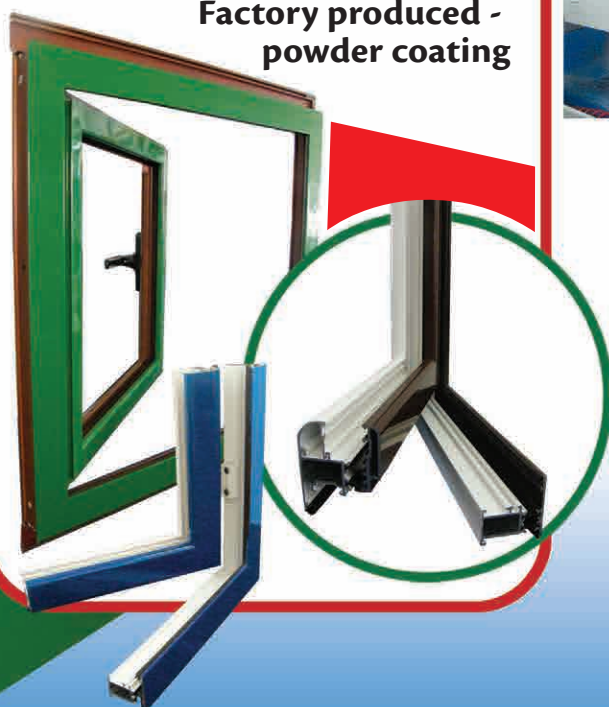
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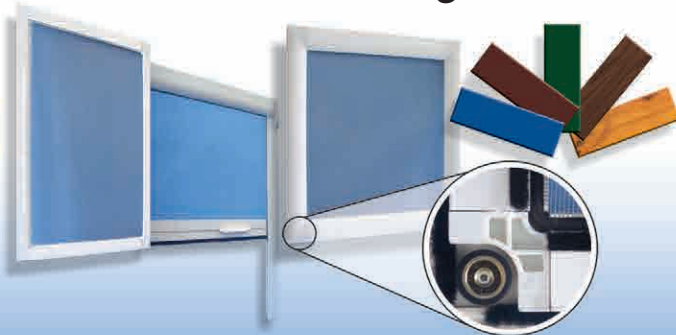


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# Horoscopes

BY CLAIRVOYANT SHONA LANGHOLM



## Aries

(21 MAR - 19 APR)

Just as last month, you need to keep your eyes peeled for the glitter that may be gold, Aries. Money-making opportunities are there to be had, but you could miss out if you allow yourself to be distracted by what looks like an active and satisfying love life. The choice is yours.

## Taurus

(20 APRIL - 20 MAY)

It's a wiser, humbler Taurus that heads into February, but it's one that other people find irresistibly attractive. Don't be modest with yourself - accept you're being appreciated for your own qualities, and let your slightly battered self-esteem heal slowly.



## Gemini

(21 MAY TO 20 JUNE)

The landscape is always crystal clear just before the rain falls. There are some challenges ahead, Gemini, but right now you've got things in focus and organised. And as long as you're sorted out, there's nothing to be afraid of and everything to learn.

## Cancer

(21 JUNE TO 22 JULY)

You're thoughts are still roaming far from your front door, Cancer, but it's time to suppress some of that wanderlust and deal with matters close at hand. To your surprise, you'll find that the most exciting experiences and relationships are right under your nose.



## Leo

(21 JULY TO 22 AUG)

Be persistent when fighting for justice this month, Leo. You know when things aren't fair and you're not afraid to open your mouth against injustice, but you can also let things slide. Stick to your guns this month and you'll have a memorable victory.



## Virgo

(23 AUG TO 22 SEPT)

Small teams of three or four people can conquer the world, Virgo - look at Abba and the Beatles. This month you'll find intense work with a tight group brings immense rewards, but you'll also discover that you can click with complete strangers. It's going to be a lot of fun.



## Aquarius

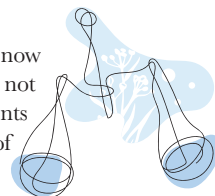
(20 JAN - 18 FEB)

We all know money is a fickle friend, but if you treat it right it probably won't leave you. This is a month to get to grips with finance and get on the same side as your money. Once your finances are sorted, you can focus on romance towards the end of the month.

## Libra

(23 SEPT TO 22 OCT)

You've been enjoying your work lately, Libra, but now you're aware that you're going to need a break. It's not urgent, but it's necessary, so make the arrangements carefully and book yourself a substantial chunk of unashamed me-time for March or April.



## Scorpio

(23 OCT TO 21 NOV)

There are millions of things you'll never get round to doing, Scorpio, but this month you should try a brand new activity that will excite and stimulate you. Try two or three, if you fancy. Learn a new skill or tick something off your bucket list, and enjoy!

## Sagittarius

(22 NOV TO 21 DEC)

Your health has been concerning you for some time, but this month you'll find a way forward to a more active future. Exercise, diet and discipline all seem to be in good shape - all you need now is the motivation. Talk to friends and family to find it.



## Capricorn

(22 DEC TO 19 JAN)

February is the shortest month, but it'll seem even shorter this year as you buzz around like a busy little bee, Capricorn. All the things you need to do are important, though, and they'll pay off in the future, so don't be downhearted and whatever you do, don't give up.



## Pisces

(19 FEB - 20 MAR)

You're not always one to play by the rules, Pisces, but this month it's important not to cheat outright. It'll backfire on you if you do. Playing with a straight bat may not bring immediate glory, but it will bring respect and that's what you most need in life right now.

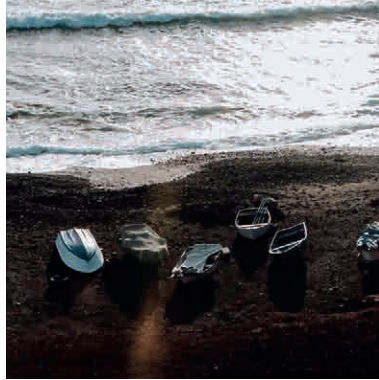




# Instagram of the month



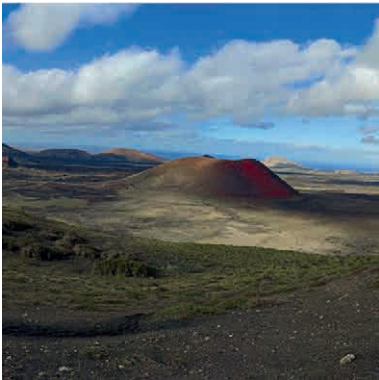
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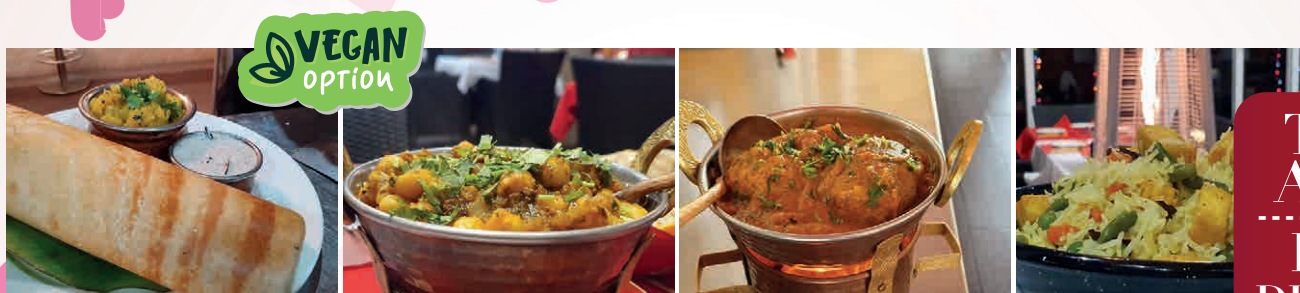
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