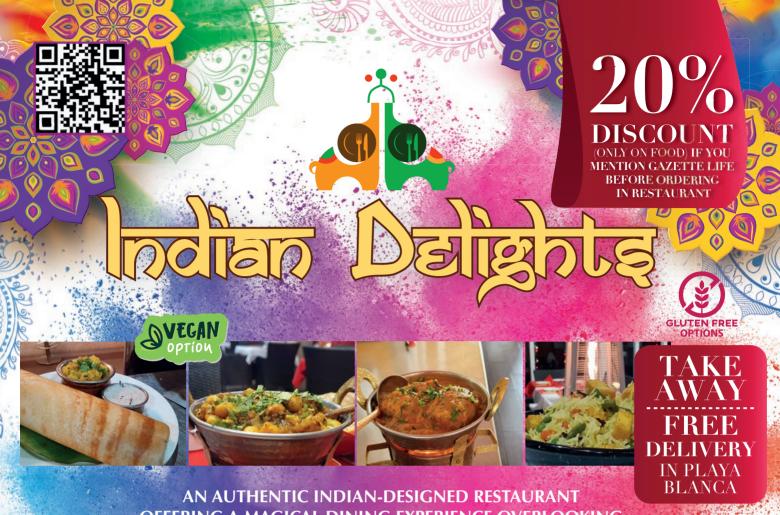
# Lanzarote





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# GAZETTE LIFE FINGERS CROSSED

# **Ed's Letter**

There's always a sense of anticipation on Lanzarote in May. Finally, we can almost feel and touch summer and all the joy and excitement associated with it. This year, however, that sense of expectation is mingled with uncertainty, as an entire island crosses its fingers in the hope that finally, at long last, we can share the beauty with thousands.

Sharing has been an essential way of getting through this miserable pandemic. Social media has been full of posts reminding Lanzarote lovers near and far that this island is as glorious as it has always been, and the sense of love and longing to return has been immense.

There's still a way to go, of course. It'll be a while before the "new normal" feels anything like the old one, and Lanzarote and the Canaries will have a lot of work to do picking up the pieces that have been shattered and scattered over the last year, but with vaccination programmes now in full swing, eagerness to re-establish flights and, above all, responsible attitudes visible everywhere, we can fan that flame of hope into something that burns bright.

As for those responsible attitudes, the other day I was moved to see some local teenagers sitting on a beach with friends - all of them carefully distanced. I've also heard reports from teachers about how brilliantly kids of all ages have adapted to the restrictions in schools.

I can't even imagine how I'd have dealt with this pandemic at the age of 18, when my life was all about meeting new people, dancing, laughing, spending half my life in someone else's bedroom and only going home when I had to.

So next month we'll be looking at the effect that the pandemic has had on young people. If you'd like to contribute, get in touch.

Enjoy May, and enjoy the mag.

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#### EMAIL CONTACTS

EDITORIAL: editorial@gazettelife.com ADVERTISING: advertising@gazettelife.com CLASSIFIEDS: classified@gazettelife.com +34 928 093 823 +34 621 274 473 www.gazettelife.com



Level 2 Lanzarote holds off the fourth wave.

> **Shopping Around** Arrecife faces new commercial challenges.

**90 Day Rule** The campaign to extend Brits' right to stay.

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Mental Health An increasing concern

**Arrecife's Statues** Bronze blokes in the capital. 124 Naiting for Recovery Ángel Domínguez Ojeda, Tourist Councillor of Yaiza

**Jolatero Time** 

A unique Lanzarote

tradition

**12 Keeping** Watch We interview Gloria Moreno.

**Viva Canarias!** Canary Day is on 30th May.

# THE VITAL RACE



APRIL SAW LANZAROTE FINALLY RECOVER FROM THE HUGE SPIKE IN CASES THAT OCCURRED POST-CHRISTMAS AND, AT THE TIME OF WRITING, THE EASTER HOLIDAYS APPEAR TO HAVE HAD ONLY A SLIGHT EFFECT ON THE NUMBER OF ACTIVE CASES ON THE ISLAND. NOW, ALL EYES ARE ON THE RACE TO VACCINATE AND REDUCE INFECTIONS FOR THE POSSIBLE RETURN OF TOURISM.

When assessing Lanzarote's progress, it's important to remember that, in January, the island suffered infection rates that were far higher than any that have been registered in the Canaries to date. It also paid the dearest price, with 39 of the 48 Covid deaths on the island occurring this year.

That grim trend has finally stopped, and most importantly, the intensive care unit at the Dr José Molina Orosa Hospital has reduced its occupancy drastically.

In the weeks following Easter, numbers of new

cases increased slightly, but remained comfortably within the "medium risk" category that confers Level 2 status. It is hoped that this will continue, but increasing fears of a fourth wave on mainland Spain bring new worries, with Madrid once again causing serious concern.

The Spanish capital's decision to keep bars and restaurants open has been praised by many in the business sector, but it has come at a price of over 14,000 deaths and twice as many intensive care admissions than any other region in Spain. It remains to be seen if the region's leader, Isabel



Díaz Ayuso, will pay the price at the elections she has called for the 4th of this month.

The threat of a fourth wave makes the race to vaccinate the population more urgent than ever, and the Canaries continues to break new records almost daily in the numbers of people immunised. Nevertheless, problems with supply and decisions to limit use of the AstraZeneca jab mean that the speed of the campaign is not accelerating as planned.

The arrival of Johnson & Johnson's Janssen vaccine last month also brought hope, but the vaccine was almost immediately suspended by manufacturers while links with brain embolisms in the USA were investigated.

For the Canaries, controlling the pandemic will be crucial if the islands wish to salvage their summer tourist season. British international travel may resume this month with a new "traffic light" scheme, and the islands will wish to be given the green light as early as possible.



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# LOCAL NEWS

### END OF STATE OF ALARM



Lanzarote has been used to curfews since December last year, but these are likely to come to an end on May 9th, when the State of Alarm expires. Spain's President, Pedro Sánchez, has announced that he will not seek to renew the order.

The end of the State of Alarm will return much of the responsibility for Covid restrictions to the Canarian regional government and, while they may continue to dictate closing times and the amount of people permitted in gatherings, regional governments do not have the power to impose curfews.

### MASK LAW BACKTRACK

Spain's government performed a rapid U-turn last month after issuing a law that ordered masks to be worn at all times outdoors, even while sunbathing or in the open countryside.

There was an immediate outcry from several regions, including the Canaries, which had been doing perfectly well permitting masks to be removed while lying on the beach. The law also attracted incredulous coverage internationally.

A week later, an annexe was added that permits people to take off their mask while resting "before or after exercise".

Canarian authorities have already indicated that, as far as they are concerned, the law will continue as it was, allowing maskless sunbathing as long as 1.5 metre distancing is observed.



### VACCINE SHOWS RESULTS



The effects of the vaccination drive on the Canaries may already be apparent, as recent figures show the apparent elimination of the virus in care homes, and a reduction in the amount of over 65-year-olds contracting the Covid virus on Lanzarote.

Since the completion of the vaccination of Group 1, which comprised of residents and staff in care homes, not one single case has

been registered in these establishments in the Canaries. This is wonderful news when you consider that care homes on the islands have suffered several outbreaks and fatalities since the beginning of the pandemic.

On Lanzarote, no over-65s outside Arrecife currently have Covid-19 and, at the time of writing, the island has not suffered a Covid-.related death since 22nd March.

### FOUNTAIN DIVER

San Bartolomé residents were surprised to see a gentleman snorkelling in the fountain that stands in front of their impressive theatre and Ayuntamiento buildings.

The diver, dressed in flippers, mask and snorkel, was circling the central fountain in a pool about 30 cms deep. It later turned out that this was part of a new publicity campaign for the Decathlon sports chain.

### **ILLEGAL FISHING**

An illegal gill net and wire creels discovered off the coast of Puerto del Carmen have been destroyed by the authorities. The gill net – a fishing method that is completely forbidden in the Canaries – was discovered by local divers, who reported that it had ensnared six Angel sharks. The club managed to free two of these protected fish, but the others were already dead.

The divers also reported a *nasa* (large mesh creel), and three more of these nets containing various lobsters, spider carbs and edible crabs were destroyed by the Guardia Civil.

### YAIZA SAYS "NO" TO FISH FARMS

Yaiza council has joined the chorus of opposition to a proposed fish farming zone off the coast of Puerto del Carmen and Playa Honda.

Although the project does not affect Yaiza, the council has long opposed the existing fish farms off its own coast at Playa Quemada and claims there are "clear indications" that they are polluting.

Yaiza's Fishing Guild has also opposed the fish farming plan, saying that "the few jobs it creates do not make up for the destruction of hundreds of jobs in the fishing industry and the associated environmental damage."

### PIRATE MUSEUM RAIDED

Thieves used the scaffolding on the Castillo de Santa Bárbara overlooking Teguise to enter the Pirate Museum and steal "various exhibits," last month.



The alarm was raised by a shepherd, and a later inventory check revealed that three computers and three unidentified exhibits had been stolen. Opposition councillors have accused the ruling group of negligence in relation to the security of the castle.



# **ISLAND INFO**

### ADIÓS, LOLITA

Dolores Luzardo Hernández, the baker who founded the chain of shops named Lolita, died last month at the age of 89.

Described bv San Bartolomé "a model Avuntamiento as businesswoman, who converted her passion for baking into a family business". Lolita started her business in 1975, delivering bread and pastries from door-to-door in her native town of San Bartolomé. In the 90s she opened the two shops on the seafront of Arrecife, and later branched out to Deiland, Plava Honda's main street, and Puerto del Carmen.



### SAN SIMÓN



Muebles San Simón, in San Bartolomé, celebrates its 36th birthday this month. Congratulations to Mari Carmen, Guadalupe, Victoria and Wladimira, whose smiles and friendly welcome are central to the shop's success. San Simón will have special offers available throughout May, so give them a visit.

### **CUSTOMS REMINDER**

Woodside Cargo SL would like to remind readers that, although the Canaries are in the European Union, they are not part of the fiscal EU and are subject to separate rules on imports and exports. What this means is that almost everything entering or leaving the islands should be officially imported and exported, adhering to all customs formalities.

The cheapest option is not always the best option, and it may not turn out to be the cheapest, either.

### **HIGH PRAISE INDEED**

Penta International are a rigorous inspection group authorised by the British Department of Education to conduct inspections of British Schools Overseas. They recently submitted a glowing report of the Colegio Hispano Británico, which stated that "Results gained at GCSE in terms of average points obtained per student, are amongst the best in the world."

Most schools would perhaps look on inspections as a form of "inquisition"," says headmaster Roger Deign, "But we have found that so much can be learnt from professionals who spend their lives visiting schools around the world."

### SONGS FOR SARA

Lanzarote volunteers are organizing **Songs For SARA**, an online musical fundraiser for the SARA animal shelter. SARA has been hit hard by the Covid pandemic, which has caused a shortage of volunteers, closure of markets and venues with collection boxes, as well as a total absence of visitors who otherwise leave donations. It costs SARA &20,000 a month to look after 400+ animals.

Modelled after last year's successful lockdown fundraiser for Emerlan by Lanzarote Musicians United, Songs For SARA will be an online livestream music festival on Facebook and other platforms, on May 15th 2021. It will begin at noon Lanzarote time and continue for eight hours, with dozens of local and international artists.

Contributions will go to SARA via a crowd-funding service. A raffle will be held with prizes for contributors who donate, at  $\varepsilon$ 5 per ticket. Any local businesses who would like to donate a prize for the raffle are very welcome.

#### A Songs For SARA Facebook page can be found at: www.facebook.com/groups/160227405690949/

The next SARA flea market will be at the Tahiche shelter on Saturday May 8th from 10 am to 12 midday

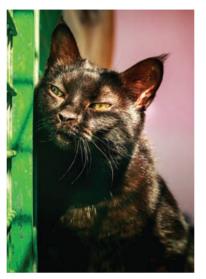
Fantastic deals: clothes, kitchen utensils, shoes, electronics, books, etc. All money goes to help SARA animals while they wait for a forever home. Don't forget your bag and mask!



### CAT & DOG OF THE MONTH

Elvis is an adorable, happy little 3-yearold male Bichon Maltese mix. He doesn't let his disability slow him down and rushes to greet every visitor to the shelter. Because of his special needs, Elvis is on the Permanent Adoption Scheme (which means that SARA will cover all medical costs). Plus he comes with his wheels! He would make a terrific addition to the right family. Find out more about him at http:// saraprotectora.org/ficha-7648 or book an appointment on 928 173 417 (English spoken). Dog walkers welcome from 10.30AM - 1PM, Monday-Saturday (Saturday by appointment only). If it is your first visit, please bring ID.





Mocca is a sweet treat. This pretty seven-year-old black female cat is super affectionate and wants to make friends with everyone. Black cats find it harder to get adopted but make wonderful companions. All Mocca wants is her place in the sun and somewhere to call home. Could that be with you? Make an appointment to come and visit to meet her. Find out more at http://saraprotectora.org/ ficha-6072.

There are also limited places for people to help with socialising cats. Email info@sara-lanzarote.eu.



# UK GOVERNMENT EXTENDS SUPPORT

The UK Government is extending residency support for potentially at-risk groups including pensioners, disabled people and those with language difficulties who live in Europe by continuing the activity of the UK Nationals Support Fund (UKNSF) and supplementing it with an additional  $\pounds 1$  million.

This funding is in addition to  $\pounds 3$  million announced by the Foreign Secretary in March 2020.

British Ambassador to Spain, Hugh Elliott, said: "I am delighted that more funding has been provided to Age in Spain, Babelia and IOM through the UK Nationals Support Fund. These organisations provide vital support to UK Nationals who need additional help with their residency application in Spain, so I urge any UK Nationals who are struggling with the process to contact them for help."

UK Nationals are advised to visit the Living in Spain Guide at: gov.uk/livinginspain to check what action they may need to take. In the Canaries, the relevant organisation is Age In Spain, residency@ ageinspain.org or call 34 932 20 97 41 available Mon to Fri, 9am to 6pm

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# **SHOPPING AROUND**



Last month Armando Santana, Arrecife's Councillor for Tourism and Commerce, confirmed that the Zara shop on the capital's Calle Real would be closing "in the coming weeks".

The news is a tough blow for the capital's main shopping street, although Zara is set to return when a brand new shopping centre opens on Arrecife's inner ring road, provisionally scheduled for this autumn.

The new centre, located on the site of the long-abandoned Garavilla fish-canning factory on Arrecife's inner ring road opposite the sports centre, will be a two-storey mall with 900 parking places, and is currently in an advanced state of construction.

It's completion will add another hub to Arrecife's shopping, although some fear it will take further custom away from Calle Real. However, Arrecife's main shopping street is also in a state of transition, with several demolitions of dilapidated buildings and renewal projects planned.

Arrecife's centre has seen a decline over recent years, with a chronic absence of parking and years of chaos as the seafront road experienced roadworks for over a year, before being pedestrianised and then finally As Zara in Arrecife closes, the capital looks to a new shopping centre to rejuvenate its commerce.



opened to one-way traffic. This long-running saga also affected the Arrecife Marina, which opened in 2014 but was seriously affected by the traffic restrictions.

The decision of most city-centre shops to close during the "siesta hours" of 2 to 4.30 has also given shopping centres the edge. Arrecife residents are used to seeing confused cruise tourists wandering around virtually deserted streets in mid-afternoon

Meanwhile, there is talk of constructing a long "commercial boulevard" linking the city centre with the new Garavillas shopping centre. This would probably involve a massive renovation of C/Pérez Galdós, which most people know as the location of the Social Security offices.

No reason for Zara's closure has been given, but its parent company, Inditex, is currently undertaking a closure programme involving hundreds of shops throughout Spain. There is no indication that the Zara branch in Puerto del Carmen's Biosfera will be affected in any way.

### WHAT'S IN A NAME?

Calle Real is not the official name of Arrecife's main shopping street. It's actually called Calle León y Castillo and stretches for kilometres.

However, locals still call it by its earlier name, just as they will often refer to the town of Teguise as "La Villa"; the western part of Puerto del Carmen's Avenida de las Playas as "Fariones" and the resort's old town as La Tiñosa.

Meanwhile, generations of British and Irish tourists have called Puerto del Carmen's seafront as "The Strip".

# Retired to Spain? Still using your UK-based financial adviser?

UK-based advisers generally do not have the deep understanding of the Spanish regime necessary to provide the most tax-efficient wealth management solutions. And UK banks, advisers and other financial providers may no longer be able to legally service EU residents now that Brexit has dissolved automatic 'passporting' rights for UK financial services in the EU.

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### INTERVIEW: GLORIAMORENO PROTECTING NATURE Interview: Shaw Addison. Photos: Rens Kinigs

"ALL SPECIES ARE THREATENED. THE THREAT WILL DISAPPEAR WHEN HUMANS DO."

Gloria Moreno meets us in a teleclub in Tiagua, a village that overlooks El Jable, the sandy desert area that is one of the most important wildlife zones on Lanzarote. She's speaking to us today in a personal capacity, outside of her professional role as an officer in the Guardia Civil's wildlife department, Seprona, and she's full of ideas to improve the island she loves.

We arranged to meet Gloria Moreno after seeing a video in which she outlined her plans for cat control on Lanzarote. It's a tricky issue, with ecologists asking for cats to be controlled to protect native species, while animal associations fear the type of control that may be applied.

## Is there friction between ecological associations and animal protection groups on the subject of cat control?

There is a little right now, yes. The problem is that we have an overpopulation of cats, and 20 years of sterilization projects have failed to deal with this. Ultimately, it derives from human mistreatment – the abandonment of cats – but colonies of cats will expand when numbers increase, and that is when there is an impact on local species, such as small birds.

#### Is there evidence that cats prey on these species?

That's a good question. We need to have firm evidence, and while there are confirmed cases of 30 pardelas (shearwaters) being hunted by humans, there is no firm evidence that cats have done so. It's possible,



but when you find the body of a bird, you can't determine which animal was responsible without DNA tests. It could easily be rats.

#### What solution do you propose?

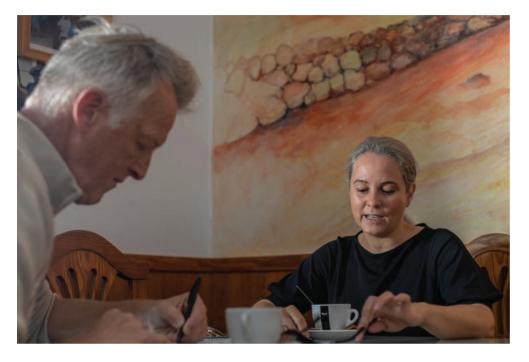
We need to start at the origin, and that means humans. I believe that there should be a massive campaign to sterilize all domestic cats. But that won't work by placing the responsibility on citizens, as is currently the case, because there'll always be someone who finds an excuse, such as "my one cat won't make a difference" or "I can't afford it".

The authorities need to apply it to all cats, except perhaps very old ones, and to do so they'll need a census. Currently, I think only Teguise, San Bartolomé and Haría require cats to be identified.

## Can you comment on recent reports that a proposed Canarian law will permit cats to be hunted?

This has arisen because feral cats are classed as "feral domestic animals" and lie outside of the animal protection laws that apply to domestic pets. That means they could be hunted in certain areas, and hunters who claim that they prey on rabbits or other species classed as game may well do so.

It's not always possible to distinguish a domestic pet from a feral cat,



and the law currently does not make that distinction. I would suggest that, at the least, hunters should bear the burden of proof that a cat is feral.

## Are there other threatened species on Lanzarote?

All of them are threatened. The threat will disappear when humans do. They are threatened by expansion of towns, by agriculture, by pollution and many other environmental factors. Here in El Jable, for example, you can often hear rallies taking place in a zone that is vitally important for birds such as the Hubara bustard.

#### What would you advise anyone who is worried by animal mistreatment or environmental crimes to do?

Submit a written denuncia. That's the only way it can be guaranteed to be investigated – a phone call is not sufficient. That's one reason I welcome the arrival of the Ademal association, which takes on the costs of denouncing offences against animals - and those costs are not just financial – there can be personal reprisals, too.

#### Are dogfights still a problem here?

They are illegal, of course, and I haven't heard any reports on Lanzarote in recent years, although I'm aware they still take place on Tenerife and Gran Canaria.

#### What about cockfighting?

That's another matter. This is still happening here, and is protected by law. The national law banned it, but an exception was made in the Canarian regional law as it was "traditional". I think that's shocking, no one would allow regional exceptions to the law against sexual abuse because of local traditions, for example. The thinking in 1991, when the exception was made, was that cockfighting would die out naturally, but 30 years on it's still happening. I've seen one – it was horrible.

### Do you have any personal projects you'd like to see carried out?

I'm full of ideas to improve Lanzarote. I don't see why we're not making more use of solar power, for example, and I'm currently keeping an eye on excavations of sand here in El Jable. They might say "The crazy woman is here with her camera", but that's exactly what I want them to think.

## What are your favourite parts of Lanzarote?

I love Mirador del Río, the Salinas de Janubio and the Cueva de los Naturalistas. I've also had the privilege to scuba dive in the Túnel de la Atlántida, which was spectacular.

#### Thanks, Gloria, and good luck.

### **CATS & THE LAW**

Canarian animal rights activists are up in arms about proposals for a new Canarian Biodiversity Law that they claim would allow the hunting of unmarked cats in designated hunting zones.

The law, which is in its early stages, classes feral cats as an invasive species, however, Miguel Ángel Pérez, the Canarian councillor for Climate Change, denied the reports, saying "there is no way we will permit the hunting of cats." He claims that the document in question is a working paper, that is "not even a rough draft."

At the heart of the matter is the threat that cats (and other introduced species such as rabbits and goats) cause to the native wildlife of the islands.

The aim of the law to reinstate local biodiversity that has been threatened by invasive species, and these species include goats, rabbits and cats. Goats, for example, have been responsible for vast amounts of soil erosion on the islands; rabbits graze on native plants and cats can threaten the population of reptiles and birds.

The cat issue has been exacerbated by recent inflammatory statements by the deputy Mayor of Santa Cruz de Tenerife, who has stated "If I have to deal with feral cat colonies, what I'd do is kill them." Guillermo Díaz Guerra told animals rights supporters "If you want to look after cats, buy a finca."



# LOOKING AFTER YAIZA

INTERVIEW: ÁNGEL DOMÍNGUEZ OJEDA



Angel Domínguez Ojeda is Yaiza's councillor for Tourism and Social Services, as well as Mayor Oscar Noda's first lieutenant. Born in Venezuela, he has spent more than 16 years in politics in the southern municipality.

#### The first question we all want to know the answer to is when tourism will return. Obviously, that is out of your hands, but are you hearing any whispers?

Nothing is clear yet, and things keep changing. Germany opened up travel to the Balearics for a while, but is closing it down again now. The UK has said May 17th, but then we hear talk of extending that to July. We're hoping that the vaccination programme will continue advancing, but in conversations I've had with local hotel owners and managers, they're not very optimistic for the summer season.

## Is the tourist sector taking advantage of the lack of activity at all?

Many hotels are renovating their premises, and we at the Ayuntamiento are also undertaking projects to improve the resort, such as the new Parque Atlántico, which is being built between Avenida Canarias and Avenida del Faro de Pechiguera. We're improving access to Playa Dorada. Then, of course, there's the harbour extension.

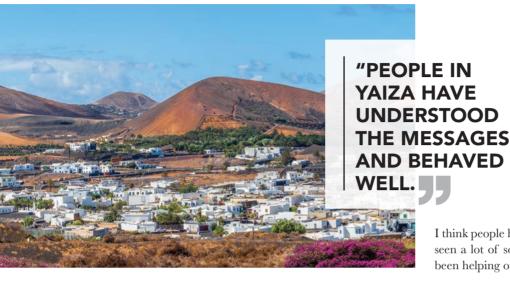
### When will that be finished?

The latest projected date is 2022, but the rate of construction means that it looks as though it will be ready earlier than that.

## And, just to remind us, what is the purpose of the extension?

Firstly, to improve the safety of the harbour area, separating the large ferries from smaller leisure craft. There was an accident a few years ago and we don't want to repeat that. Then there's increasing the connectivity of Playa Blanca with Fuerteventura. That works for tourism as well as commerce, and we like the idea of Fuerteventura tourists taking trips to our tourist centres.

There'll also be the possibility for smaller "boutique" cruisers to moor at Playa Blanca. This would be an attempt to complement what Arrecife has to offer, rather than going into competition with it.



#### Will there ever be a bridge between the islands?

I sincerely don't think so. Where on earth would you drive onto it? At Papagayo? Imagine the environmental impact.

### As Social Services councillor, can you comment on how Yaiza has weathered the economic impact of the Covid pandemic?

It's been very tough. The amount of unemployment has doubled, and we're seeing workers being moved from ERTE (furlough) schemes to redundancy. There's less money coming in all over, and much more demand on social services.

As a result, we've had to increase the budget for the social services department by four times as much.

#### What else can the Ayuntamiento do?

Well, public works will provide employment, but we've also been working to make things easier for residents, such as making processes digitally available online.

With just 58 cases and no Covid deaths to date, Yaiza seems to have escaped the worst of the Covid figures we've seen in other municipalities. Is there any reason for that?

I think people have understood the messages and behaved well. We've seen a lot of solidarity and support here, and many volunteers have been helping out, too.

## Apart from the harbour extension, what other projects are in the pipeline?

There's the Parque Atlántico, as I've mentioned, and we're also building a Sports Pavilion in Playa Blanca that will have three pools – a standard one, one for disabled users and a beginners' pool. We're also in the process of authorising more home construction, and we're planning to extend the Health Centre, which has become a bit too small for the town.

## Will there be a different focus on tourism after the pandemic is contained, do you think?

I think we'll be moving away from mass tourism and the all-inclusive model, and looking for a more personalised experience. There will also be safety issues to take into account in relation to Covid.

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### Ron Gibbs reports on the campaign to give UK citizens the right to spend 180 days a year in Spain visa-free, as EU citizens are able to do in the UK.

Like many of the estimated 500,000 UK citizens with second homes in Europe, my wife and I have been caught out by one of the consequences of Brexit: the restrictions on travel now imposed by the Schengen Agreement.

After we retired, we bought our home in Playa Blanca a couple of years ago, fully expecting to spend the winter months as visiting "swallows" in sunshine and warmth, good for our health as well as more enjoyable. Until now, the plan seemed to be working well, and we have made many new friends in Lanzarote, which has truly become a second home for us.

The new rules mean that instead of spending up to six months of the winter in Lanzarote, we can now only be there for three. Residency and visas are not solutions for us. We thought long and hard about moving permanently, but for a variety of reasons, including healthcare and family ties, decided it was not for us.

The Spanish non-lucrative visitors visa is very expensive and unbearably bureaucratic, and is really intended as a step towards residency. Many Spanish home owners are now saying that their second home is no longer viable for them under the 90-day rules, much as we would love to stay.

As there seems little immediate prospect of a new agreement between the UK and the EU on freedom of movement, we joined the Facebook group 180 Days in Spain. This campaigning group was formed for nonresident second home owners, with the aim of gaining UK citizens the right to spend 180 days a year in Spain, visa free.

This is exactly what the UK already offers to overseas visitors, including all EU citizens, and could be achieved by a reciprocal agreement between the two countries, such as Spain already has with other countries. The group has been very active in raising awareness of the problem and lobbying for change, writing to UK MPs and to Spanish politicians, tourist offices, and business organisations. We strongly believe that such an agreement would be very much in Spain's interests, especially the Costas and the Islands, whose economies depend so heavily on visitors.

Although government attention is largely focused on the Covid crisis and restoring international travel and tourism, other Mediterranean countries are actively looking at ways to enable UK visitors to continue to spend longer in their countries. Portugal and Cyprus already offer relatively simple and inexpensive visas. The Greek tourism minister recently met with Wendy Morton, the UK's Europe Minister, with the aim of setting up a post-Brexit tourism agreement.

We are hoping that the Spanish government will also start looking at ways to address the issue. Susanna Mora, the Menorcan President, recently called on the Spanish government to allow UK visitors to stay for 180 days. In Lanzarote, Teguise Mayor and Canarian MP Oswaldo Betancort has also expressed his support, and promised to bring this before the Canarian parliament.

Political and business pressure is starting to build, but I feel it will take a lot of persuasion from all the regions most affected to make the Madrid government act.

## AWARD-WINNING



## **CLIENT SERVICE.**

In our industry, many of our clients make initial contact with us by way of referral. This is often seen as one of the best ways to do business as most referrals tend to come from existing satisfied customers. But what happens when an individual needs financial advice but has no referral to contact? How does an investor choose between one company or another?

In truth, we (Logic) have generally done very little in the way of advertising compared to some of our competitors, preferring to keep a low profile and focus on our core strategy of providing an unrivalled level of service. This paid dividends for us in 2020 as we won a major European award for "Excellence in Client Service".

Our preference has always been to work on a smaller and more personal scale as we believe this is better suited to our family-run business model. Taking this approach has served us extremely well over time and we are fortunate to see our business continuing to expand year after year. However, 2020 was a little bit of an eye opener for us as several potential clients called our office for the first time and pretty much said "we didn't know you were here".

It soon became apparent that these clients were either seeking a second opinion on financial advice or were simply shopping around to compare one company with another. Many of the individuals would openly admit that they were speaking to other advisers and considering their options. Our response? Perfect!

We actively encourage all clients to take this course of action and weigh up the pros and cons of engaging with different financial advice companies. Similar to general insurance, most IFA's will cover the same areas and have similar solutions available but the relationship you have with the adviser and the fees you pay them could vary significantly. Staff turnover rates, the size of the establishments and the organisation structure are all factors that should be taken into consideration and will contribute to your experience and the price you pay.



We pride ourselves on being open, honest and transparent with all of our clients and are proud to be one of the most experienced and reputable companies here on the beautiful island of Lanzarote. We also passionately believe that a comparison of companies will highlight the benefits of working with us at Logic and our unique selling points which set us apart from our competitors.

Our message is simple; make sure you shop around when considering engaging with a Financial Adviser. The relationship you have with an adviser can potentially last for generations, so it is important to make the right choice!





Calle Andres Lambert 24, 1B, Javea 03730 Tel: +34 965 020 444 Mob: +34 634 706 748 Email: info@logicfc.com

### Professional, Trusted Financial Advice

Who do you turn to to unravel the facts from the fiction?

- 🗸 Family run business
- Fully regulated and licensed company
- Diploma status advisers by accreditation
- 100% Transparent with all fees disclosed
- 🞺 45 years industry experience
- English family with fluent Spanish speakers

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# The - kindest cut

LANZAROTE VET JANE BURKE MAY NOT GET ON WITH COMPUTERS, BUT SHE KNOWS HER WAY ROUND AN OPERATING TABLE. THIS MONTH, SHE REFLECTS ON THE PRIVILEGE AND DEEP RESPONSIBILITY OF SURGERY.

I have a beautiful computer. She is a fantastically complex and beautiful piece of technology, and she hates me. My son insists that there is no witch in the works and that all the mistakes are mine. He is friends with his computers and they like him.

This afternoon I wanted to just check electric and water bills and then print this article, neither very complex, but not only has my Apple Mac refused, but she has also locked me out of my bank for the foreseeable future. Two of the keys on my keyboard have committed suicide and I, for one, sympathise with their despair.

Aside from clerical and computer matters, (and possibly clerical work in general), I am not generally incompetent. I have been so very fortunate to be able and to have been enabled to follow the profession of my choice.

I was born with a deep, unwavering affection for almost all animals and I was blessed with an intuitive surgical ability that has been my privilege to practice for more than four decades. Only this last week, for example, it enabled me to remove an infected eye from a little kitten, (weighing just 350 grams). This kitten, like so very many of the tsunami of unwanted kittens, had contracted one of the flu viruses as soon as protection from their mothers milk faded. Rapidly, streaming eyes and noses become bacterially infected. This causes the eyelids to stick together. If this is not undone, infection will fill the space under the lids with ever-increasing pressure and pain and the delicate cornea will soon ulcerate and rupture. The bacteria will then work their way ever closer to the structures that run the tiny distance into the meninges and the brain. Rescued from the beach where her mum had left them (probably to get pregnant with her next litter), one eye had already exploded and removal of all those septic tissues was her only hope of survival.

The following day required me to attempt the safe removal of a massively swollen womb from a lovely little rescue dog. It is a difficult and delicate procedure, fraught with the fear of puncturing the paper -thin uterine walls that enclosed a half pint of infected matter. To give you an idea of the gross pathology that the silent, deadly disease of Pyometra causes, the chubby Labrador we neutered the day before weighed in at 38 kg, and her firm, healthy uterine horns were the

# **Chu Cho's**

- Boarding Kennels & Cattery
- Dog Grooming Service



- Fresh Food & Healthy DietTwo Walks Every Day
- Unlimited Cuddles & Daily Updates

By appointment only please call: +34 606 423 656 size and diameter of a biro. The recently-adopted mongrel in front of me, however, weighed in at only 15 kg and her uterine horns were more than 20 cm diameter and 43 cm long, very much more distended and delicate than a heavily pregnant womb!

Pyometra is a silent, insidious disease, often diagnosed too late for survival. It is one of the many good and important reasons to get your pet neutered! This little stray was saved twice by her new family, rescued once from the despair of abandonment and then saved from a likely and dreadful death.

But it isn't just heroic surgery that is so rewarding. Some of the most satisfying procedures are those that relieve elderly pets of toothache or earache. It is always a difficult decision to commit anesthesia in an old, frail pet, and it's your vet's job to evaluate and advise on their failing heart, congested lungs, aching joints

### "I BEHAVE AS THOUGH THE ANIMAL WAS PART OF MY OWN FAMILY"

and organ function inadequacy before persuading you to allow admission for surgery and all the risks entailed.

All my clients are devoted to their furry families. And no one empathises more with the horror of such decisions than I. Ultimately I give my best opinion based on how I would handle the situation if the pet was my family, and even more specifically, if it was myself.





If I were 91 years old, with a significant heart cough and pain in most joints; if my sight and hearing were poor and if I had earache or tooth ache – you know what? I would want painless dental surgery without hesitation, without delay, absolutely regardless of the risks of anesthesia.

And truly; I have seen so many elderly canines leave post-surgery with a whole new spring in their step and greet me for their check-up with grateful, clean-smelling, slobbery kisses. I have seen grumpy, withdrawn cats return to their previous sweet demeanour (or sharp spiteful warnings) after removal of old ruined teeth and flushing of the sockets.

Over the years, I have lost two animals out of more than 2,000. Operating is not my whole job, but it is a large, important part of my veterinary life and a huge privilege.

Nowadays there are veterinary cardiologists, ophthalmologists, oncologists and specialists in orthopedic problems, to mention but a few. They have devoted a lot of their time, and massive amounts of money on incredibly expensive specialised equipment. I am not sad that the heavy, hard work of long orthopedic procedures and the intense, microscopic eye surgeries etc are no longer my concern.

My job in certain situations is to help you access the correct specialists when required, or refer you to colleagues on the island who have chosen to focus on a particular area or type of furry (or scaly, or feathery) family. And I would like to take the chance to express my gratitude to my colleagues here on Lanzarote who have been so very helpful and supportive over the years, despite my failure to adequately speak their language!

Let's give our furry family clean water bowls and grab ourselves a glass of water too, to toast modern advances in health care for them and us. I hope they and yourselves are safely vaccinated as soon as possible.

# Prize Crossword







LANZAROTE

2 3 4 5 7 6 8 9 11 10 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24

### ACROSS

- 1. See 23 across
- 8. Proprietor (5)
- 9. Stain used in Rorschach test (7)
- **10.** Cricket ground that is home to Middlesex CC.
- **11**. When stories are read to children (7)
- **13.** A stitch in time saves this (4)
- 17. They're better than one (3,5)
- 17. Confectionary (6)
- **18.** Easy come ..... (4,2)
- **20.** Don't put all your eggs in it! (3,6)
- **23.** Flying saucer (1.1.1.)

21 & 1 across. Proverb that says there is a positive side to every misfortune (5,5,3,1,6,6)

Last month's answers. Across: 1. Milk Chocolate 8. Squeeze 9. Spots 10. Ideas 11. Install 12. Exchange Blows 15. Tunisia 17. Ozone 19. Adams 20. Bon Jovi 21. Kermit The Frog Down: 1. Massive Attack 2. Louse 3. Chelsea 4. Opening Gambit 5. Oasis 6. Avocado 7.Easy Listening 13. Centaur 14. Brownie 16. Sushi 18. Odour

Thismonth's crossword features several British proverbs, so put your best foot forward and send your completed grids to us at editorial@gazettelife. com, Whatsapp 621 274 473 or deliver it to us in person.

The first two correct answers out of the hat will win a bottle of top quality Lanzarote wine from the brilliant La Geria Bodega and a  $\in 10$  voucher for Hankey Panky's splendid restaurant in CC Montaña Tropical , Puerto del Carmen. More proof that the best things in life are free!

Last month's winner was Jan Jones. Well done, Jan, you win a bottle of La Geria's finest!

### DOWN

1. & 7. down. Ambiguous proverb that says that someone who keeps moving avoids responsibilities or benefits. (1,7,5,7,2,4)

**2.** It is bliss, according to the proverb (9)

**3.** Tiny, infectious agent that we're all sick of now (5)

**1.** You might find pots of gold at the end of them (8)

**3.** Angered, vexed (5)

**6.** This type of wind blows no good (3)

**7.** See 1 down

8. India Pale Ale (1.1.1.)

**13.** Absence makes it grow fonder (5)

**16.** "Slow and .... wins the race" (6)

**9.** The period between childhood and adulthood (5)

**20**. Danish beer, or drinking cry (4)

**22.** Beauty is found in this part of the beholder (3)



Blas Cabera

Statues have been big news in the UK recently, as the government passes new laws to stop them being "cancelled", but what are the chances of Lanzarote's monuments being torn down?

Spain is well used to monuments being cancelled, with hundreds of monuments to the dictator General Franco being removed in recent decades, and Lanzarote has also seen fascist-era monuments removed and street names changed. But its statues seem pretty safe for now.

Today, most of the statues on Lanzarote are underwater – scores of them in the now-closed Atlantic Museum off Playa Blanca. Many others are general designs devoted to cultural activities or jobs. That's why you'll find statues of a fearsome Diablete in Teguise, a water gatherer in Tías and the giant pink models of Scooby Doo that are supposed to be camels in Uga.

# **STANDING TALL**



Heraclio Niz

Monuments to individuals are few and far between, but here are three we found in Arrecife.

### **BLAS CABRERA**

Blas Cabrera, whose statue stands beside the UNED university building in Arrecife, was the greatest scientist Lanzarote ever produced. An experimental physicist who published over a hundred papers, some of his equations are still in use today. He was appointed President of Spain's Royal Academy of Science in 1934 but was later exiled by Franco for his "antinationalist and anti-Spanish activity in the times before the Glorious National Movement." and died in Mexico. Chances of cancellation are currently low.

### **HERACLIO NIZ**

Known as El Pollo de Arrecife, "the bantam of Arrecife", for his Canarian wrestling skills, Niz was also well-known as a policeman in the centre of Arrecife. In 1966, the makers of the film One Million Years BC asked local Canarian wrestling clubs to provide extras to play cavemen, meaning that world got to see Niz and his mates dressed in a skin and chewing a bone.

Niz's granddaughter is currently the Mayor of Haría and his statue is a popular photo opportunity that is unlikely to be cancelled by anyone.

### DR JOSÉ MOLINA OROSA

The doctor who brought modern health care to Lanzarote is remembered in Arrecife's centre, with two children at his feet. "Lanzarote's doctor" worked tirelessly against the effects of famine, poverty and infection and established the island's first Hospital, the Insular, in 1950. The Covid pandemic has made his name more current than ever, after the new General Hospital was named in his honour.

The Doctor's statue is likely to remain, but his real monument is Lanzarote's health system.



Dr José Molina Orosa

# Tin sailors





Jolateros are an emblem of Arrecife. These brightly-painted little tin boats are still an essential part of the capital's fiestas, and the survival of this tradition is down to one man.

The Charco de San Ginés is one of the most popular spots on the island for dining and drinking, but traditional activities of fishing and leisure boating still take place, with dozens of boats tugging at their moorings as the tide rises twice a day.

This is where César Manrique was born, and where Gregorio Fuentes, the old fisherman that Ernest Hemingway immortalised in his book, *The Old Man and the Sea*, learnt his trade before moving to Cuba. And the links of Arrecife to the sea are perfectly encapsulated in the tradition of the jolateros.

Nowadays, the boats are associated with young kids paddling them with their hands or their flip-flops in the regatta that is a central part of the Fiesta de San Ginés in August, but they have their origins in much harder times.

The 1940s were a brutally tough time in Spain and the Canaries, but one look at the island shows that necessity is the mother of invention,



which is why local sailors decided to use tin oil drums to fashion crude auxiliary boats that could be paddled to larger craft. There, they were often sunk and retrieved later, or hauled back with a rope.

These makeshift tin boats became a fixture on the Charco and children soon started messing about on the water in them. This gave rise to the races and challenges that are still a part of the Fiesta de San Ginés in August, and later, to a boat building tradition.

It's a tradition that has become one of the most vivid expressions of folk art on the island, with many local businesses buying for a custom-painted jolatero to advertise on. At the workshop on C/Hermanos Zerolo, you can see a variety of multicoloured boats, from full size ones to smaller ones that are perfect for plants and even tiny key-ring ornaments.

The local clothes shop, Confecciones Tito, on nearby Calle Fajardo, has also produced a range of quality T-shirts, sweatshirts and tote bags under the Jolatero trade name. It's a

quality range of nautical themed clothing that features the little boats prominently.

Behind all this is Antonio Rodríguez, known as Toño, who founded the JJ5 Club in 2008, and regularly holds classes in making the boats. The club started in a workshop on the Charco before moving to a ruined building on Puerto Naos, where they were a few yards away from the sea and could test out their boats. More recently they've moved to Arrecife's centre and are actively seeking new premises for when the current building is demolished next year.

We pass through to the back yard, where four young lads, Germán, Eduardo, Najim and David are waiting to show us how the boats are made. It's a process that starts, literally, with a bang, as the lid of an oil drum is removed with a chisel and a heavy iron mallet.

Two sides of the resulting rectangle of metal are folded over to remove sharp edges, and then the whole thing



is folded in half, and the other ends held together with a nailed wooden lath. The boat is bent into shape, waterproofed and painted.

Toño shows us smaller boats made of olive oil tins and even soft drink cans, and points out that the club will take commissions to make jolateros out of any metal container, and will paint it to specifications. Prices are fluid, but a full-size jolatero will cost around  $\notin 120$ , while smaller ones for planting are around  $\notin 15$  and the little key ring fobs are two or three Euros each.



I ask Toño about the jolatero tradition in Puerto del Carmen's old town of La Tiñosa, where the little boats have also become a feature of local fiestas "They're doing brilliant things there," he smiles.

Toño is permanently looking for support from the authorities, but financial assistance is thin on the ground. It's a shame because the tradition he has preserved almost single-handedly could not be a better example of Lanzarote's history and its ingenuity.



# EXPLORING THE HIDDEN MINI-RAVINES OF MONTAÑA BLANCA



Tour guide David Penney treats us to a short but spectacular excursion to some of the most impressive geological formations on Lanzarote.

This outing is fairly different to many of our previous walks as there isn't a great deal of walking involved.

Over the past couple of years I have been asked by many people where these mini- ravines are, and how to get to them. Well, this secret place for many people isn't much of a secret to us explorers.

We parked our cars on some flat land at the side of the LZ35, which is the main road from San Bartolomé/Güime to Tías. Many of you will be familiar with the wind structure on the nearby roundabout designed by César Manrique.

To give yourself an idea of where it is exactly, look for the green and white marker post indicating the trekking route. You should also still have a view across to Arrecife. (see photo, if you zoom in you can also see the cruise ship Mein Schiff 2 in the far distance).

### WALK INFO

Distance: About 2 kms

Time: 1 hour

**Terrain**: Fairly easy and non-challenging

**Public transport:** Not accessible by bus, unless you take No 32 and walk in from the village of Montaña Blanca.





Often, I see people who park on the roadside which is further along. Apart from being illegal parking it is also unnecessary, with ample parking further down. But the other reason not to park on the roadside is because you then have a fairly challenging uphill scramble to get up to the established path and then scramble back down.

From our cars you now simply follow the path as it gradually rises and walk towards Tías along the track keeping the base of Montaña Blanca to your right-hand side. Within 10 - 12 minutes you'll arrive at the start of the mini-ravines.

My recommendation is to aim to get here by late morning as the sun rises from the east and then shines through the chambers. This will give you much better photos than later in the afternoon, when everything is in shadow. Here you can explore three or four different mini-ravines and capture your photograph moments, just like the girlies did on their trip out.

The ravines are naturally created from the water courses caused by the heavy rains running down the side of



Montaña Blanca. The rains have now exposed a water pipe which runs parallel to the road, and these can be seen from the road as you drive past. In several places the water pipe has had minibridges created to support the pipe, which was sunken below the surface for most of the route.

After spending about 40 minutes exploring the mini ravines we make our way back along the track to the cars.

Photos supplied courtesy of Kristine Cleland and Sarah van Scheltinga.

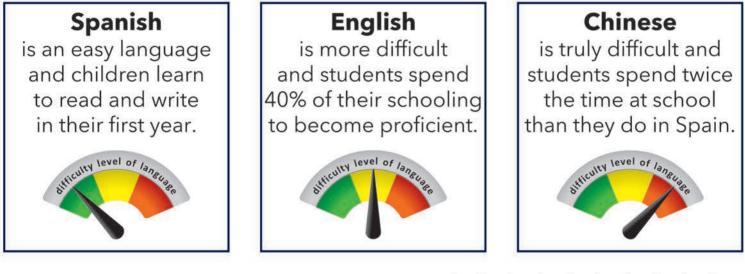
For further information about walks around Lanzarote please contact, DAVID Penney via **email lanza888@yahoo.com** OR via **WhatsApp message** 0034 649389888



# The Hispano Británico System of Education and why it is so successful

Each country has developed its own system of education, basically to teach their children to read and write their own language.

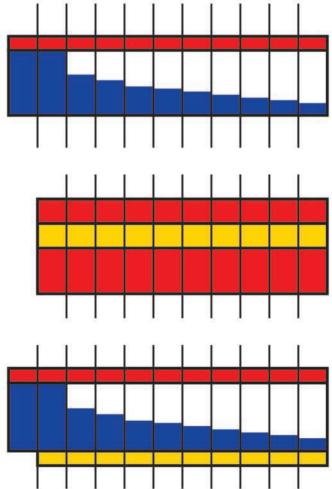
As languages vary in complexity, children of different countries spend more or less time at school.



The simplified graphics on the right depict with vertical lines, the years of education and the horizontal colours show the quantity of a subject taught in one week. In the first graphic showing the British curriculum, red is Mathematics, blue is English and white shows other subjects. You will note that the tuition of English is predominant in the early years and approximately 40% of a child's time in a British school is used to teach the language.

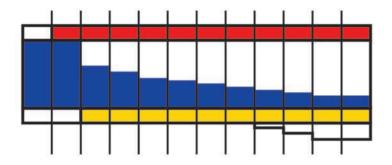
In the second graphic showing the Spanish curriculum it can be seen that there are only 10 years of obligatory education. The top red bar indicates the hour a day of Mathematics, the yellow bar indicates the hour each day of Spanish language and the lower wider red bar indicates the 2 hours per day of other subjects. Approximately 25% of a child's 10 years in a Spanish school are used to teach their own language.

In 1975 in Lanzarote, Roger Deign decided to try to combine the curriculums, so that children would be able to move easily from this combined system into the British or Spanish systems of education should they wish. The fact that in Spain, a much smaller amount of time is needed to teach the subject of Spanish, made it far easier to add the language to the British curriculum than vice versa. The British curriculum is also more flexible and would admit small changes whereas the Spanish curriculum is set in stone. With the addition of Spanish Geography and History to the British Social Studies, children would be able to move easily from this System back into Spanish education should they wish.



In 1978 the Hispano Británico System of Education<sup>®</sup> that he had devised, was adopted in Spanish Law for all those foreign schools in Spain that had Spanish nationals amongst their students.

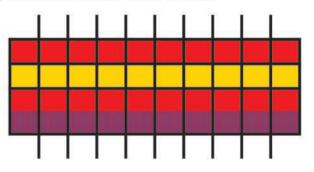
In the Hispano Británico of Puerto del Carmen, the curriculum has since been further extended, to start the process of reading at the age of four and from Year 8, the hours of tuition have been extended to offer almost 30% more teaching in Years 10 and 11 than in a standard school in Britain.



The standard British curriculum is only allowed to be taught in certain schools in Spain, but Spanish children are not allowed to attend those schools. Online education is not permitted in Spain

There is a fourth system of education that is legally permitted in Spain and this is the bilingual system *"centros bilingües"*. It was in February, twenty five years ago that the British Council promoted a system at national level that had never ever worked well in their own school in Madrid, even though they had had diplomatic privilege to use it since 1940.

In this last graphic you will see that since 1996, these Spanish "bilingual" schools have been allowed to teach some of their subjects in English. The great problem with this system is that students do not have sufficient founding in English to understand the language well and this prejudices students' ability to be able to progress in subjects such as the sciences. All these "bilingual" schools also have the right to use the Cambridge IGCSE examinations, but few of their students have the ability to obtain solid results. They tend to revert to Spanish state system, where teachers produce and mark their own tests. No one can never know if a "nota 5" in Teguise is the same as a "nota 5" in Yaiza.



At least with the International GCSE examinations, the Hispano Británico (with results last year equivalent to an average pass rate of 11.5 A\* grades) knows that it has few rivals as a teaching institution.



The school is constructed on 60,000 m<sup>2</sup> of grounds, the most extensive educational space in Lanzarote.

# COLEGIO HISPANO BRITÁNICO

**RECEPTION - PRIMARY - SECONDARY - A LEVELS** 

#### The Colegio Hispano Británico was founded in 1976.

It is the only accredited overseas British curriculum school (BSO) on Lanzarote. It is a recognized centre for the University of Cambridge (CAIE), Pearson examinations and Trinity examinations. It is a UCAS centre for university entrance, an examinations centre for the Open University and the Goethe Institute. In 2014 the school was authorized by the British Government as a Centre for the instruction of teachers in their postgraduate year.

In 2020, authorization was obtained to offer BTEC qualifications up to 2<sup>nd</sup> year university level.

The school is quality assured by Ofsted (British DfE number: 141421).

### Information: 928 17 30 66 – info@colegiohispanobritanico.com

# Feliz Día Canarias!

# Living May 2021

30

34

36

Mind your mind Mental health on Lanzarote

**Out to Lunch** Midday meals

**NII the Flavours** The best fruit salad.

# **32** Canarian Beauty

Sporty, surfy, sexy island style.

**29** Viva Canarias!

Eight islands celebrate Canary Day on 30th May



# CELEBRATING THE CINCLES

The Canarian motto is one word: "Océano", a serene, calming mantra that contains the hissing sound of the surf on the shores that bound each of these eight islands. And on 30th May, this, and other symbols of these unique islands, will be celebrated on Canary Day, when, in the words of the islands' anthem, all Canarians, old and new, "dream as one, together, of a rumour of peace on the broad sea."

The origin of Canary Day is a little dull – it commemorates the signing of the autonomous constitution of the islands in 1991 – but it marks the birth of these islands as a self-governing community, and the day has been widely celebrated ever since, with scores of events highlighting the strange and beguiling culture of this handful of rocks scattered in the Atlantic.

This year's Canary Day falls on a Sunday, meaning that it isn't a public holiday, and Covid restrictions are likely to have an effect on some events, but that won't stop the locals trying their best to mark the day.

### "CELEBRATIONS WILL TAKE PLACE FROM LA GRACIOSA TO EL HIERRO"

People will dress up in the local costumes of the islands – pretty aprons and palm bonnets for women and dashing waistcoats and sombreros for men - the smell of grilled fish and sancocho will waft through the warm air accompanied by the unmistakeable peal of the tiny timple guitar; voices will be lifted in song and the Canaries will celebrate what they are, what they have been and lift a glass of vino to what they will be.

Contact your local Ayuntamiento to find out about events planned for the Día de Canarias.

# CARING FOR THE MIND

We've spent over a year taking measures to protect the physical health of ourselves and those around us, but what about mental health? The pressures of the pandemic have resulted in a huge increase in mental health problems all over the world, and a World Economic Forum report recently placed Spain fourth on the list of countries where mental health had worsened.

General uncertainty, economic problems, isolation and a suspension of leisure activities have all contributed to this, but after many years of under-investment, Spain does appear to be finally taking the problems of mental health in the community more seriously. One sign of that is excellent support organisations such as El Cribo.

El Cribo is a charitable organisation that seeks to improve the lives of those with severe mental health problems and their families. Director Vanessa Gómez says "In general, things have gone better than we could have expected. Our centre was closed down for several weeks and we assumed that people wouldn't be able to manage without us, but they've adapted well. We worked on the phone instead of face-to-face, but I think we've been lucky so far."

El Cribo works closely with Lanzarote's Mental Health Service, based at the Hospital José Molina Orosa, and the Mental Health Unit in Valterra, and their work takes place mainly in the field of rehabilitation, offering a place for mentally ill patients to take part in activities and workshops such as gardening, floristry, music and sports. They also run two assisted living facilities for male and female patients.



Vanessa Gómez, director of El Cribo

"The most common condition referred to us is schizophrenia, followed by bipolarism," Vanessa





says. These are serious problems, and the patients are referred to El Cribo by the island's mental health services after a process of assessment.

El Cribo does have users who speak foreign languages, and Vanessa admits that not having a grasp of Spanish can be "an obstacle". She points out that the Mental Health Unit at Valterra can request translators and interpreters, although that is not within the power of her organization.

El Cribo works with those with diagnosed and established mental conditions, but what about those who may only just be realising that they have mental health problems such as depression, addiction, stress and anxiety?

The first step, as always, is to attend a doctor at your local health centre or clinic. He or she will assess your situation and recommend treatment or, if necessary, refer you for psychiatric assessment and treatment at the community mental health services. Another option is to go private. There are several psychiatrists operating privately on Lanzarote, some specialising in particular issues such as addiction or juvenile mental health. The level of studies required to practice psychiatry almost guarantees some level of English-language knowledge, but this can vary and obviously it will be up to you to decide how comfortable you are with any given practitioner.

### EXPAT PROBLEMS

Foreign residents on Lanzarote can often be vulnerable to mental health problems. We're currently suffering our second economic crisis in 15 years, which is taking huge toll on small businesses and the selfemployed – areas where foreign residents

### **GETTING HELP**

If you think you have mental health problems, contact your doctor or clinic for an appointment.

Local networks on social media will allow you to contact others who may have been in your position, while the British Embassy can also offer usually end up working – and the resulting stress can be overpowering.

Expat communities have traditionally suffered high levels of addiction, especially alcoholism, which can be a result of the lifestyle in Spain; and isolation caused by bereavement, family break-up or other reasons can also be a powerful cause of depression and anxiety.

For foreign residents, however, those problems can be multiplied by several factors. First, there is the language problem. If you're not at all confident in the native language, a certain degree of isolation is almost guaranteed, and even if you speak the language, you'll never feel as comfortable with it as you will with your own tongue.

support and information.

The Mental Health Foundation in the UK also offers excellent general guides and information on Mental Health, and they will be celebrating Mental Health Awareness Week in the UK from the 10th to 16th of May. Go to mentalhealth.org.uk to find out more.

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# BEAUTY MAY 2021 CANARIAN BEAUTY BEAUTY

Canarian beauty is an attitude and a way of life; it's the joy and dressing-up of carnivals and fiestas; it's the simple, natural goodness of a healthy lifestyle and the exhilaration and joy of the surf, the sun and the sand, and it's a combination of tantalizing influences from near and far.

Spanish idea of "Operation Bikini" - losing weight for the summer months – barely exists here, when it can be swimsuit weather in January. That means that it's a permanent healthy, active lifestyle that counts, rather than crash diets and intensive routines.

Canarian style can be seen in the creations of Manolo Blahnik, whose lightweight shoes always blend glamour with sex appeal. There's a touch of carnival about his creations, but Canarian style is rarely outrageous.

It is, however, eye catching, and the Latin American influence on the islands mean that there's an emphasis on vivid colours and patterns, and sexy, form-fitting styles. This has combined with other influences imported from the sporting and surfing world, as well as a distinctly



n the Spanish mainland, there's always been a touch of

exoticism about the Canary Islands. This far-flung corner

of Spain with odd, vivid landscapes and bright contrasts has

Canarian beauty has been represented internationally by stunning

beauties such as Lanzarote's Helen Lindes and Goya Toledo, Gran

Canaria's Kira Miró and Ariadne Artiles and Tenerife's Sara Sálamo and Patricia Yurena. And while the stereotyped image of classic

Canarian beauty is a slim, dark-eyed morena (brunette), Canarians

come in all shapes, shades and sizes. But the island's welcoming

One of the defining features of Canarian style is the outdoor life. The

reputation means that beauty almost always starts with a smile.

exercised a fascination over Europe for decades.

hippy vibe that reflects the spiritual influence of the intense natural beauty and blessed weather that surrounds us.

### LOCALLY LUSCIOUS

Unlike most of the rest of Europe, the Canaries still don't survive on daily Amazon deliveries. And while that may be frustrating for those who are used to the bags and boxes piling up on their doorstep, it's also good news for the environment, and for local businesses on islands which have made beauty and style central to their appeal.

Perhaps the most widespread beauty product on the islands is aloe vera, which has been commercialised on several islands and is part of the daily routine of thousands of Canarians.

But local entrepreneurs have used all sorts of local ingredients to create lush and luxurious cosmetic products, from volcanic sand contained in exfoliant soaps, to locally grown grapes, bananas and honey from the pastures of Gran Canaria. It's worth looking in the

smaller shops for these products, some of which may become firm favourites.

"CANARIAN BEAUTY IS STYLISH, SEXY AND SPIRITUAL, AND IT STARTS WITH A SMILE."

That Canarian care for appearances also means that, in a Canarian town, you're never far from a hairdresser, many of whom will also carry out various beauty treatments. Those treatments have come into their own with the tourist trade, and hotels that have realised the attraction of the wellness boom.

That's why spas and beauty centres on the Canaries are among the most advanced in Europe. It's a competitive field, and those who offer the best and most innovative services will always get ahead.

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In Spain they take lunch seriously. And if you want to set yourself up for the rest of the day, it's worth discovering the options.

Many Spaniards are still surprised when they discover that expats settle for sandwich or a salad at midday. Here, the midday meal is often the main meal of the day, and the traditional siesta period in the afternoon offers you a chance to relax and even have a light nap after filling your face.

Things are changing, of course, and the arrival of a more 9-5 working day means that light lunches are increasingly available, but the traditional Spanish midday meal is also still available and hugely popular, especially at weekends. Here are a few lunch tips all residents should know:

### MENU DEL DÍA

Many local restaurants and comedores (diners) offer a daily three course menu that changes every day. It'll usually cost around  $\notin 10$ , although cheaper and more expensive ones can easily be found.

Normally you'll be able to choose between about three starters, three main courses and a few desserts. You'll also usually get a soft drink or water included. There's often a choice between meat and fish, and hearty dishes such as garbanzos (chickpea stew), paella and seafood





vinaigrette are all samples of the menú del día.

It's worth remembering that the word "menu" only refers to this option in Spanish. If you want to see a printed list of dishes, ask for *la carta* (these days they'll probably point to a black-and-white squiggle that you're supposed to photograph with your smartphone).

### **COMIDA PREPARADA**

Takeway food is available in several shops selling ready-cooked food. They simply put it in a plastic container, bag it up and off you go. The dishes are displayed behind a glass display cases and you pay by weight or by small/medium or large trays.

Roast chicken joints (*asadores*) are the most popular vendors of prepared food. A chicken and roast potatoes will usually come in at under  $\notin 10$ , and each shop has it's own special recipes with which it seasons these delicacies. A Canarian speciality, often available at these places, is *pata asada* (succulent slices of roast pork with aromatic herbs).

### TAPAS

Tapas are small portions costing about  $\pounds$ 3-5 each, allowing you to pick and choose favourites. Not all places do them, but it's worth discovering those that do. The list of dishes is too wide to mention here, but you'll know many of them already.

If you want a larger portion, ask for a media (half-plate); and a main - course sized serving is *una ración*.

### **INGREDIENTS** (For one)

• Entrecot steak (300 grams) • Olive oil

PCOT STEAK

Sea salt
 Sprig rosemary

**Step 1:** The meat should be at room temperature, so remove from the fridge at least 30 minutes before cooking.

**Step 2:** Heat your pan. The best pan is a heavy bottomed grill pan, and it should be oiled lightly with olive oil. Heat until very hot, but not smoking. This is necessary to seal the steak.

Step 3: Salt the meat lightly on both sides just before cooking.

**Step 4:** Grill the steak according to taste. For a steak one inch thick (2.5 cms) use the following guide. For thinner cuts, reduce the time.

Rare: Less than one minute each side

Medium rare: One minute each side

Medium: 2 minutes each side

Medium Well Done: 3 minutes each side

Well Done: 5 minutes each side.

Step 5: Let the meat rest for a minute before serving.

Serving: Serve with a sprig of rosemary. For a simple pepper sauce, sautee 2 tspns of green peppercorns in a knob of butter, add 250 mls of single cream and 100 mls of meat stock, then reduce by half.

This recipe has been sponsored by **Canary Meat**, 13 Calle Las Puntas, Playa Honda Industrial Zone *(the street to the right of Milar)*.



This classic dish is more of a method than

a recipe. An entrecot is, basically, a rib-eye steak without bone, and one of the most

popular cuts in Spanish restaurants. It's

worth seeking out the best meat possible

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# THE BEST FRUIT SALAD

Fruit is the best dessert – the only food that nature actively designed for us to eat, and one of the healthiest things you can put into your body. The perfect fruit salad cannot be improved on, and is easily within your grasp here on Lanzarote.

In Spain, fruit salad is called Macedonia. This term, originally used by the French, refers to Alexander the Great's Macedonian empire, where hundreds of different people, languages and cultures flourished.

The perfect fruit salad reflects that mix, and here on Lanzarote you have absolutely no excuse not to use the best fruit available all-year round.

Some fruits remain seasonal on Lanzarote, so it may be worth waiting until late summer for the very best figs, local grapes, peaches, plums and apricots.

Think about the fruit you'll be using, and don't overdo the mixture. Three or four ingredients allow you to enjoy each one. Alternate soft, buttery fruits such as banana and papaya with crunchier textures such as apple and pineapple, and don't forget that sharper fruits such as kiwis work well with sweeter ones.

### **THE FRUIT**

The fruits you can choose from include: Banana, Papaya, Mango, Oranges or Clementines, Pear, Apple, Melons (canteloupe, watermelon or sapo de piel), Kiwi fruit, Grapes, Pineapple, Strawberries, Rasberries, Blackberries, Blueberries, Pitaya. Carambolas (star fruit), Nispero (loquat), Peaches, Apricots, Plums.

### **THE SYRUP:**

Salads should be dressed, and a fruit salad is no exception. You can prepare a fast syrup by mixing water with honey, but a long-macerated one is well worth making and refrigerating.

- 500 gms white sugar
- 500 mls water
- Zest and juice of one lime and one orange
- One stick cinnamon
- Four cloves

In a saucepan, add the water and citrus juice to the sugar. When it's dissolved add spices and keep on low heat for 7 minutes. Allow to cool. This syrup can be chilled in the fridge for several weeks.

If you like, experiment with a vanilla pod, cardomom, a knob of ginger or a handful of mint stems.



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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 experiencemore pleasurable, do not hesitate to ask.

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# **PROPERTY SHORTS**

### **RENT ADJUSTMENTS**

First quarter rents have fallen by almost 7% in the Canaries compared to the first three months of last year.

The effect of the coronavirus pandemic on rentals remains to be fully seen, but it is likely to be affected by the huge fall in tourism caused by travel restrictions here and abroad. This has prompted many landlords to seek local residential tenants rather than shortterm holiday lets, and the increase in supply appears to be having predictable results.

However, experts also suggest that the Spanish government's proposed new Housing Law, which may give incentives to landlords and penalise empty properties, is also having an effect.



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"I'm not sure what they did, but they were fast, left no mess, and the price was reasonable," says Steve.

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### **BRITS STILL LEAD MARKET**

Despite lockdowns last year, the British were still the most important property buyers in Spain during the last quarter of 2020, accounting for over 14% of the market.



Sales remain well down, so it's still a stretch to call this a surge, but the rise may have been prompted by buyers wanting to sort things out before "proper" Brexit arrived in 2021.

Sales to Chinese and Russian buyers fell hardest last year probably because non-EU nationals are still prohibited from travelling to Spain apart from in the most essential cases. The rest of the top markets last year were all EU countries, with France and Germany on 8% each and Belgium, Sweden and Italy all accounting for more than 5%.



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# **POUND REMAINS STEADY**



The Covid pandemic has affected almost every aspect of our lives, so it's no surprise that currency exchange has also been affected. However, up until now the effects haven't been nearly as drastic as they could have been. It still makes sense to get expert assistance if you're transferring funds between the UK and Spain, however. Pound/Euro exchange rates haven't fluctuated too wildly when you consider what has been happening in the last 12 months, with several lockdowns affecting all manner of economic activity. One week, the Euro may be looking strong before fears of another wave of the virus and measures such as the recent lockdown in France take it down a peg or two.

The Pound has undoubtedly benefitted from the UK's rapid vaccine response, and it is probably this, combined with fears of fourth wave in Europe, which has led to Sterling's encouraging performance over the first quarter of 2021. Last month's reopening of non-essential British businesses has also helped.

Overall, the Pound has gained around four cents on the Euro since the start of the year, and currently hovers around €1.15. However, it took a knock in March, probably as a result of concerns about the AstraZeneca vaccine and several optimistic statements by European leaders.

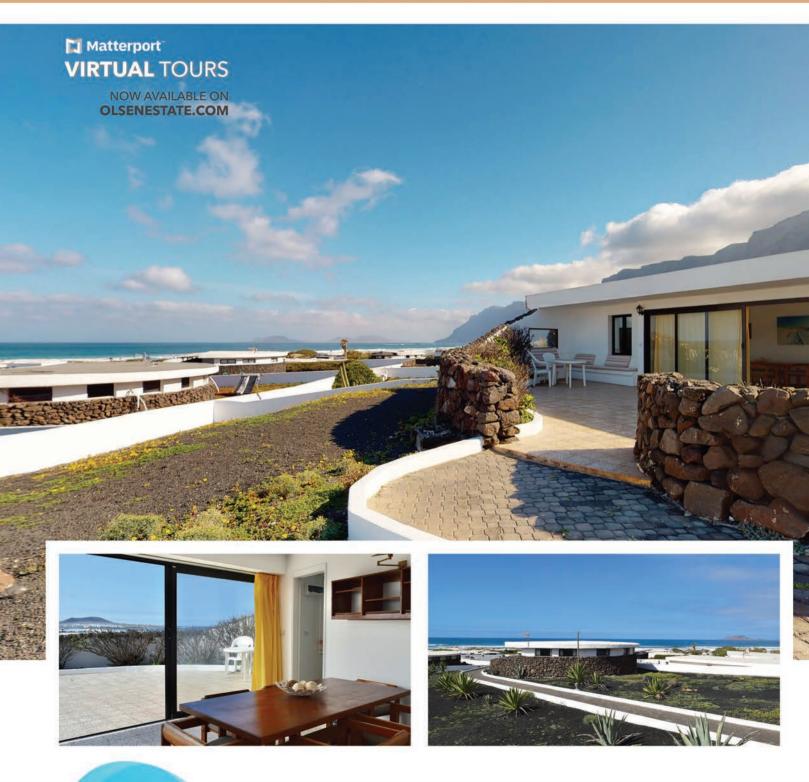
Massive gains should not be expected. The Pound remains in a gradual long-term decline against both the Euro and the Dollar, and the effect of Brexit is unlikely to halt that. Sterling has not risen above  $\pounds 1.20$  since the Brexit vote in June 2016, but then nor has it plumbed the depths of late 2008, when it approached parity with the Euro.

For the average person, currency exchange is also likely to be affected by bank charges and fees, and expert, professional assistance is highly recommended to make your money go as far as possible. This is as important now as it has ever been.





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# **REVOLVING CREDIT CARDS**



Do you know what you pay for your credit card? The latest instalment in Spain's legacy of bank abuses involves "revolving " credit cards.

These products set a credit limit—a maximum amount you can spend on that account. You can choose either to pay off the balance in full at the end of each billing cycle or to carry over a balance from one month to the next, or "revolve" the balance.

However, there's also a catch, when the instalments do not cover the interest, and this can trap you in permanent debt.

Once again, Spanish banks have been found to be applying abusive clauses and

insufficient transparency when selling these products to clients, and Spanish and European courts are redressing the balance in favour of the consumer.

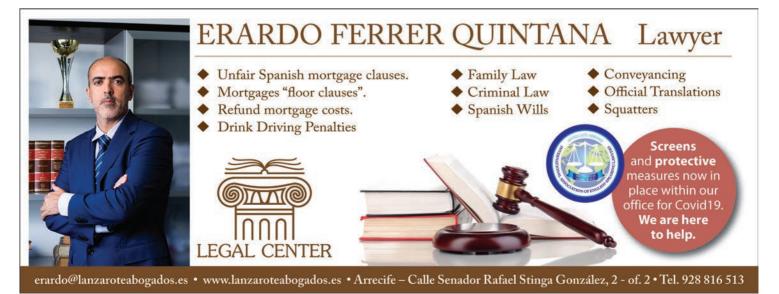
Erardo Ferrer at Lanzarote Abogados says "We can claim that the contract is null and void for two reasons: the first relates to abusive interest rates, and was established by judgments of Spain's Supreme Court in 2015 and 2020. Secondly; for not reaching required levels of contract transparency, when the consumer has not been fully informed of the debt burden that these cards can cause when they are marketed.

Recently, the European Court, by means of an Order dated March 25, 2021, has validated what is established in article 1 of the Law of Repression of Abuse: "Any loan contract which stipulates an interest rate notably higher than normal will be null and void."

Erardo says this "represents a further step, this time at European level, against these products, which are absolutely not recommended for the consumer insofar as they greatly facilitate entry into a spiral of debt that is difficult to control and which goes against the responsible loan principle advocated by the Bank of Spain".

This is very good news for consumers.

If you suspect that you have been the victim of abusive interest rates or that your credit card payments were not adequately explained to you, ask your bank for a copy of your contract and a statement of your card movements, then seek legal advice.





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Pantone's colour of the year for 2021 is not a colour, but rather a combination of two of them. This dynamic duo consists of the vivid, life-affirming yellow shade known as Illuminating and the coolest, most demure of neutral greys. It's no coincidence that it's called Ultimate Grey.

hese are colours that we see a lot of on Lanzarote – earlier this year, the island burst into bloom, and many of the island's flowers are vivid yellow; while grey can be found everywhere from pebbles on the beach to expanses of volcanic ash.

They are also positive colours – something that is incredibly important at one of the most uncertain, disruptive times that many of us will ever experience. Illuminating is a yellow that is fresh and new, reminiscent of new growth, and full of bright, hopeful early summer sunshine.

But we also seek stability and dependability more than ever, and Ultimate Grey gives us exactly that: it's sober, reliable and unassertive – strong as concrete and cool as stone.

Grey and yellow is a colour combination that has always gone together well. In nature, it's often found in insects as a warning colour, that they are bitter or poisonous, but it's also used for bright mating displays by several birds, such as the British Blue Tit and the Grey Wagtail.

It's also a combination that is open to the addition of several other colours. It works brilliantly with white, for example, which is important on Lanzarote; but it's also welcoming to light blues, rich browns and vivid pops of red.

This is a combination that has associations with nature, but also with industry and sport. Zinc, aluminium and steel are the metals that best fit a grey-themed colour scheme.

It has to be said that this combination is not one of the most common ones, and this could increase the risk of it dating over time. Who knows? In 20 years time we could be complaining about all the grey and yellow we used in the 2020s.



-

ANTONE® But this is the eternal balance between fashion and classics. Fashionable colours are incredibly popular at certain times - look at burnt orange in 11-0110 TCX the 70s, chrome in the 80s and rcream quartz pink in recent years, but that comes at the risk of an equally drastic fall from favour.

Classic combinations, however, endure and are regarded as classics, although they will never mark you out as an innovator and may seem a little dull.

Grey and yellow has always been seen as a classic combination, but has never really had its time in the spotlight. That time is now, and let's see if it can endure.

### **OTHER SHADES**

If grey and yellow simply isn't your thing, Pantone have recommended several other colours for this summer, in a palette that's a lot less assertive than previous vears.

Buttercream is one of those almost unidentifiable colours - a sort of pinky, browny pale grey that would be dull on its own but makes a perfect neutral launching ground for more vivid shades such as the rich green of Mint or the welcoming pastel orange of Marigold.

Rich, comforting shades are represented by Amethyst Orchid, French Blue and Raspberry Sorbet, while Rust, Cerulaean and Willow are unassuming shades of brown, blue and green respectively.

It's perhaps indicative of the times that the most stand-out colour in this summers palette is Inkwell a deep, dark slatey charcoal grey.

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# GOING POTT

A good interior decorator needs to know a little about lots of things: carpentry, construction, art, colour theories, fashion and history, to name just a few. But one of the most important skills they can literally cultivate is container gardening.

Practical matters first: Almost every plant you keep in your home will need soil, water and light, and getting these things right is where the gardening comes in. Each plant prefers a certain type of soil, and garden centres will help you with this. Water is also simple, and can be given with a watering can, or a spray mister for smaller or more delicate plants.

But soil and water introduce another vital factor for your indoor space – drainage. Plants' roots will rot if they sit in wet soil, so you need to ensure that water doesn't linger too long. This usually means holes in the bottom of your pot, which means that drained water can ruin indoor surfaces. The solution is a saucer or dish to collect the water, and which also offers a great way to water plants from the root up. Planters can also contain overflow, but you must still make sure plants aren't sitting in water for long. Light will dictate what plants you place where. Some thrive in shady corners, other require a few hours of bright sunshine each day.

### SIZE AND POSITIONING

Large plants are generally placed on the floor, and it's worth investing in a high quality container for these important focal points. Use smaller plants at different levels to add dynamism to a room, and consider cascading plants located in higher places. Mix different shapes and styles

### IS ICE NICE?

The idea of using ice to water pot plants has recently gone viral. Devotees claim it releases moisture slowly and can give plants a cool "shock" that encourages blooming, but experts are less convinced.

They say that warm-weather plants simply aren't used to ice cold temperatures, and claim that other methods of preventing overwatering, such as misting, are more effective.

of pots so that your room doesn't look like the plant display at Lidl, but try and keep a unifying factor such as colour or material.

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# A PLACE IN THE SUN

# A conservatory or a sunroom can soon become your favourite place, allowing you to make the most of every little drop of sunlight.

utdoor life on terraces, patios, balconies and gardens is glorious during Lanzarote's scorching summers and mellow autumn, but the cooler months of winter and spring may see you wanting a little more warmth and shelter. This is when a conservatory or a sunroom can come into its own.

In northern Europe, conservatories make the most of meagre amounts of sunlight, and were originally built to allow more exotic types of plants to flourish in a cool climate. Back then, they were limited to old country houses – Colonel Mustard and Miss Scarlett were often found doing evil deeds in the conservatory with the lead piping or the dagger – but more recently, new materials have meant they are more accessible to everybody.

On Lanzarote, a conservatory or sunroom can be the ideal choice for an area of the house that doesn't receive as much sunlight – in a zone away from the south-facing areas, for example - and they can also be an attractive choice in higher parts of the island where it is often cooler and often cloudier.

However, Lanzarote's year-round sunshine mean that any enclosed area with plenty of glass will need to be easily opened up to the outside, allowing fresh air to flow in and stop the interior becoming stiflingly hot.

This is where newer materials on the market, such as UPVC and aluminium, come into their own, allowing you to open up or close off your indoor area at will, keeping it wind-tight



when it's closed and also watertight on the few occasions when it rains.

If you can't stretch to an entire conservatory or a sunroom, you may still be able to partially close off a balcony or a patio area, which will allow a smaller, but every bit as tempting, haven of warmth and quiet.

As well as ventilation and windproofing, safety and security will also be a consideration when you're using a lot of glass. That's why it makes sense to choose the toughest and most reputable products on the market.

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# FIX THE ROOF WHILE THE **SUN IS SHINING**



Although most of the weather Lanzarote receives is excellent, it makes sense to be prepared for anything. And this time of year, when it's fine, is the time to make those preparations.

Household repairs and maintenance are always better done in advance, before any serious damage is done. And when it comes to leaks and wet weather, a stitch in time can save hundreds of Euros in terms of longlasting water damage and lingering damp.

May is one of Lanzarote's finest months, and the perfect time to get those jobs done. Once they're finished, you can sit back and enjoy your property with peace of mind.

Wind, of course, is a fact of life on Lanzarote; parching heat is also frequent and, although it's not frequent, when it rains on Lanzarote you'll certainly know about it.

Leaks on Lanzarote often happen, almost certainly because the prevailing fine, dry climate fools residents into thinking there'll never be any serious rain. But although rain is scarce here, when it does happen it can be surprisingly heavy. It can also be one of the main causes of a problem many of us thought we'd left well behind us in wet, moist Britain - damp.

The solution is to ensure your roof is well waterproofed and guttered, and to treat external walls with waterproofing treatments. Adequate, thorough interior ventilation is also a strong protection against damp.

Window and door fittings should also be renovated to prevent the entry of both rain and unwanted draughts. While the traditional materials used on the island are wood, this will require frequent maintenance. Aluminium and plastic fittings have now proved to be far more durable and every bit as attractive.

Wind, sunlight and water aren't the only things you might want to keep well under control on Lanzarote. Fireproofing is also a basic safety measure that most people with an interest in the future of their home will want to consider. This should be accompanied by a periodic thorough check of the wiring and electrics in the house for best effect.



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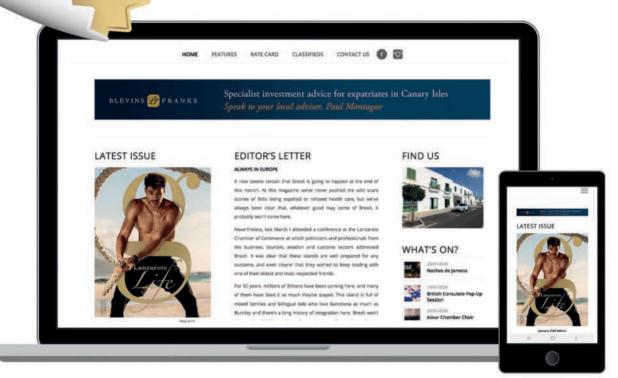
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# THE ARTIFICIAL GRASS EXPERT

Artificial grass is the economical and long-lasting solution to outdoor living in the Canary Islands.



With over 14 years of experience, Pete Clark is already well known on the islands as a reliable, expert and professional fitter of artificial grass, and his new venture, Canary Islands Grass, puts him right on the cutting edge of this increasingly popular field.

"My expertise is making the joins invisible" says

Pete. "I take pride in ensuring that all installations are carried out to the highest standard". Just one look at Pete's work supports this – seamless and perfectly installed.

The uses of artificial grass are limited only by your imagination – it provides an attractive area in any outdoor space; it can transform a roof garden or a

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terrace; it's the perfect tough-yet-forgiving material for areas where kids play; it's pet friendly and ideal for around pools. You can even have your own putting green, available in different colours using professional artificial golf grass.

Pete's done the lot and much, much more, and he has mastered the art of laying artificial grass. He can cover most surfaces from a basic overlay on tiled or other hard surfaces, to a full installation on top of a picon garden.

Pete deals with two main types of artificial grass, both are of the highest quality and are manufactured in Europe. "We have Platinum and Platinum Plus" he says. "I chose these products because I know this industry and they are of the highest quality at an affordable price." They also come with a ten-year guarantee, giving you complete peace of mind.



# CLIMBERS &

On Lanzarote, almost any vertical structure increases a plant's chances of survival. The classic example is the horseshoe-shaped dry stone walls, or zocos, in La Geria, which shelter vines from the wind. But out in the rural countryside, you may see farmers stacking pallets and any other items to shelter their crops.

Walls and fences don't just offer shelter from the wind, of course. They also provide shade, which favours those plants that can't survive the day-long onslaught of scorching sunshine that summer brings; and they may also channel precious moisture towards the soil.

But, most important of all, vertical structures in your garden offer you the chance to garden in three dimensions, training plants to climb and creep up from the floor or allowing them to trail and cascade down from above. The results can be spectacular.

#### THE RIGHT UPRIGHT

First you'll need to choose the right vertical structure to grow plants on. South facing structures will receive direct sun for most of the day, which may be a little too much for many plants, but north-facing structures may be in almost permanent shade. Choose an east, west or oblique-facing wall, which gives



shade and sunshine throughout the day, and make sure it's relatively well sheltered from the wind. On Lanzarote, where the prevailing alisio comes from the north east, a west-facing wall is perfect.

> Next, you need to decide how you're going to position your plants. To have them growing directly from the earth will require a bed, but if you're starting with concrete or stone, then containers

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BEFORE

YOU MAKE

A MOVE.

may work every bit as well. Just remember that once your climber or creeper gets started, there'll be no way of moving it.

> Like human climbers, plants need something to grab hold of. A rough wall may be more than enough for

some plants, but to be sure you'll need to erect something for the plants to climb up. This could involve erecting a trellis, or simply placing some horizontal wires at 40 cm intervals. You'll need to tie plants up with twine as they grow.

For tumbling creepers and vines, you'll need to mount containers on the wall, and keep them well watered.

#### **TRAINING SESSIONS**

Plants climb towards the sun, and this can be used to get them going where you want them to go. For example, if you have a tree or another large element in your garden, positioning climbers to the north side will encourage plants to climb and seek the light.

You need to trim climbers back hard once a year after they're established, as they can quickly get out of hand and begin to choke other plants.

#### WHICH PLANTS?

Cascading plants include convolvulus, whose delicate

trumpet-shaped pale purple flower belies the fact that it is as tough and hardy as they come. Scaevola, or the fan flower, is an import that thrives in Canarian conditions and provides plenty of odd, fan-shaped purple flowers. Tradescantia offers wonderfully coloured leaves that may be reddish in hue or variegated in bold stripes.

Canarian ivy is better in shadier zones, while the spectacular Lotus berthelotii, or pico de paloma, is a native of Tenerife that's worth keeping your eye out for in the garden centres.

**Climbers** include the classics such as bougainvillea, familiar to everyone on the island; tea roses or noisette roses, which can be amazing in the right, sheltered spot; Ficus pumila, or the climbing fig, is perfect for a vertical carpet of green, Passifloras produces astonishingly complex and beautiful flowers, and some strains will also give passion fruit.



### **ROJILLOS ARE BACK IN THE GAME!**

Ian Lane reports on the all-or-nothing finale to one of the strangest, most frustrating seasons ever experienced by Arrecife's UD Lanzarote.



After a dreadful start to the season, with just four points on the board after seven matches and sitting firmly at the bottom of the table, the Rojillos (The Reds) play their final match of this season's mini-league knowing that a win will guarantee that they can avoid the relegation playoffs.

UD Lanzarote has had tougher restrictions than any other club in the Tercera División (Fourth Tier). For two months, they went without playing a competitive game and were unable to train as a unit for most of that time.

At the time of writing this they are also the only side in their division whose fans have not been allowed to cheer them on, thanks to a decision by the Cabildo that ignored the fact that their stadium has a greater capacity than any of their rivals.

Then, the Spanish Football Federation ordered

the club to play catch up on matches that had been missed due to the Covid restrictions, so they were forced to play 10 matches in one month. This would be difficult enough for a Champions League side with a large squad, let alone a bunch of semi-professional players, many of whom have other jobs.

And yet despite all this, Lanzarote had a flying start - winning four matches and drawing another in their opening five matches. Naturally, fatigue then took hold and the other five matches ended with a win, a draw and three defeats.

This all leaves the Rojillos in sixth position in the ten-team league and going into their final match they need a win to guarantee that they avoid the relegation playoffs.

The final match was played on Sunday 18th April versus UD Las Palmas C. To see how the team did, please click on www.lanzarotefootball.com.

This match was also the first time the authorities allowed fans to return and support their team.

Whatever the result, UD Lanzarote will be playing either relegation or promotion playoffs, as will every club in this newly-structured league format. Depending on results there could be a further nine home games until the season ends.

For the forthcoming games please check on Facebook or website (details below).



#### Go onto the Facebook page or website (details below) for more up to date info.

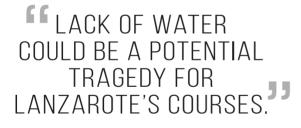
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## SAVE OUR COURSES

Paul Kelly, of the Las Palmeras Golf Society, muses on the state of the island's courses and gives an update of events on the parched fairways and greens.

David Walsh, The Times golf correspondent previewing the recent 2021 Masters, wrote "For those entering Augusta National for the first time, there is a temptation to reach down and touch the grass. Can something so beautiful be real?"

Laying out the same course in 1932, Alister MacKenzie was not concerned solely with the balance between fun and severity: "Beauty means a great deal on a golf course," he said at the time, "For even the man who emphatically states he does not care a hang for beauty is subconsciously influenced by its surroundings."



These two descriptive pieces resonated with me as one contemplates the secondary difficulties caused by the pandemic to the two golf courses on the island, both of which are dependent on a supply of "black" irrigation water, much of which comes from waste water from the island's hotels, which have been closed for months.

Water, in our wonderful but unforgiving climate, is their lifeblood and while one cannot compare their beauty to the majesty of Augusta, the courses have a unique character in the overall environmental landscape of Lanzarote.

The Tías course is a very playable and well laid-out terrain for holiday golf, and the Costa Teguise course is ranked amongst the most difficult in Spain and a real golfing challenge. But both are suffering from a lack of adequate



Joe Geoghegan

irrigation and general maintenance due to the ravages of the pandemic.

The problem is that, if the authorities ignore the issues they face and fail to act (by simply providing an affordable supply of H2O), getting them back to prime condition will take a long time and substantial investment for a prime island tourist attraction. Their ongoing deterioration is potentially a tragedy for the island and a potential loss of what is usually high-value golf tourism to the economy.

Back on the course and obviously finding the fairways, leading the way in April in our 12 event Henson Cup monthly qualifier competition was Joe Geoghegan (you have to be Irish to pronounce that!) with a nett 70, some way ahead of second-placed Eric Maloigne from France with a nett 77, on countback from Stephen Hay, Ils Rouckoout and Ken Kirkup.

If you would like to join us as a visitor, you are most welcome any Tuesday or Friday with our first tee time at 9.30AM. Please just let us know 24 hours in advance, as we draw all players in groups of 3 or 4 ladies and gents in advance, by emailing to lpgs2016@gmail.com Or if you would like to join the society you can get more information about our activities on our website at: www.laspalmerasgolfsociety. blogspot.com, The Costa Teguise Golf Club also continues to have some excellent bulk green fees special offers, available when you enquire in the golf shop.



FOLLOWING BREXIT, BRITISH CITIZENS ARE NOW CLASSED AS THIRD COUNTRY NATIONALS IN THE EU, AND THEIR RIGHTS WILL BE DICTATED BY THAT STATUS, WHICH APPLIES TO ALL NON-EU NATIONALS. HOWEVER, THEIR RIGHT TO DRIVE WITH UK DRIVING LICENCES WILL REMAIN VALID IN SPAIN UNTIL THE END OF JUNE.

**SPANISH** 

LICENCE

MAY BE

HANDIER

THAN A UK

ONE.

After June, nevertheless, things are likely to change. It has now been confirmed that residents who did not apply to change their driving licence before the end of last year will now have to take a Spanish driving test in order to acquire a new licence.

Like so many other issues that have arisen following Brexit, it is hoped that the UK and Spain will come to an agreement permitting a straight licence exchange without test requirements in the future, but we have no way of knowing when this will be.

Residents who did apply to change their licence before the end of last year should request an appointment at the Tráfico Department in Arrecife via the DGT website, if they have not done so already. They'll receive a temporary driving permit that is valid until their Spanish licence arrives, and the process costs just over €20.

The situation effectively means that residents who spend substantial periods of time in both countries will now have to choose which licence is more valuable to them; and as things currently stand it makes sense to swap your British licence for a Spanish one.

That's because the UK currently permits drivers to use EU

licences, while Spain applies its own laws pertaining to third country nationals. This may seem unfair, (and arguments for reciprocity are likely to favour the UK in negotiation with Spain), but this is a direct consequence of the deal that the UK government signed, which can only be altered by a future bilateral agreement between the countries.

Residents who already have Spanish licences should also remember that they must fulfil all the conditions for renewing their licences upon expiry. This will be necessary every 10 years until the age of 65, after which it takes place every five years.

The renewal process is fairly simple, but requires you to pass a simple "psycho-physical test" at the centre opposite Tráfico. This is basically the worst video game in the world, but most people pass just fine.

#### MASK RULES

Spain's Traffic Department has denied that it is fining people for not wearing masks in cars. The DGT issued a statement saying that, currently, there was nothing in Spain's traffic laws concerning masks, and that it did not have the power to fine or dock points from drivers who break the national rules on mask use.

Nevertheless, the national law on mask use does say that masks should be worn in cars when drivers do not live with passengers (those who live together don't have to wear masks). Infractions of this national law can attract a fine of around  $\notin$ 100, but their driving licence will remain unaffected.





#### **GREEN CAR DRIVE**

If you're thinking of buying a more energy-efficient car, now's the time, after the Spanish Ministry of Ecological Transition pumps 400 million Euros in the Moves III plan, which provides subsidies for the purchase of electric and hybrid cars.

The Moves III plan aims to dynamise Spain's motor industry, and also to achieve the aim that more cars are scrapped annually than new ones are registered (this has not occurred since 2013). The plan provides financial assistance of up to  $\notin$ 5,500 from the state, which has already been supported by  $\notin$ 1,000 grants from manufacturers.

#### N322

Francisco Morales is a Guardia Civil traffic agent in Alicante who realised that foreign residents were often being fined for not knowing the details of the Spanish Highway Code. With this in mind,



he set up the N322 Facebook page, an informative, educational English-language page that should be followed by everyone interested in motoring in Spain.

The page contains a lot of information that isn't directly relevant to the Canaries, but is also a great place to find out about updates in the traffic laws, safety campaigns and other matters. The site has been endorsed by the British Embassy in Spain and currently has more than 220,000 followers.



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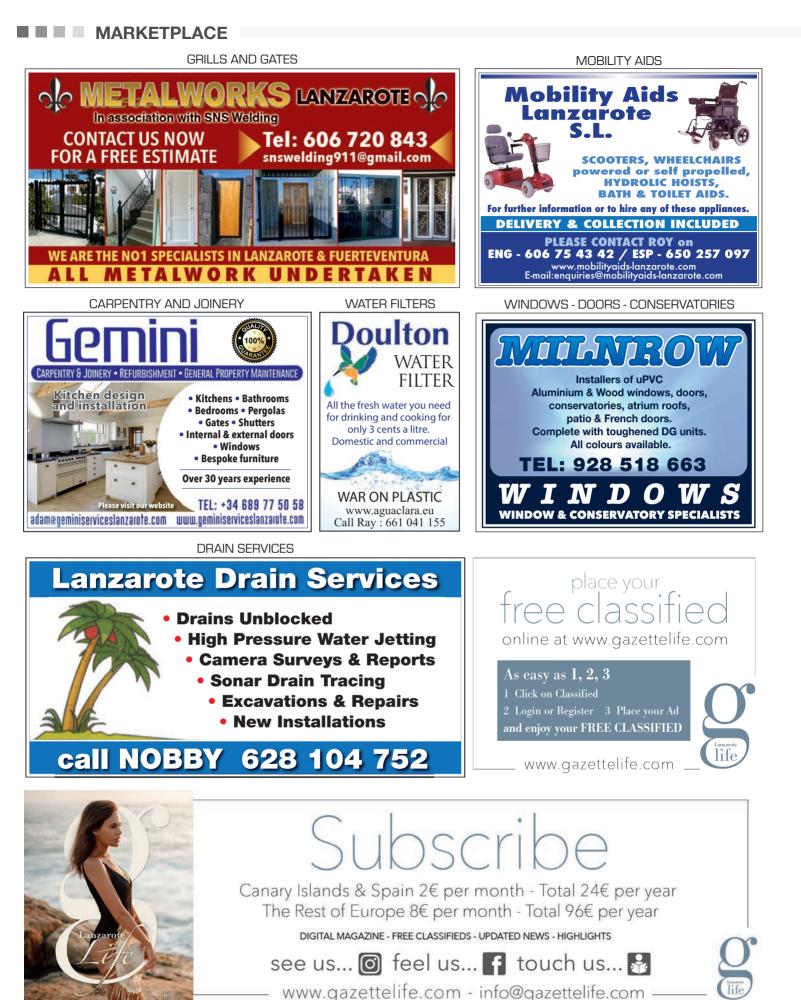
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Aena General Info928 846000	
Flight Information928 846001	
Thomson	

#### **AYUNTAMIENTOS**

Arrecife	928 812750
Haria	928 835251
San Bartolome	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 Daos928 515818
Colegio Hispano Británico928 173066
Colegio Arenas
Queen's School (Playa Blanca)

#### 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	3 262508
Ireland928	3 815262
Germany928	3 491880

#### CREDIT CARDS - LOST OR STOLEN?

4B902	114400
AMEX900	814500
Visa International900	991124

#### EMERGENCY SERVICES

Police, Fire, Ambulances1	12
Spanish Emergency Services0	61
Red Cross (Ambulance)	22

#### FERRIES

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

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OR FREEPHONE	900	811555
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Alcoholics Anonymous	638	484113
Dr. Mager Clinic	928	512611
Hospiten Lanzarote	928	596100
Overeaters Anonymous	662	116415

#### POLICE

Arrecife	928 811317
Haría	928 835252
San Bartolome	928 520712
Teguise	928 845252
Tias	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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928 800806
620 315350
928 524223
928 524220
928 520176
928 840049
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 Bus928	811522

#### UTILITIES

I<sup>-</sup>

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Canal Gestión (Water)92	8 814400
Iberdrola90	0 225235

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## **TRAVEL AGENTS**

You don't need us to remind you how complicated travel has become since the Covid pandemic began, but this situation means that estate agents now provide an increasingly useful and important service.

To travel to any other country at this time, you need to know the restrictions in place in your own country and those that apply in your destination - and these can change very quickly. Ricardo at Viajes Caravana in Puerto del Carmen told us "This is what we're doing a lot of for our clients. They need to know the rules and the paperwork involved, and they need to be kept up to date."

Travel agents can also arrange the necessary tests for travel, but this is something that clients generally undertake themselves, using a list of recommended clinics and centres provided by the travel agent.

Travelling within Spain and the Canaries also requires up-todate knowledge of the restrictions in various areas or islands, and travel agents will advise you on these, as well as provide model declaration forms, which are often necessary to declare that your journey is essential.

Travel agents can also ensure that your details are entered on the database of residents, meaning you don't have to get a certificado de viajes (travel certificate) from your Ayuntamiento.

Travel agents are also incredibly useful for those who have to travel to Las Palmas for medical treatment, and who are eligible to reclaim travel and accommodation costs from the health service.

All of this can be done by yourself, of course, but new reports of those who have failed to do so correctly arrive every week. Travel agents will add extra charges for services that are timeconsuming, but at this uncertain time they offer certainty, security and customer care that is priceless.

# LADYBIRD PARADISE





LAST MONTH SAW THOUSANDS OF LADYBIRDS TAKE FLIGHT AND MAKE THEIR WAY ACROSS THE ISLAND FROM GARDEN TO GARDEN. FOLLOWING THE LANZAROTE BLOOM AFTER THE RAINS, THEY WERE A WELCOME SIGHT.



There were plenty of gardens and plants to choose from, too. They appeared to take a liking to the Bird of Paradise (Strelitzia) plants in particular.

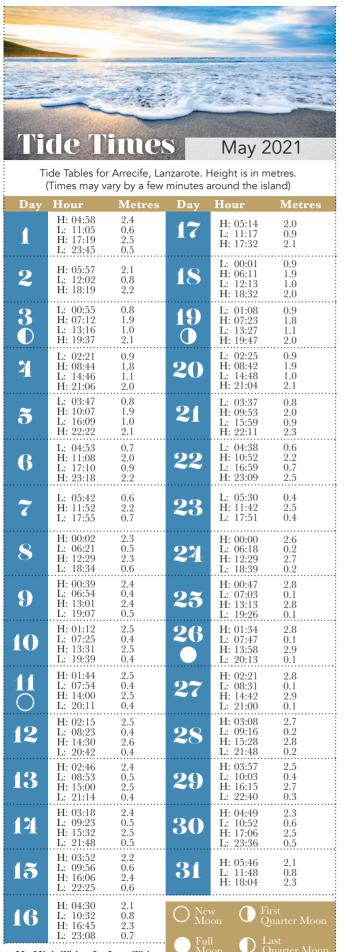
They would often share a flower between five or six of them, and then move on to another flower, or the cacti.

If you sit and watch them for a while, each

ladybird is on their own mission. Whether that is reaching the very top of a plant or exploring the stem and roots underneath, out of sight and away from the harsh Lanzarote winds.

But when you do manage to get close and snap a picture, their distinctive red shells, black spots and white eyes make them one of the most striking insects around.

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



H=High Tide L=Low Tide



# Weather Watch May 2021

May is one of the most delightful months on Lanzarote. The summer heat is still not too intense, but this is the first month of the year when it can really become obvious that you are in a subtropical zone.

It can get hot, occasionally really hot, with temperatures over 30, but usually we're looking at the mid-20s with bright sunshine that burns off any morning cloud cover by midday.

Rain isn't unknown, but it's sparse and short-lived and there is more risk of your day being spoilt by a calima (dust storm), which coincides with the winds arriving from the west and south.

That sun will be beating down on the sea for several hours a day from now on, and its already warmer than anything you'll ever experience in the UK or Ireland, but at around 20C it may still be a bit chilly for some. The really warm water comes in late summer and autumn.

The end of May brings Canary Islands Day, and the blue, white and yellow flag of the islands couldn't be a better symbol of the immense sea and sky, the scudding clouds, the foaming surf and bright, cheery sunshine that mark this time of year.

# What to Expect in May

	Day Time Temps 21°C (min 17.5, max 25)
Ċ.	Night Time Temps 19°C (min 16, max 21)
	Sunshine Hours 10 hours
	Sea Temp 20°C
0	Rain 0 days
	UV Average 9-10



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# Horoscopes BY CLAIRVOYANT SHONA LANGHOLM

# Gemini

(21 MAY TO 20 JUNE)

Multi-tasking is a mixed blessing for you, Gemini. You're brilliant at actually juggling several tasks, but not so great at the planning. Take a bit of time and write stuff down, because this month you don't want to miss any of the exciting social opportunities

coming your way.

## Cancer

#### (21 JUNE TO 22 JULY)

Home is where the heart is, Cancer, but it's also where your mind is this month. It's a time to build and feather your nest, or maybe even look for a new one. If you keep your loved ones close and care for them like delicate pot plants, the pay-off will be amazing.





# Leo

(21 JULY TO 22 AUG)

You're not a great one for following orders, Leo, but this month you should think about doing what you're told. Whether it's a friend, a lover, a doctor or a professional, they have your interest at heart and you should listen carefully to what they say.

# Virgo

#### (23 AUG TO 22 SEPT)

Now's the time to get fit and healthy, Virgo.. Push yourself just that little bit further and stop succumbing to temptation. The added energy you'll get will be needed as the month ends and social opportunities present themselves.



# Libra

(23 SEPT TO 22 OCT)

Toxic relationships are the last thing you need right now, Libra. Cut free of them, or just refuse to interact. You can then focus on true friends and the brilliant recent developments in your life without negativity, envy or plain old malice dragging you down.

# **Scordio**

#### (23 OCT TO 21 NOV)

You're incredibly sensitive to other people's feelings at the moment, Scorpio, and that's earned you real respect. Use this gift well, because attempts at manipulation and exploitation will not be forgotten. Deep down you know the right thing to do.



# Taurus

(20 APRIL - 20 MAY) You always see most clearly after the rain, Taurus. You've overcome a challenge and now the way ahead is laid out in front of you. It may be a long journey, but it's also a beautiful one. Take a deep breath, enjoy that moment of clarity and then take that first step.

# Sagittarius

(22 NOV TO 21 DEC)

Sometimes you feel like your mind is glittering and shining like a jewel in the sunshine. This is one of those months, so you need to get out, meet people and share the charm and wit that's pouring out of you. You're a catalyst, a fire starter, an inspiration.



those plans come alive.

(22 DEC TO 19 JAN) Family matters may get in the way of your plans this month, Capricorn, but if you attend to them now you'll have more free time later. It's a time to make plans for yourself and those who are special to you, then make

# Aquarius

(20 JAN - 18 FEB)

You need to spend time on your social network this month, Aquarius, and we're not talking about Facebook. Get on the phone, send a gift, go out and meet people, surround yourself with your type of people, reinforce existing bonds and forge new ones.





#### Pisces (19 FEB - 20 MAR)

There's nothing more persuasive than a Pisces who knows what they want and has the confidence that they can get it. Put any doubts behind you, get out there and claim the rewards that are waiting for you. know you can do this.

# Aries

#### (21 MAR - 19 APR)

Find way to let some steam off this month, Aries. Whether it's exercise, loud music or just punching a pillow, you need to let it out. Friends will give you the support and smiles you need, but try and spend some time with yourself, as well.



# Instagram of the month





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@jarami13



@emiliojdr81



@sari s welt



@andre\_cphoto



@matthieuheinry



@hannamaddock



@espe\_lanzarote

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FOGRAMME

## Wednesday 26th

- 5pm. **Inauguration of the exhibition "La Despensita Canaria de Tías",** Ermita San Antonio de Tías. Open until Saturday 29th from 10am. to 1pm. and from 5pm. to 8pm.

## **Thursday 27th**

- 7pm. Concert by the Municipal School of Music of Tías, Municipal Theatre. Reservations at www.ecoentradas.com

## Friday 28th

- 7pm. **Concert by the Malvasía Trio**, Municipal Theatre. Reservations at www.ecoentradas.com

## Saturday 29th

- 9am. Diving Workshop, for children age 10<sup>+</sup> at El Poril.

- 10am. **Opening of the "Rincón Canario"** Venue. Plaza Ermita San Antonio, Tías.

- From 10am to 2pm: Exhibitions:
  - Timple craftsman.
  - Canarian fretwork.
- From 10am to 1pm. Workshops:
  - Create your Salsa Canaria.
  - Create your Rosette.
  - Create your Palm borderwork

- From 11.30am to 2.00pm. Exhibitions:
  - Canarian Stick Game and Salto del Pastor.
  - Threshing with donkey and camel.
  - Toasting grain.
- 2pm. Closure of the Recinto Ferial.
- 12.30pm. Jolatero sailing at El Poril.

- 6pm. **Children's Bowls Tournament** (7 to 12 years old). Plaza del Varadero.

-19.30 h. **Performance by the folk group El Sancocho.** Plaza del Varadero.

Registration: cultura@ayuntamientodetias.es

## Sunday 30th

- 9am. **Diving Workshop**, for 10 years + , at El Poril.

- 11am. **Traditional games.** Plaza del Varadero. Registration at 618 280 083.

- 12.30pm. Jolatero sailing at El Poril.

- 6pm. Children's Bowls Tournament (7 to 12 years old). Plaza del Varadero.

- 8pm. **Performance by the group "Teguey".** Plaza del Varadero.Registration at cultura@ay Ayuntamientodetias.es

Tías Ayuntamiento reserves the right to any last minute alterations in accordance with Covid alert levels.

Diving workshop organized by the Alisios Sub Diving Center, registration at info@alisiosub.com Rincón Canario workshops, information at youth@ayuntamientodetias.es

Jolatero navigation workshop and children's bowls tournament organized by the Los Burgaos association, inscriptions at 722 584 164









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