



EL PERIÓDICO DE CANTERBURY ENGLISH

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Life goes on...

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Feliz navidad mis amigos

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NEW CE PARTICIPANTS, IN TIME FOR NAVIDAD

BY CECILIA BOYD

While remaining safe from COVID continues to be an important aspect of life here in Madrid, with safety regulations changing often, new Canterbury English participants are still arriving safe and sound. We welcome **Doris Rivera Guerrero** from the Dominican Republic and **Sarah Olsen** from the USA - just in time to experience a Madrilenian Navidad.

See the links below for up-to-date info on COVID-19.

More COVID links...

- [Details of restrictions](#)
- [Travelers must provide proof](#)



CHRISTMAS IN MADRID

THE LIGHTS OF MADRID

BY MATTHEW GRAHAM

Madrid likes to get into the Christmas spirit early by turning on the lights on the last week of November, and the displays throughout the various neighbourhoods are striking. Christmas trees dot the City in the main plazas, including Sol, Callao and Plaza de España, with lighting designed by a team of architects to create an eccentric and magical atmosphere. Additionally, Christmas shapes of all kinds hang suspended over the many streets in Madrid. Gran Vía. The crossroad on the city's "high street", is decorated in lights that span from one side to the other, and features a 12-meter Light Ball with 43,000 LEDs.

A fun way to see the Christmas lights is taking the Naviluz - a double decker bus taking passengers on a 50-minute tour through the centre of Madrid.

Pick up at the Naviluz at Plaza de Colón, in front of the Discovery Gardens. Cost is €4.

Note: Due to COVID, it has not been decided whether the Naviluz will operate in 2020.



EL GORDO

BY MATTHEW GRAHAM

Sorteo Extraordinario de Navidad or “El Gordo”, the Spanish Christmas Lottery, is held on December 22 in Spain. This is most popular national lottery drawing of the year and the total prize pay out is believed to be the largest in the world.

A complete ticket is €200, but tickets are printed perforated, and can be sold in pieces, so that most tickets are sold for €20. This décimo (one-tenth) ticket entitles the bearer to one-tenth of any winnings for that complete ticket.

In 2019, there were a total of 17,000,000 complete tickets available at €200 each, with €2.38 billion (70% of ticket sales) available for prizes.

Tickets are on sale now.



TWELVE GRAPES

BY MATTHEW GRAHAM

The Twelve Grapes is a New Year's tradition in Spain where a person eats a grape on each strike of the clock as it tolls midnight.

Said to bring good fortune for the new year, one wish is made for each grape eaten. A superstition as well as tradition, the Spanish people are often very competitive about the grapes, and it is even shown on TV at midnight.

CHRISTMAS EVE

BY CECILIA BOYD

Families gather together Christmas Eve night for a traditional meal of turkey stuffed with truffles, before attending midnight mass. They often parade through the streets after Mass because '*Esta noche es Noche-Buena, y no es noche de dormir*', which means 'Tonight is the good night and it is not meant for sleeping!'.

CHRISTMAS SWEETS

BY MATTHEW GRAHAM

Christmas in Madrid abounds with sweets for every palate.

Polvoron is a delicious Spanish shortbread, typically eaten around the Christmas holiday in Madrid. Mantecados, similar to minced pies which crumble in your mouth with unique in flavour, are a treat eaten at Christmas dating back to the 16th Century.

The Spanish Moors would collect honey from wildflowers in the mountains to create Turrone, an easy-to-make Christmas delicacy. According to Madrileños, the best marzipan in Madrid is made by nuns.



LOS PECES EN EL RÍO - FAVORITE CHRISTMAS CAROL IN SPAIN



**'Pero mira cómo beben los peces en el río. Pero mira cómo beben por ver al Dios nacido
Beben y beben y vuelven a beber. Los peces en el río por ver a Dios nacer.'**

**'But watch the fish drink in the river. But look how they drink to see the God born
They drink and they drink and they drink again. The fish in the river to see God born.'**

FIESTA DE LOS REYES

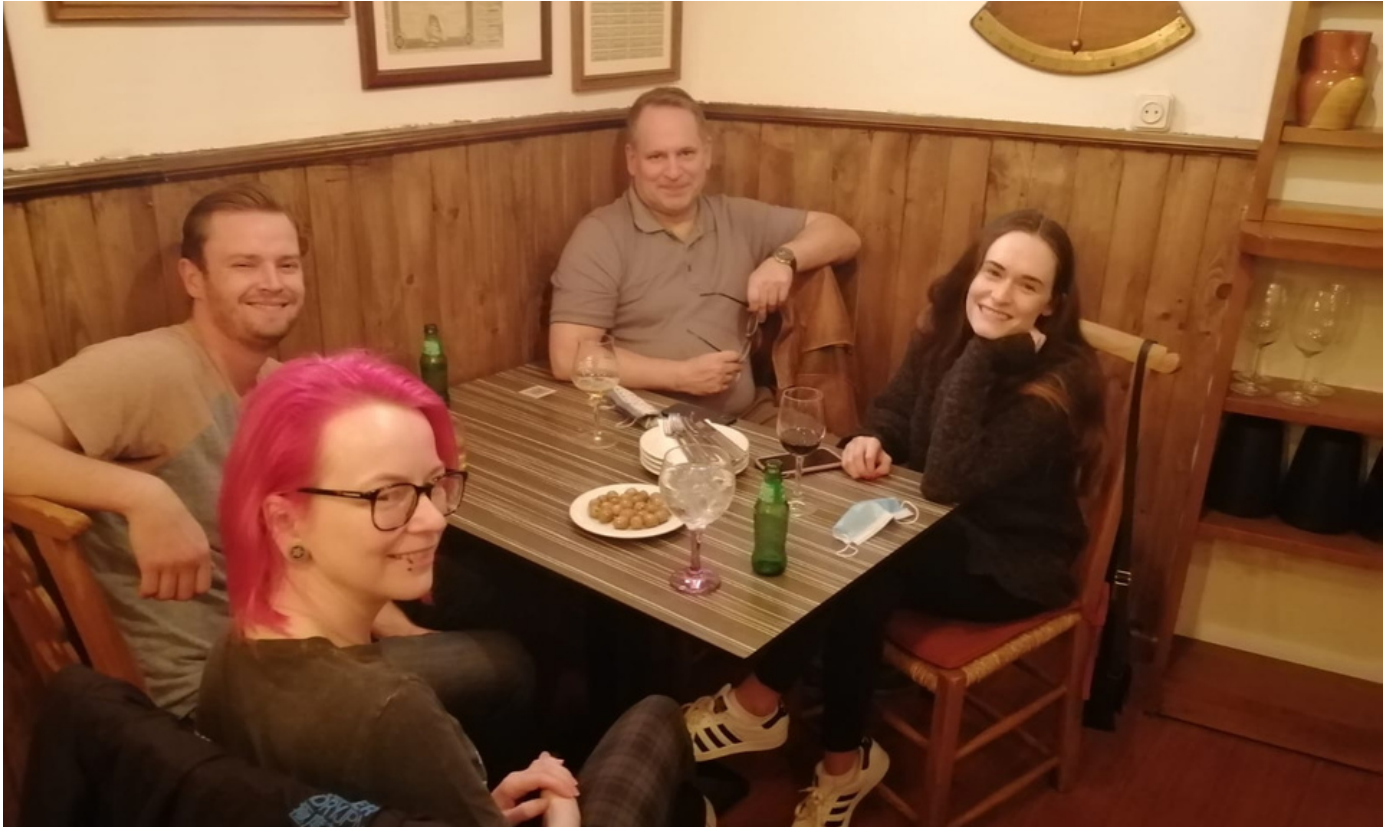
BY CECILIA BOYD

At just about dusk on January 5th in every Spanish town worth its paella, the Festival of the Kings starts with a parade, marking the arrival of Melchor, Gazpar and Baltasar to the manger-side of *el Niño Dios*. The colourfully arrayed Reyes proceed through the cities, throwing handfuls of sweets to families lining the streets to greet the Magi.

Afterwards, children place their shoes by the door, leave snacks for the Kings' camels, and try to sleep. In the morning they awaken to shoes filled with gifts for the good kids or a lump of coal for the bad. Later the extended family gathers again for food, where the traditional Roscon is served. Shaped like a bundt cake, this sweet bread covered with candied fruit (*nightmares of fruitcake, anyone?*), powered sugar and citrus peel, hides the primo bonus of a figurine baked inside. Whoever gets the slice with the figurine is "King for the Day".

The second family food-and-gift fest in two weeks, the Fiesta de los Reyes marks the last Ole in the six-week Christmas season, which started with the first lights in November.





Canterbury English becomes your family in Madrid

'IT'S A FAMILY AFFAIR' - A DAY IN THE LIFE OF A CANTERBURY ENGLISH TEACHER

BY VICKIE SCULLARD

Moving to another country is a daunting prospect, especially when you are doing it alone.

There are a number of things you need to consider, such as accommodation and the best place to work and study.

But perhaps the biggest hurdle is settling into a new community - and way of life - by making all important connections with others.

This is pretty hard when your knowledge of the local lingo isn't great, or you're just not very confident at speaking the language yet.

For Harry Lynch, it was an easy transition thanks to the support he was offered when he came to Madrid in 2012.

Harry, 48, moved from Cork in Ireland to the Spanish capital to work with Canterbury English after gaining a Celta qualification and building up experience in the rewarding position of teaching refugees to speak English.

What attracted him to the academy was how much company director Richard Clarke looks after his teachers.

Harry said: "I am still with the academy after eight years.

"That is testament to how Richard runs Canterbury and takes care of his staff.

"He is very encouraging and protective of his teachers and organises trips to help them settle into life in Madrid.

"It's like a little family."

Every industry has felt the impact of coronavirus, and back during the national lockdown, teaching was no different.

But Harry says that he - along with other teachers at Canterbury affected by the lack of teaching work - was offered a lifeline by Richard.

Harry said: "Covid changed everything. When it came along and we weren't able to do face to face classes, it was a worrying time.

"But Richard found a number of Canterbury teachers an online job with eTeacher, and I have been with them ever since.

"That just sums up his character. He said he felt that he needed to make sure we were all ok."



SUNDAY
15 NOV 2020
11:30 AM

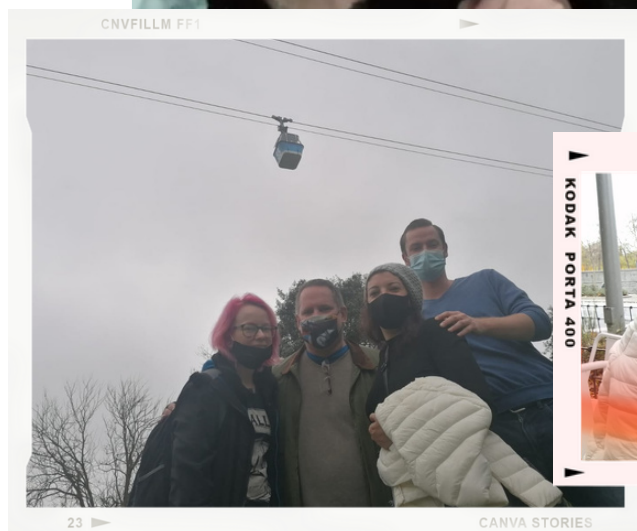
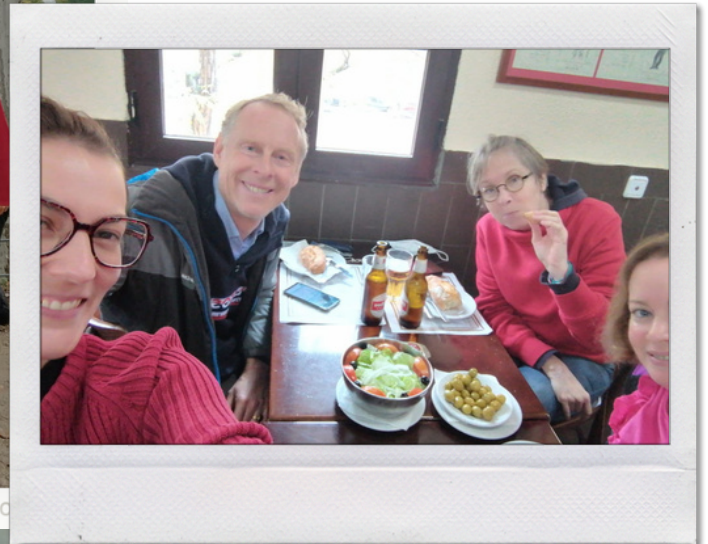
Join Garcia Lorca Spanish School Club President Susana Teixeira
and Canterbury English's Richard Clarke for
an afternoon of adventure in Madrid

FLYING & FLOATING

Meet at estación de metro Argüelles (L3, L4, L6) at
11:30. We'll take the cable car (€6 Round Trip) to
Casa de Campo, and if conditions are favorable
we'll rent row boats on the lake. We'll finish by
enjoying a meal and some drinks together.

Confirm your attendance to Susana at WhatsApp 653 353 985.

SCENES FROM OUR FLYING AND FLOATING EVENT





CANTERBURY ENGLISH AND GARCIA LORCA
SPANISH SCHOOL PRESIDENT SUSANA AND VP'S
CECILIA & DOUG PRESENT:

ROAMING MADRID'S RASTRO



**MEET AT
MCDONALD'S
NEXT TO LA LATINA
METRO**

Calle de Toledo, 63,
28005.

**Come join us
at the
historic, open
air market, El
Rastro!
We'll shop,
eat, and, of
course,
drink!**



**SUNDAY,
NOV 29
11:30AM**



FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT SUSANA +34 65 33 53 985

SCENES FROM ROAMING MADRID'S RASTRO

