

NEWSLETTER



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Easter greetings to all our Members. Isn't it great to get rid of our 'winter wollies', and enjoy the warm weather! Some of our lucky members will be setting off on their Far East cruise this month, we wish them 'Bon Voyage', and look forward to hearing all about their experiences when they return, maybe we could have some Photos and a 'Write-up' to put into our Exhibition, in May?

Easter is a time of renewal, and for U3A Calpe its time to renew our memberships. Members voted at our AGM to raise the 'subs' to 10 euros this year, but at less than 1 euro a month we think this is still good value for all that the U3A brings us, and hope that you agree!

New Members

We wish to welcome those 6 new members who joined U3A Calpe during March. We hope that you enjoy taking part in groups activities, and maybe even starting up a new group of your own! The President and committee would like you, and the other new members who joined us this year, to meet up with us for coffee and a chat, after the meeting on April 12th. Meet up at the front of the stage after the meeting if you'd like to join us.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

NEXT GENERAL MEETING will be on THURSDAY 12th APRIL at the Casa de Cultura. [theatre.]

Where we will be given a talk by U3A member David Shute, on his experiences as an outside broadcast reporter for the BBC. David now lectures on cruise ships, all over the world, so we are privileged to have him as our Guest speaker this month.

Our MAY meeting will be on THURSDAY, 17th MAY, one week later than normal, due to the theatre being unavailable on 10th. As usual its at 10-00 for 10-30 at the Casa de Cultura theatre.

U3A CALPE'S 10th ANNIVERSARY EXHIBITION This will take place on 3rd, 4th and 5th MAY, in the Exhibition hall of the CASA DE CULTURA, [opposite the reception desk] The Opening hours will be 10-30 to 1-30, and 5-00 to 9-00 pm each day, and we hope that all U3A members will come along to view some of the Paintings, Mosaics, Photographs, Greetings cards, Patchwork quilts, and Floral displays which our talented members have produced in their classes. There will also be photographs/displays showing the many other activities carried out by U3A members, such as the Sports and Walking groups, Games and Card-playing groups, as well as some live demonstrations, [times to be announced later] Hope this will be as successful as our Gala dinner-dance. Thanks Tina !

So come along and take a look at what we do - it may inspire you!

TRAVEL AND CULTURE

Contact John Pickford on 96 583 4904, or e-mail johnpickfordtravel@gmail.com, or Rod Anderton, on 96-583-2081, e-mail rodanderton@yahoo.co.uk

VALENCIA DAY TRIP, MONDAY JUNE 11TH This is a subsidized trip, at only 5 euros. There will be 4 drop-off points, The Oceanografica & Science parks; The Bioparc Zoo; the Shopping complexes; and the Historic city centre. 100 people have booked for this trip, so we are putting on 2 coaches. **ONLY 10 PLACES remaining.**

MAY 28th VISIT TO THE CAVES OF CANELOBRE AND VALOR CHOCOLATE FACTORY This is a day-trip, starting with a visit to the Valor chocolate factory, at Villajoyosa, the 'Joyful village'.

We will then set off for the Caves of Canelobre, approximately 24K from Alicante, stopping for a 3-course meal en-route, [wine & water included.]

The caves are some of the deepest in Spain, with many impressive stalactites and stalagmites. [remember to bring some warm clothing!]

The price, all-inclusive, is 25 euros each. Contact John Pickford or book at the next meeting.

AYORA HONEY FESTIVAL OCTOBER 13th & 14th

This is a festival to celebrate the life of the Bee, and all its by-products, and is the largest of its kind in the Valencia region. Cost will be around 75-85 euros, which includes coach travel, and overnight HB stay at a hotel in Comfretes, 20K from Ayora village.

There are 55 places available, and the closing date for bookings is June 30th 2012.

U3A CALPE GROUPS INFORMATION

WATERCOLOUR PAINTING A second Watercolour painting group will be starting on June 18th.

This will be run by Hilary Hare, and will take place on Monday afternoons, at her house. Contact Hilary, tel 96 649 7014, or Sandy Bianco 96 574 4850 for more details.

MOSAICS Sandra Sugden will be running the existing Mosaics group, which, unfortunately, is already full. Some of the other group members are willing to start another group off, but needs a large enough, fairly central, venue for it.

If anyone can help please contact Sandy Bianco.

CARD-MAKING Liz Lodge will be holding a card-making session at her house on Friday 13th March, 10-00 to 1-00, [cards for men]. Liz will be demonstrating some of her cards, and signing people up at our meeting on 12th, or you can call her on 96 587 4799 to book a place. Those who need transport please meet at the usual place, [the road opposite Maviro restaurant, which leads towards Galetamar hotel,] at 9-45. Liz is also appealing to all her ladies who have cards they made in her workshops to let her 'borrow' these, to display in the forthcoming exhibition.

KNIT & NATTER Sandra Llewellyn will be starting this group on Mondays at 2-00pm, from April 16th, at her house. Donations of wool, needles, and patterns would be gratefully received! Contact Sandy, or Sandra, tel 96 501 3036

David Shute

David made Broadcasting history as the first person to report 'live' to a National audience whilst flying through the Sound Barrier.

A BBC network Reporter and latterly Senior Talks Producer at BBC Pebble Mill, David was schooled at Brentwood in Essex. "Even then I knew I wanted to be a broadcaster", he recalls.

Working on newspapers in Reading, he helped to found Hospital Radio.

At the BBC in Bristol he established a reputation for adventurous reporting with a talent for outside broadcasts.

His army background made him a trusted journalist welcomed by Service units in trouble spots around the world.

As a Pebble Mill producer he was a familiar figure at Stratford on Royal Shakespeare Theatre First Nights, and he employed many of the leading lights from the RSC for Book at Bedtime and Morning Story.

It was at Pebble Mill that he met his wife Jane when she came to work for him as his production secretary.

These days he finds himself in demand as a Guest Lecturer on cruise ships. "It's a great retirement job" he quips. "I get to see a lot more of the world and it has the double bonus that Jane comes with me".

The couple have lived in Calpe for some 11 years.

PUZZLE CORNER

EASTER ANAGRAMS 1. Dig for Yoad 2. Boast rent nee 3. Proof said Yala 4. Sun's broth Soc
5. Get gas

EASTER QUIZ

1. Which poet wrote the lines; 'Oh to be in England, now that Aprils here.'
2. What were the presents which the Russian royal family traditionally gave each other at Easter, and who made these?
3. Pontius Pilate had the power to release one prisoner. Who did he spare instead of Jesus, and why?
4. 'April Love' was a hit record for which American singer, in the early 1960's?
5. Name the Jewish festival which occurs at around the same time as Easter.
6. Which English actor starred in the film 'The Long Good Friday'?
7. 'April is the cruellest month' is a line from which poem, and who wrote it?
8. Why do we celebrate Easter by eating chocolate eggs?
9. In the 1950's film 'Easter Parade', which famous actor & actress appeared as a pair of tramps, and what was the song they sang?
10. Why was Saffron Walden an important place for traditional Easter celebrations in Britain, in earlier times?

ANSWERS ON PAGE 4

MORE MEMORIES OF RAF ELEMENTARY FLYING SCHOOL, GUINEA FOWL. By Vic Treen.

After writing my last piece I was reminiscing about my RAF experiences and came to the conclusion that by far the most dangerous time was during my first few months at Guinea Fowl. I remembered 3 more incidents, plus one that had happened to a colleague earlier, which I believe had some influence on me, as you will see in the following anecdote. One more, which I will relate another time happened to a colleague just before we transferred to Service flying school. I had no further frights when we got there, which was just as well because we were flying North American AT-6A Harvards with huge Pratt & Whitney Twin Wasp Radial engines driving nine foot propellers so fast that the tips of the props exceeded the speed of sound, giving a very satisfactory roar! They concentrated the mind wonderfully! Modified versions were used during the Korean war, the Vietnam war and against the Mau Mau in Kenya.

At Guinea Fowl we each shared a large room with one other trainee pilot. These rooms were comfortably furnished with bedside cabinets a desk and private wardrobes, and a row of large wooden pegs. When I saw those pegs was the moment when the seed of my incident was sown. There was a flying suit hanging on one of the pegs and it had been soaked with blood from the neck to the knees!

The owner of the suit was my roommate, Stan Ingle, and he related his story to me in the mess that evening. He had been on his first solo night flying circuit when he made the mistake that later, my own instructor told me, had been made by scores of trainees before him. He came in at the right speed, about 75mph but too low, caught his under carriage on the boundary fence and tipped forward and then flipped over with considerable force. The cockpit crumpled and in spite of his straps he hit his head on something and then his chin. The head injury knocked him out for over half an hour. He was still unconscious when the ambulance got to him and the blow to his chin made him put his teeth through his tongue. Hence he had hung in his straps bleeding profusely for quite a long time.

Remember that this was a primitive airfield in the outback with no lighting in the field except oil burning flares on the landing strip and the occasional red lamp round the boundary fence. Although Stan was grounded for 3 months because of the length of time he had been unconscious he made a full recovery and finished the course and went on to his next station.

A short time later my instructor deemed I was ready for my first night solo, and I was very happy about it, with the confidence of youth! My take-off, crosswind leg, downwind leg and final crosswind and into wind legs were all fine and then I found myself fast approaching the boundary fence. With Stan's flying suit in mind I decided to come in a bit high to be on the safe side. However, after I cleared the perimeter fence I discovered that the wind had dropped completely and I was floating on and on.

The flarepath consisted of 7 goosenecked flares in a row with 5 across at the fifth row. [A goosenecked flare is a watering can full of paraffin with a large piece of burning cloth hanging out of the spout, not very bright.] We were supposed to touch down ideally between the third and fifth flares but I overshot them and was airborne for another couple of flares. Then my wheels touched the earth and I immediately applied my brakes. The trouble was that I was still too fast so the tail came up and the prop went down. I just had time to take the brakes off and then ease them on more gently but my speed was still excessive so I juggled with braking hard, easing off then trying again. Finally I found myself scudding over the perimeter track and that was serious! I had about 30 ft left and then would hit the boundary fence. After 15ft I used my last trick and stamped on the starboard brake locking the wheel and making the plane spin round one and a half times on the other wheel, using up the kinetic energy.

My luck had held, the undercarriage rode out the stress and it was a perfect ground loop. I said a heartfelt thanks to the designers and engineers at Fairchild for producing such a rugged plane, to save people like me, and headed back to the other end of the airfield to face my instructor. I expected a tirade of epithets but instead he grinned at me, said 'well done, go and report a heavy landing to the chief [engineer] and he will have her checked' then we went off to the mess for a hot coffee. He had seen it all before!

ANAGRAM ANSWERS 1. Good Friday 2. Easter bonnet 3. April fools day 4. Hot Cross buns
5. Paste Eggs

QUIZ ANSWERS 1. Robert Browning 2. Richly jewelled eggs made by Faberge 3. Barrabas, as demanded by the Jewish mob 4. Pat Boone 5. Passover 6. Bob Hoskins 7. 'The Wasteland' by T.S. Eliot 8. The word Easter comes from the latin for 'egg', and symbolizes new life/rebirth 9. Fred Astaire & Judy Garland, who sang 'We're a couple of Swells' 10. The crocuses grown there provided the saffron to make 'Simnel cakes'.

ON THE GRAPEVINE The setting up day for our EXHIBITION will be WEDNESDAY 2nd MAY, 10-30 to 1-00. When Tina, Joy, Jenny, [and strong male helpers!] will be taking collection of your exhibits, and arranging them. We have the large, downstairs Exhibition hall this time, [opposite reception in the Casa de Cultura] which makes life easier both for exhibitors and visitors.

The exhibition will be officially opened on Thursday 3rd May, for 3 days, and we are seeking volunteers to staff it, for one hour each. So if you and a friend, or partner can offer us an hour of your time, please put your names/contact details on the rota, which will be at the front of the stage, at our meeting. Or contact Tina, Joy or Jenny directly.

AND FINALLY... Thank you to all those who brought along dried foods for the Mayor's Food aid programme. This is being co-ordinated by his mother, Encarna, with food being stored under the banked seating, in the Sports Hall. Those who attend groups there may find it easier to donate food directly, and we will make sure that any donations brought to our meetings will be passed on. They hope to start distributing food to needy families from April 2nd, and we're told that gifts of cooking oil and canned goods would be particularly appreciated.