

# U3A Calpe NEWSLETTER

Suite 416, Total Postal • Calle Corbeta 10 • 03710 Calpe

[www.u3acalpe.org](http://www.u3acalpe.org)

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## Informal Summer Dinner and Dance

This promises to be a lovely evening of dinner, drinks and dancing! It will be held at Restaurante Dracula (in the Port) on Wednesday 29th April at 7 for 7:30pm and will cost €16 to include cava reception, 3 course meal with coffee and wine. Further information is provided later on in the newsletter.

Hello, and welcome to our April newsletter.

We are delighted to announce that our speaker this month will be David Elford with his talk entitled “A Walk Down the High Street”.

David was a Senior Executive/ Director (Trading and Merchandise) of many department store operations including the Bentalls Group and Liberty of London. During his time he undertook consulting work for a number of manufacturers and at one time in his career was the South East Regional Chairman of A.I.S. which is the UK's largest buying group.

Please continue to send all your news and articles for further newsletters to Giovanna Wallis on [editor@u3acalpe.com](mailto:editor@u3acalpe.com)

## Coming events

Our next general meeting will be on **Thursday, 16th April 2015** at the Ifach Hotel, Salon Mare Nostrum at 10:00 for 10:30 AM.

Please see below for all of our meeting dates for this year:

- 21st May
- 18th June
- July and August **No meetings**
- 17th September
- 15th October
- 19th November (AGM)

We are delighted to announce that next month our speaker will be U3A member David Farmer, who, along with his wife have enjoyed very interesting lives.

As usual, you can pick up all travel information and many of our groups signing up information at our general meetings and it is always a great opportunity to meet with fellow members.

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## Website News – Health and Wellbeing

### Purchasing State Healthcare in Spain

From: Pat Spencer

If you are not covered for state-run healthcare through any other means, the Spanish Regional Health Authorities offer a special pay-in scheme (convenio especial). This is a public health insurance scheme available nation-wide where you pay a monthly fee at present 60€ per month to access state-run healthcare. This scheme is managed by each autonomous region.

Obviously there are hurdles to go through. The full document is on the Health and Wellbeing Page on the web site under Purchasing Healthcare in Spain and gives the full details.

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## Travel

### Northern Spain/Southern France

A 7 day/6 night trip departing on 31st May 2015.

Cost: €385 pp, single supplement is just €90 for the whole week.

A fantastic tour of this lovely area. We still have places on this wonderful trip! A deposit of €80 secures your place and the balance is due on or before 15th April.

Check out the web page for more details.

### Manises, Albufera and Cullera

Day trip – 24th June

Cost: €35 for Members €40 non members

This is a subsidised trip.

We will visit the Manises Ceramic Museum followed by a boat trip. Then lunch with wine in Albufera then on to Cullera for some free time to wander or sit watching the world go

by. As it's in the summer this seems a perfect trip.

This will sell out quickly so get your name down as soon as possible with €10pp deposit to secure your place.

### Med Cruise

8 day Cruise – departing on 15th October 2015 from Valencia with coach transfers included.

Price on Application - still places available.

This is a great value cruise with mostly balcony cabins. Contact our travel team and we will get you a price. Unfortunately the prices have gone up although not very much.

**Please note:** in future all trips booked at the general meetings will be subject to a holding deposit of €5.

For any further information or suggestions for any future trips, please contact [ellen.mitchell1@btinternet.com](mailto:ellen.mitchell1@btinternet.com) or [penelopebrighton@hotmail.com](mailto:penelopebrighton@hotmail.com)

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## Groups News

### Flower Arranging

This group, run by Tina Wallis, has started again on Mondays at 10:30am at *Restaurante Exotic* on *La Fossa* beach.

The 2 classes remaining before the summer break have been postponed until further notice.

Please contact Tina on 96 583 3197 or [tinamaria19@gmail.com](mailto:tinamaria19@gmail.com) for more information and to sign up for this group.

### Papercraft Workshop

Liz Lodge will be holding another Papercraft workshop on Friday 17th April from 2-5pm at Liz's home.

The subject will be "Iris Folding". This is a really rewarding technique and members who have made this card

before have always been amazed at the beautiful results.

Liz will provide all the materials, and the fee of €5 can be paid at the U3A meeting on Thursday 16 April or, if you cannot attend the meeting, please put the money in an envelope addressed to:

Liz Lodge, Postbox No 117, and leave it at Total Postales in Calle Corbeta, Calpe.

If you would like to attend, please email Liz and she will send you a list of templates available for you to choose from, prior to the class.

If you wish to have any more information, contact Liz on 96 587 4799.

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## **Social Events News**

### **Informal Summer Dinner and Dance**

As mentioned on the front page of this newsletter, we are holding an informal dinner and dance at Restaurante Dracula (in the port) on Wednesday 29th April 2015.

This event will cost €16 per person and includes a cava reception, 3 course meal with bread, *Alioli* and wine with coffee included.

There will be live music by Daniel and this event promises to be a great start to those balmy summer evenings we are all craving.

This month is your last chance to sign up for this event. We are taking monies and menu choices at the general meeting.

### **Summer Lunch**

This event will take place after the June general meeting on 18th June at 12:30 for 1pm start.

We hope to secure the same deal as last year with the Pizzeria Exotic on La Fossa beach.

More information to follow, but please register your interest at the general meeting this month.

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## **Member News**

### **Processions – Part 1**

*From: Chris Hare*

Spain is world famous for its processions. And at this time of year there isn't one, but two that can be seen the length and breadth of the Costas.

The first is the processional caterpillar: to domestic pets a revolting and dangerous hairy little beast. They emerge from their overwintering nests high up in pine trees and travel in a dead straight line to wherever they are going. Members of the public are urged to avoid them like the plague.

Talking of plagues, the second is the processional cyclist, an equally loathsome pest and a danger to every living creature, especially themselves and motorists. Processional cyclists are selfish and ignorant half-naked slobs. They emerge from their overwintering sheds, form up in front of a motorist and travel not in a straight line but swerving all over the road to wherever you are going.

The young of the species tend to be individualistic; but on reaching maturity they develop a need for the company of like-minded creatures. Scientists believe this mutual attraction is generated by the bright colours of their outer shells, and as they approach adulthood they integrate and form 'swarms.' This happens soon after they emerge from their winter hibernation. There is no

maximum number to the swarm, which may often total 30, being the number required to cover the distance between one blind turn in the road and the next. But it does appear that there is a minimum requirement to form a swarm - this being 5, which is the exact number needed to fan out across the road so that a motorist can't overtake the swarm without crossing the solid white line down the centre of the road, which of course, is highly illegal and very dangerous.

However, processionary cyclists are at liberty to cross this line whenever they like as, by extension, they don't have to obey the rules applicable to other road users, as normal rules don't apply to them, apparently. And, after all, why should they? They aren't obliged to have insurance or to pay any road tax - because, if you didn't realise it, processionary cyclists actually own the road!

Part 2 in next months newsletter.

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## Reports

### Trip Report: Elda Shoe Museum and Yecla Bodega

*By: Catrinoa Mcleod*

The beginning of this article is a big thank you to Ellen & Penny for organising the trip. It began with 53 folks dazed and bewildered at the early departure, though this was understood later in the day, with the enjoyment of the Shoe Museum and the enthusiasm of the wine tasting at Yecla. Also I must mention the impressive driving of the coach, especially when the poor driver had to enter a very narrow street on the way to the Museum, as his chosen route was closed for road works.

Arriving at Elda, there was a welcome coffee, before entering the Shoe Museum at 10.30am. We were all

impressed by the spacious and well designed areas of display. The 1st floor was dedicated to the machinery and all the facets of production and what was really good was being able to get really close and even touch. In Room III on the 2nd floor were the shoes, displayed in many glass cabinets, ranging from the history of humanity's footwear, sports footwear, iconic figures' footwear and footwear from different nations at different historical periods. In room IV, were the winning shoes of the 'Lapiz de Oro' and other contests, miniatures, and private collections. Even most of us who now wear 'sensible shoes'; sighed and coveted some of the beautiful and ornate footwear on display.

Another half hour and we arrived at the Barahonda Bodega in Yecla. The beautiful architect designed pine and glass building was inaugurated in 2006, though wine has been produced there since 1925. The afternoon began with a tour of the Bodega and then the wine tasting, four different red wines which were very enthusiastically greeted and enjoyed. Also on offer, was their own 'eco' olive oil - 3 different strengths - it was delicious. Lunch was a wee bit later than originally intended due to our intense testing to select our orders. The restaurant was on the top floor, a delightful area, light, airy and spacious complete with beautiful linen tablecloths and napkins and surprise, surprise, more red wine and also a chance to imbibe the white wine on offer. A chance too, to raise a glass to toast John Pickford's & Jos Kieivits's birthdays. The four course lunch was aesthetically pleasing and very tasty - a touch of 'nouvelle cuisine'.

We left the Bodega at around 6.30pm, arriving back at the Esmeralda just before 8 o'clock - yes, a 'grand day out'.