

U3A Calpe NEWSLETTER

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U3A trips

Some of our trips later this year cannot yet be confirmed, because too few of us have signed up so far.

Look at the trips on offer in this edition of your newsletter, and sign up before it's too late!

Hello everyone and welcome to the April Newsletter. We trust you survived the influx of Easter visitors, lack of convenient parking again in town and the vast amount of racing cyclists on 'our' roads - not to mention the amount of chocolate we consume at this time of year.

The weather has been fantastic for us along the *Costa* and visitors from the UK tell us how wonderful it is to have seen some sun.

New members

We would very much like to welcome the eleven new members who joined us in March.

They are
 John and Sheila McKenna,
 Karl-Heinz Schafer,
 Gunter Jahn,
 Angela Higgs,
 Jennifer Bowls,
 Richard and Maureen Crawley,
 Mary-Ann Greenall,
 Ian and Pauline Royle.

We hope you find lots to do and make many new friends among our U3A family.

David and Maureen Elford, U3A News and Publicity Officers, would be delighted if you could join them for a coffee after the April meeting closes, when they will be able to tell you more about what we have to offer.

Coming events

The next General Meeting will be on **Thursday, 28th April** at the *Hotel Ifach*, at 10:00AM for 10:30.

The speakers will be Bob Bamber and David Stockton, who will be giving us tips on how to use digital cameras to best effect.

29th April: a Group Leaders' "thank you" at the *Ifach* to acknowledge the huge part our Group Leaders play in the running of the U3A.

Travel and Culture

The travel team recently organised another much enjoyed day trip to Villena and a full write-up can be found on our Web site.



The trip started with a visit to a museum where there was a group of solid gold items found recently and which really impressed everyone. After this came a bodega visit with wine tasting and *tapas* followed by lunch in a restaurant in the centre of town. This was followed by a visit to the castle to walk off the effects of the *vino* and too much food!

Thanks to the travel team for their organisation from all those who went on the trip.

Contact Penny and Ellen on the travel team for details of forthcoming trips: ellen.mitchell1@btinternet.com or penelopebrighton@hotmail.com

Also Rod Anderton if you wish to be added to his Cultural Interest Group: tranderton@yahoo.com.

Cordoba and Granada

Our next trip is to Andalusia, beginning on Sunday, 15th May.

Balance of payment due before 1st April;

Busot

7th June. Caves at Busot then on to the Valor chocolate factory.

€30 per person

Further trips

The team is looking at two breaks for the end of the year but unfortunately they don't have enough interest to confirm the rooms for these busy periods. We will miss out if we don't confirm soon!

7th October Cofrentes: Ayora Honey Festival. Two nights, varied board including wine, free spa, boat trip and of course return coach transfers for under €200. Single supplement approx €65. Fantastic break with lots of free time to explore this beautiful area. Deposit €50.

1st December Barcelona. Central hotel. Christmas shopping trip. 3 nights B&B with possible option of half board but no price yet for this option. Return coach transfers. Approx €280 pp. Deposit €50 pp.

Groups

Chess

There has been little interest in a chess group so this has now been deleted.

Sports

Keith Cherry has been coordinating with the Town Hall for the provision of a new bowling green, which they have indicated they wish to pay for. Costings and plans have been submitted and we await their response.

Also included in Keith's plans are refurbishment of the Petanc courts to

bring them up to standard, including resurfacing, security, storage facility etc.

Publicity

David and Maureen Elford are moving forward with a new approach to increasing membership and should be in a position to present this at the April meeting, along with how we are looking at promoting the Calpe U3A through the press.

Discussion Group

Next meeting is on Thursday, 28th April at 3:00 PM.

The paranormal. Not the goolies or things that go bump in the night, but feelings, impressions of nearness or presence of a departed relative or friend, or other unusual occurrences. Tell us about it.

Other suggestions welcome. Ring for details to Peter on **96 583 4139**.

Do you ever get frustrated by passwords?

From: *Chris Hare*

(Senior trying to set a password)

WINDOWS: Please enter your new password.

USER: cabbage

WINDOWS: Sorry, the password must be more than 8 characters.

USER: boiled cabbage

WINDOWS: Sorry, the password must contain 1 numerical character.

USER: 1 boiled cabbage

WINDOWS : Sorry, the password cannot have blank spaces.

USER: 50flamingboiledcabbages

WINDOWS: Sorry, the password must contain at least one upper case character.

USER: 50FLAMINGboiledcabbages

WINDOWS: Sorry, the password cannot use more than one upper case character consecutively.

USER:
50FlamingBoiledCabbagesShovedUpY
ourAssIfYouDon'tGiveMeAccessNow!

WINDOWS: Sorry, the password cannot contain punctuation.

USER:
ReallyPissedOff50FlamingboiledCabb
agesShovedUpYourAssIfYouDontGive
MeAccessNow

WINDOWS: Sorry, that password is already in use.

April Quiz

By: *John Pickford*

1. The game 'Chinese checkers' originated in what country?
2. The piggy bank derives its name from:
 - (a) nursery rhymes?
 - (b) clay?
 - (c) an English Duke?
 - (d) its shape?

Peter Purvey's Curious Corner

A cat belonging to a family in Wisconsin, USA, went walkabout. It was found 1,480 miles away in Florida. Perhaps it fancied a holiday in the sunshine state!

Scientists in America have developed a new drug, called LM 11A - 31 that completely cures Induced Alzheimers

in mice. Unfortunately the drug has no effect on humans. They don't know why but they are working on it. It could be worth billions worldwide.

Computer giant Intel have just developed a thumbnail-sized computer chip containing two billion transistors. The mind boggles!

An OECD survey of literacy among the 14 to 19 year-olds in the world's top 23 developed countries judged Britain bottom with the most illiterates. Why? Who is to blame, the teachers or the parents? (South Korea is Number 1.)

How to negotiate roundabouts Jordanian style

By: *Pat Spencer*

There has been quite a lot in our local papers over the past few weeks about how to negotiate roundabouts; I thought I would add another version.

I have recently been on holiday in Jordan, visiting various historic sites, travelling by coach from Aqaba to Amman.

Firstly I thought it was just a mistake: as our coach approached a roundabout the driver just went on, no stopping, and no slowing down. Traffic that was already on the roundabout braked, swerved and then just joined in with the flow. Each day was the same. At every roundabout the coach just went straight on. I thought it might just be one particular driver, but no, it was the same every day.

After a day or two I asked why, explaining the procedure in Europe, to be told that they had only recently (over the last 20 years) had new roads built. They had looked at road systems in other countries and

decided that using roundabouts was the best way to keep the traffic flowing. I must say that their roundabouts could easily compete and overtake ours in design and decorations. One roundabout even had a boat and this was some kilometres inland.

I was told by a very serious driver that they had never been instructed in how to approach or use the roundabouts (or perhaps conveniently forgotten), and thought the way they used them was correct. The driver thought that our system would not work in Jordan as people thought it was "cool" to have this juggling and dodging of traffic at each roundabout junction.

Perhaps it suits their character and personality. I hesitated to ask about their road traffic accident levels.

They also very rarely use seat belts, use their mobile phones whilst driving, and have headphones on. Children and babies sitting on the knees of their mothers in the front seat, unbelted. Children even standing on the back seat of the car with their heads out of the sun roofs, waving.

So I would advise you not to hire a car and drive if you visit Jordan: leave it to the locals, they can do "COOL" much better than us.

PS. Please do not try this in Calpe, it is confusing enough as it is.

This newsletter

As Newsletter Editor I was criticised last month for there being too many anecdotes in the latest newsletters and not enough information on our U3A activities. I had considered that we were in danger of repeating ourselves with minutes, the Web site

etc., so I cut down on items that appeared elsewhere.

I apologise if the Newsletter is not how you want it to be: it just goes to show we cannot please everyone as we have had many favourable comments too.

We hope this month's is more to your liking. However, if anyone else would like to take on the task of Editor I would be only too pleased as I would love to have more time to myself to enjoy being a U3A member!

Janet Bond