

NEWSLETTER

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 Web site: www.u3acalpe.com



December A time for family & friends, whether visiting, or keeping in touch with cards and presents. A time for enjoying festive fare like turkey and mince-pies, [get your festivities off to a good start with the U3A Calpe Christmas dinner, on December 10th.]

A Christmas Carol service is an essential part of the festive season,[come along to the Christmas concert by our own U3A Calpe choir, on December 16th.]

Wherever you are, whether snowed up in some part of the UK, or enjoying glorious Spanish sunshine, - enjoy your Christmas, and Best Wishes for a Happy and Healthy New Year in 2012, to all our members.



NEW MEMBERS

We would like to welcome the 20 new members who joined U3A Calpe in October and November. We hope that they enjoy being members, taking part in group activities and trips, and, perhaps starting up some new groups of their own.

COMING EVENTS

NEXT MEETING **WEDNESDAY, 11TH JANUARY**, at the BOLERO restaurant, 10-00 for 10-30. [free Coffee included!] Group leaders will be signing people up. Come & try out this new venue!

U3A Calpe Christmas Party.

This will take place on Saturday, 10th December, at the Bolero restaurant, 7-00 for 7-30.

This is a subsidized event, only 12 euros each, for members, [guests welcome, at a price of 16 euros.] We will enjoy a 3-course meal, with wine, water & coffee included, followed by dancing to live music. There will also be a free raffle.

To book, and make your menu-choices, contact Tina Wallis, tel. 96 583 3197, or 67111 5372.

U3A Calpe Christmas Choir Concert

Will take place on Friday, 16th December, at 7-30, in the Salon Blau, Casa de Cultura. Tickets are 8 euros, [proceeds to go to the Colegio Gargasindi, Calpe.] Tickets can be ordered from choir leader, Mary Anderton, tel. 96 583 2081, or obtained from any member of the choir.

Its that time of year again! Oh, no it isn't! Oh, yes it is!

U3A Calpe's traditional outing to the Pantomime takes place on January 12th, [bookings by Jan. 1st please.]

This year its Careline theatre's production of **JACK AND THE BEANSTALK**

at ALCALALI. We need 40 members in order to run a coach, [ticket price 12 euros, and coach 6 euros.]

Shopping trip to Murcia

Coach trip on January 16th, leaving Calpe at 9-00 am, from the Esmeralda hotel, and calling at IKEA and Primark. This is a subsidized trip, at only 9 euros each, so be sure to book early.

Contact John Pickford on 96 583 4904, or via the U3A website.

Overnight trip to Madrid – for the Lion King musical

This will take place on 17th – 18th January. The price, of 139 euros covers travel by coach, B&B in a central hotel in Madrid, and ticket for the show.

To book for any of these 3 trips contact John Pickford, tel. 96 583 4904 or 608 250 632, or via the travel link on the website.

YOUR NEW COMMITTEE FOR 2011 – 2012.

<u>POSITION</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>CONTACT DETAILS</u>
PRESIDENT	Beverly Holder	tel. 690 781 653
VICE-PRESIDENT [& TRAVEL CO_ORDINATOR]	John Pickford	tel. 96 583 4904 travel@u3acalpe.com
SECRETARY	Janet Bond	tel. 96 574 8665 enquiries@u3acalpe.com
TREASURER	Edith Watson	tel. 96 583 7542
MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY	Val Osborne	tel. 96 587 4970
GROUPS CO-ORDINATOR	Sandy Bianco	tel. 96 574 4850 sandyebianco@gmail.com
SOCIAL EVENTS ORGANIZER	Tina Wallis	tel. 96 583 3197
PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICER	Joy Lally	tel. 96 649 8681 lallyandjoy@hotmail.com

As you can see, the committee are the same people as last year, [but fewer of them, due to some resignations, and Enid's incapacity.] This is because NO NEW NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED . Luckily we also have our ' HELPING HANDS', i.e. non-committee Volunteers, who help out with anything, from keeping the Travel account books, to handing out newsletters, & taking names at meetings.

If you would like to volunteer, [we particularly need more people with Information Technology expertise] please contact Beverly Holder, or any Committee member.

MESSAGE FROM ENID AND PETER BARTON

WE WISH YOU A MERRY CHRISTMAS

A HUGE THANK YOU TO ALL OF YOU, WHO, BY CARDS, PHONE CALLS AND E-MAILS, HAVE GIVEN US SO MUCH SUPPORT. IT HAS PARTICULARLY CHEERED US UP THROUGH THE FIRST 6 WEEKS.

WE CANNOT MAKE PLANS YET, BUT TOP OF OUR LIST IS OUR RETURN TO CALPE.

**BEST WISHES TO YOU ALL,
PETER AND ENID**

U3A Calpe wish Enid & Peter a speedy recovery, and a safe return to Calpe in the New Year.

ENID'S CHRISTMAS KITCHEN

As Christmas is a time for children, here are a couple of christmas recipes which they will enjoy helping with, and eating!

PEANUT BUTTER BALLS Use mini cake cases.

Have a dish of chocolate vermicelli/grated chocolate ready. Mix a 340g jar of crunchy peanut butter with half-teaspoon of vanilla essence & 3-4 ozs. Icing sugar. Shape into small balls, then roll in the chocolate. Store in the fridge for up to 2 weeks.

CHRISTMAS STARS Preheat the oven to 200c, [180c for fan ovens.] Roll out some short-crust pastry, cut into 2 inch circles and use to line a 12 hole patty tin. Then put a small teaspoonful of sweet mincemeat into each one, [even younger children can help with this,] while older children roll out the remaining pastry, and cut it into star-shapes, [or smaller circles, if no star-shaped cutter is available.] Then cook for 20-30 minutes, until mincemeat is bubbling and pastry golden brown. Leave to cool, and sprinkle with icing sugar, if preferred.

PUZZLE CORNER

All the answers to the puzzles are connected with Christmas. [Answers overleaf on page 4]

ANAGRAMS

ULETDIEY SEGTIRNEG [2 words] TARMISCSH KESRCARC [2 words]

RLOCA GNISSRE [2 words] BLESANATI MEHEBLEHB [4 words] STELOMTIE [1 word]

DINGBATS.

1. How many D B C E A N Y D ? 2. What comes next in the sequence S O N D ?
3. After 3 F H s, and 5 G R s, how many L D S are there? 4. How many G s are there in a C C ?
[clue; a book, not cubic centimetres!]

QUIZ

1. Who wrote the book, 'The Snowman' ?
2. And who had a hit record, singing a song which came from the animated film, of the same name?
[extra point if you can name the song title also.]
3. What was the name of Ebenezer Scrooge's late partner, in the book by Charles Dickens?
[extra point for naming the book title.]
4. Why was Jesus born in Bethlehem, instead of the town his parents came from?
[extra point if you can name that town.]
5. 'Have yourself a Merry Little Christmas' was a hit song for which female singer?
[extra point if you can name the film it came from.]
6. Who was the male lead in the film 'It's a Wonderful Life'?
[extra point if you know what his job was 1 year before making the film.]
7. The song 'White Christmas' originally came from a film, true or false ?
[extra point if you can name the original singer.]

MY FAVOURITE CHRISTMAS FILM

Its more than 50 years,since my sister and I first watched ‘It’s a Wonderful Life’ on our flickering 14” black& white TV, - but even then, it was magical, and Clarence the Angel immediately became our favourite film character ever!

Since that first viewing the film has become part of the essential Christmas celebrations in our household, even helping us through bad times, like the dreadful Christmas eve 2000, when our beloved nephew died, and also through lots of much happier times, like celebrating Christmas with our grandchildren.

Every year I would scour the listings of the ‘Radio Times’, until I found out when it would be showing, and then everything had to be set aside for that magical 2 hours, no matter how busy I was! Finally my thoughtful husband bought me my own copy on video, so that I could schedule it in at a suitable time, to put us all in the Christmas mood.

This year I plan to introduce my 11 year old granddaughter to Clarence, and hope that she will love him, [and the film,] as much as I do.

When ‘It’s a Wonderful Life ‘ was released, in 1946, it didn’t win any Oscars,or make a great impact. But its themes, the small-town ,self-effacing hero, who doesn’t realize how important his existence has been to others, and the triumph of the ‘little people’ over a greedy & powerful villain, led to greater & wider acclaim, and its become a traditional part of the Christmas TV schedules ever since.

Long may it continue! And if you haven’t yet seen it, look out for it on TV this Christmas, or better still, get your own copy. I’m sure that, like me, you’ll want to see it more than once, and be reminded of what Christmas really is about. Happy viewing!

Joy Lally

ON THE GRAPEVINE **CONGRATULATIONS** to Carolyn Mills & Miles Jaekel,who were married in the UK on November 20th, with their friends & families present. All the very best for your future together, Miles and Carolyn, from U3A Calpe members.

If you have anything you’d like to announce/publicize/write an article about/comment on/ advertize to give away or acquire, please send the information to Joy Lally, [temporary newsletter editor] preferably 10 days before the monthly meeting date. [e.g Jan.2nd for inclusion in the next edition of the newsletter] Tel. 96 649 8681, or e-mail lallyandjoy@hotmail.com.

ANSWERS TO PUZZLE QUESTIONS

ANAGRAMS; 1. Yuletide greetings 2. Christmas crackers 3. Carol singers 4. A Stable in Bethlehem 5. Mistletoe

DINGBATS; 1. Seven [days between Christmas eve & New Years Day.] 2. J [January] 3. Nine [Ladies dancing.] 4. Four [ghosts in the book, a Christmas Carol.]

QUIZ; 1. Raymond Briggs 2. Aled Jones [Walking in the Air] 3. Jacob Marley [A Christmas Carol] 4. His parents had to go there to be counted in Herod’s census,because they were of the house of David. [Nazareth] 5. Judy Garland [Meet me in St. Louis] 6. James Stewart [Air-force pilot during WW2] 7. True [Bing Crosby]

And Finally..... If you have enjoyed reading this newsletter online, could you be a ‘buddy’ to someone who doesn’t have access to our website? [Around one in 6 of the members present at our last meeting said that they didn’t have access to the web.]

Print them off a copy as an early Christmas present! Then maybe in the New Year you could take them to an internet café and ‘show them the ropes!’ so they can read future editions online for themselves .