

U3A Calpe NEWSLETTER

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

www.u3acalpe.com

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Inter U3A Quiz Night

The return visit from U3A Vall de Pop will hopefully see us into a win! Put your teams of 4 together and sign up this month if you are up for the challenge! It will be held at the Tennis Club in Calpe on Friday 14th March 2014 at 7pm and will cost €12 to include supper (you need to pre-book your menu) and prizes.

Please contact Tina Wallis to book your place on 96 583 3197 or tinamaria19@gmail.com

Hello and welcome to our February newsletter.

We hope that this New Year is treating you well so far and you are keeping up with the constant changing weather we are having!

Please do not forget that without your news and articles to put in it, we would not have a newsletter at all. So please keep sending in your fun facts, stories and news items as we continue into 2014.

We are delighted to announce that our speaker this month will be Judith Goodall, the President of HELP of Denia and Marina Alta. They are looking for volunteers to provide short term support to people when there are medical or other health needs.

Coming events

Our next general meeting will be on **Thursday 20th February 2014** at the Ifach Hotel, Salon Mare Nostrum at 10:00 for 10:30 AM.

Please note that all of our meetings in 2014 will be held at this same venue and time. Here are all of the meeting dates for 2014 to put in your diary:

- 20th March
- 17th April
- 15th May
- 19th June
- 17th July
- August – NO MEETING
- 18th September
- 16th October
- 20th November - AGM

Our speaker next month is your Vice President and Group Leader for the Flower Arranging group, Tina Wallis. She is going to give an informative talk on spring flowers and bulbs.

Member News

Limerick Competition

Members will be pleased to know that we had quite a good response to our Limerick competition. The winner chosen by you, the members, was by Jenny O'Neill who won a bottle of wine for her efforts. Second was Sandy Bianco. The money received will be spent on items for the food bank.

Many thanks to those of you who took the trouble to enter and we hope to have more competitions in the future. Hopefully to form a diversion in our meetings and ideas as to the form these may take would be welcomed by your Committee.

The winning entry by Jenny O'Neill

There was a young girl from Milan
Was chased by a lad with a plan.
He wined, wooed and fed her
In order to bed her
And now she is pushing a pram!

The entry in second by Sandy Bianco

There was a young man from Leeds
Who swallowed a packet of seeds
In half an hour
His chest was in flower
And his bum was covered in weeds!

Travel and Culture

Cuenca and Toledo

Monday 7th to Thursday 10th April,
3 nights 4 days on a half board basis
(bed, breakfast and evening meal
with wine) Cost: €230 per person
(€90 single supplement)

Calasparra

Visit to the Sanctuary of the Virgin of
de la Esperanza on 16th May.
Cost: €10

Caribbean Cruise

Departure from Calpe on 6th
December for 8 night's fly-cruise from
Madrid to Caribbean. Cost varies
depending on choice of cabin. Please
see website for further details.

Moscow and St Petersburg

CANCELLED due to lack of support

Alaska and Vancouver

CANCELLED due to lack of support

More information on these and our
other trips available on our website:
<http://www.u3acalpe.com/trips/coming-trips>

For any further information please
contact John Pickford, Travel
Co-ordinator: **96 583 4904** or
johnpickfordtravel@gmail.com

Rod Anderton, Culture: **96 583 2081**
or rodanderton@yahoo.co.uk

Groups News

Ballroom Dancing

Now meeting on Tuesdays from 4 till
6pm. This class includes a short
lesson and is incorporated with
Marcia's Tea Dance. Absolutely ALL
are welcome

Bridge

Joy Lally is away on holiday until
14th April and during this time Elsa
Townsend will look after the group.
Please contact her on 647 299 319
for all bridge group information.

Card Workshop

Liz Lodge will be running a new
papercraft workshop. She will be at
the General Meeting with a sign-up
sheet and further information.

Choir

We will reconvene on Tuesday 18th
February as Mary is in Oz!

Classical Music

Now meeting on the second Thursday of the month. The next meeting will be on 13th February.

Flower Arranging

This group, run by Tina Wallis, will re-commence on Monday 10th February at 10:30am. Last year, this group moved to its new home of Bar Topacio III on La Fossa beach.

There will be 6 classes between February and Easter. Please contact Tina on 96 583 3197 or tinamaria19@gmail.com for more information and to sign up for this group.

Petanc

Is played every Sunday on the public courts at the far end of the Levante beach at 2pm.

Swimming

The public pool will reopen on Monday 3rd February. Nicola Martinez will restart her U3A session on Wednesday 5th Feb from 10-11am.

They have now offered U3A members various discounts. To get these we need to buy an access members card for only 3 euros. Here are the following monthly payment options:

- Swim, Sauna and Jacuzzi €20 (normal price 35)
- Swim + AquaGym - Tuesdays and Thursdays for €35
- AquaGym only – Tuesdays and Thursdays €28

You must show your U3A membership card and be 60+.

Please contact Nicola for full details on 96 583 2837.

Tennis (Improvers)

The Voramar courts were blown away during the recent winds so the group

are now playing at the Taj Mahal restaurant area. Unfortunately they do not have exclusive use of the courts but same days and time as before: Mondays and Fridays 9-11am. Please contact Dave Roberts for more information on 617 829 665.

Reports

Trip Report: Eastern Med Cruise

From: Rosemary Thomas

Leaving Calpe on a sunny Sunday afternoon we arrived at the port of Valencia where our luggage was taken on board our ship THE GRANDE CELEBRATION.

We then proceeded to our spacious cabins which were very clean and good facilities. Every night we returned to them to find our towels had been sculptured into different sorts of animals on our beds.

The food was excellent with a wide variety of choice and a number of restaurants to choose from. As it was an all-inclusive cruise with drinks included we participated in a different cocktail every evening. After dinner a few of us chanced our luck at Bingo before going into the theatre for the show. The shows were excellent with a wide variety of acts and the dancers from Brazil in their fantastic colourful costumes were amazing. We had a few themed nights namely Halloween and a fancy dress, where a few of U3A members - no name mentioned - were unrecognisable.

On the talent contest night Giovanna came close second with her rendering from Porgy and Bess.

We visited some wonderful places with the weather good most of the time.

All in all we had a wonderful time, well done to the travel team who organised a memorable cruise at a fantastic price...

Trip Report: Gandia Day Trip

From: Audrey Wildman

On September 21st members of the U3A visited Gandia. The coach was fully booked and set off on time from the Esmeralda. We were dropped in Gandia at a car park close to the town centre and since it was a pleasant sunny day, when we came to a small plaza we stopped for a coffee. We spent the next half hour watching workmen erecting fancy lighting and decorations, obviously for a coming fiesta.

We made our way to the Borgia palace where we met our guide. He was a pleasant young man who spoke excellent English and he took us through the rooms of the palace. They did not contain a great deal of furniture but he told us about the history of the Borgias, and explained the significance of the portraits and of the floor and wall tiles. He explained that the name AZULEJOS (Spanish for tiles) came from the original hand made blue and white tiles using cobalt coloured clay, mined locally which gave the tiles the blue colour. The palace was sold in the early 20th century to Jesuit monks and is still used by them as a school. From the roof we looked down on the gardens and school and were amazed to see the river was flowing swiftly. The guide told us it was due to the recent heavy rains which surprised us as it had not rained in Calpe for weeks.

On leaving the Palace we strolled into the town and saw statues of the Borgias including a scantily clad Lucretia. We then entered the

shopping area which was good news for some but not for the chaps.

Passing along more narrow streets which were obviously being set up for a market we eventually arrived at a large open space containing fairground rides and decorations. Here were bands in costumes and lots of children with drums: we realised it was fiesta time. Our suspicions were confirmed when on the stroke of one o'clock, the mazclettas began: what a noise!

We found the restaurant for lunch and sat outside in the sunshine. The wine flowed, the *tapas* were plentiful, the main course more than adequate and the desserts were plates of fruit and cakes. A good choice of venue by our lady organisers.

After a further stroll through town, again hearing lots of music, another drink was called for. The fiesta had started in earnest.

Later, crossing the car park back to the coach, the fiesta stalls and rides were now open and one large Funhouse was devoted to the antics of Mr Bean who is a favourite with Spanish children.

Since the car park was now occupied by the fiesta, the coach was prevented from accessing the area but after a 30 minute delay the problem was overcome and we boarded the coach for the return trip to Calpe.

An enjoyable day out for all and many thanks to the organisers.