

NEWSLETTER



Postal address: U3A Calpe, Suite 416, Total Post, Calle Corebeta 10, Calpe, 03710
 Web site: www.u3acalpe.com

February brings the promise of Spring-time around the corner, and for U3A Calpe it leads us towards our 10th Anniversary. [Be sure to book your place for our Gala dinner, on March 7th, at the Sol y Mar hotel.] Before that we have another special but rather sad occasion, the Memorial Service to celebrate the life of Founding member Jean Laikin, - U3A Calpe member number one, as Jean liked to remind us!

All those who knew Jean are aware of the enormous contribution which she made to Calpe, in her 30 years here, and to her beloved U3A Calpe during the past 10 years. We can only hope that Jean's spirit of adventure, and sense of fun lives on, as her lasting legacy to us all.

New Members

We would like to welcome the 20 new members who joined U3A Calpe during January. We hope that you enjoy taking part in groups activities, and maybe in future even starting up a new group of your own!

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

NEXT GENERAL MEETING: THURSDAY 16th FEBRUARY at the Casa de Cultura. [theatre.] **Please note that this is the 3rd Thursday of the month, not the 2nd.**

The MARCH meeting will be held on Thursday, March 8th, in the Casa de Cultura theatre, at 10-00 for 10-30, when the Charity shop of Calpe will be presenting a FASHION SHOW .

A CELEBRATION OF THE LIFE OF JEAN LAIKIN. This will take place immediately after the General meeting, at 12-00 noon on February 16th, in THE CASA DE CULTURA THEATRE. All those who knew Jean are welcome to attend. There will be a collection taken at the end of the service, for the Caritas charity.

U3A CALPE 10th Anniversary GALA DINNER. Takes place at the Sol Y Mar hotel, [free parking included,] on March 7th, at 7-00 for 7-30. This is a subsidized event, at only 20 euros for members, [guests welcome, at 35 euros.] Live music will be provided by 5-piece band, Strikland, [who appeared at the Sol y Mar during the Xmas period,] & there will be a champagne reception. To book, and for Menu choices, contact Tina Wallis, on 96-583-3197, or see Tina at the next meeting.

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 rodanderton55@yahoo.co.uk

ELCHE trip on March 9th, cost is 30 euros, includes lunch and coach, plus entry to the Museum. Also includes guide to Alcudia's archaeological site, & visit to the Basilica, & shopping areas. Only 5 places left, so hurry!

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. This is bound to be a popular trip, so book early to avoid disappointment.

To find out more about what Valencia has to offer, go to;

www.valenciaguide.org/valencia/valenciahistory.asp

U3A CALPE GROUPS INFORMATION

SPANISH BUDDIES [INTERCAMBIO LINGUISTICO CONVERSATION EXCHANGE]

This is a new approach to learning Spanish, whereby an English speaker and Spanish speaker, who both want to learn the other's language, get together once a week, or more, to practice in an informal atmosphere. Tom Suddards & Liz Evans are organizing this for U3A members, you can contact Tom on 96 587 4111, or e-mail tomsuddards@telefonica.net

BOWLS FOR BEGINNERS This new group has been started by Bill Gilson, assisted by Diane Farmer, who is willing, along with Bill, to coach beginners. So if you'd like to give it a go contact Bill on 96-583-7750, but be warned, it's not as easy as it looks!

FUNDING FOR NEW GROUPS

The majority of the members present at our January meeting voted, by show of hands, to accept the proposals put forward by the committee on this issue. [See January newsletter for details.]

A TRIBUTE TO JEAN LAIKIN.

By Mary Groser



I would like to pay a tribute to Jean Laikin, who died in her sleep on Sunday 15th January.

Jean was a feisty, energetic lady who never let the grass grow under her feet. She achieved much in her life which was good and positive, and made a difference to many other people's lives when they came in contact with her. She was well-known for being a great organizer, and Calpe will be the poorer for losing her.

Jean was on the U3A committee for many years, in fact she was a founding member of the Calpe branch, which is celebrating its 10th anniversary this year. Together with Jackie Johnson, [sadly also no longer with us], she was responsible for its inception here, immediately carving her niche as travel organizer, with great, and unique, effectiveness. She did tremendous research into everything she organized, planning meticulously and working overtime on her computer, checking and booking hotels, coaches, places of interest to visit, restaurants, etc. She also researched the local history which she would relay to her coach load of passengers, often while travelling on the coach, which added much interest to the places visited. All this she did with great verve and panache, so one could not help being caught up in the enthusiasm she always conveyed, when telling us about the exciting places we would visit.

I went on many of these trips over the last 10 years, sometimes for 4-5 days, occasionally a week, to various parts of Spain, [and once to Morocco], and without exception thoroughly enjoyed all of them. Inevitably things went wrong at times, not through Jean's fault. Hotels overbooked, museums closed, bus breakdowns, [twice in my experience], but these mishaps contributed to the colourful "conversation sagas" related and embellished at mealtimes, evoking lots of laughter.

Talking of laughter, how well I remember Jean's. She could be heard at the dinner table all over the place, however large, and never held back, so infectious that it got us all laughing. She loved her tippie - wine, whisky, gin, it sure got her going, and why not? Jean Laikin was a "one-off", there was no-one like her. We who knew her well will always remember her with affection. The majority of Brits in Calpe knew her, as well as many Spanish, Germans and other nationalities. Jean died in her

sleep, what a perfect way to go. Our condolences go to Norman, and the rest of her family. She will be greatly missed.

PUZZLE CORNER

VALENTINE ANAGRAMS 1. Fear Ruby 2. The fortune 3. O redress 4. Nail event 5. Tees wreath QUIZ FOR YOUNG LOVERS!

1. Which lovers made a comical appearance, in a 'play within a play', in one of Shakespeare's comedies? [Bonus point if you can name that Shakespeare play also.]
 2. Who were the famous lovers who married on April 29th last year? And who almost upstaged them?
 3. Who was Saint Valentine? And why is he associated with lovers?
 4. Who played the lovers who had a 'brief encounter' during the 1940's. [bonus point for naming the railway station where their encounters took place.]
 5. Name the 2 wives of David Copperfield, in Dickens book of that title. [bonus point for getting their maiden surnames as well.]
 6. Who was Cleopatra's lover before Anthony came on the scene? [bonus point if you can name their Child.]
 7. Which actress wrote about her marriage to a famous actor, in her book, 'The Two Of Us', & who was he? [bonus point for naming the 1960's TV comedy series, in which she made her TV debut.]
 8. Which of Henry VIII's wives outlived him? [bonus point if you know who she married after Henry's death]
 9. Which pair of young actors made their debut in the 1970's comedy series, 'The Lovers'? [bonus point if you can name his 2 actress daughters.]
 10. Which of Edward VII's lovers was nicknamed 'the Jersey Lily'? [bonus point for naming another of his lovers who was an ancestor of the present Duchess of Cornwall]
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A CLOSE RUN THING

Some time ago I was shooting a line* to Joy about an experience I had, when stationed during the war, at 27 Elementary flying school, at Guinea Fowl, near Gwelo in the region of Bulawayo, in what was Southern Rhodesia, now Zimbabwe. To my surprise she found it of sufficient interest to ask me to write it up for the newsletter. So here goes!

I was coming to the end of a session practising solo acrobatics over the Matopo hills, where Cecil Rhodes is buried, when I realized that I still had considerable altitude relative to the airfield. At 20 years of age I decided that a long, slow descent would be a bit boring, so I was looking around for some alternative, when I spotted the Matopo lake, behind the Maleme dam.

This was too much of a temptation and I could not resist a practice dive-bombing run on the dam wall. I pushed the stick forward and aimed for an area of water in front of the dam, with the intention of pulling up at an appropriate height to lob a theoretical bomb at the dam wall, a la the 'Dambusters'.

Then I had one of the most bizarre experiences of my life. Whilst looking down at the lake I became aware of a pattern of large waves on the top of the water. As I got closer the waves

gradually became larger, and the regular moving pattern in my vision became more & more distinct, with the sun on one side of each wave and shadow on the other. I was fascinated, mesmerized if you like, and made no attempt to look away.

Suddenly a little narrow-gauge steam-engine came puffing along the top of the dam, broke the pattern in my vision, and undoubtedly saved my life. I just had time, by a split-second I think, to pull up and miss the dam by a few feet.

I couldn't hear what the engine-driver had to say about me, but I'm sure I would have concurred with every word!

***In case you don't know the origin of the expression in the R.A.F. 'Shooting a line' it is, I think, generally accepted that it stems from the days when it was common practice for fighter pilots to visit the local inn in the evening, to recover from the days operations. The story is that one such evening a young pilot was entertaining 3 young ladies, and got to a point in his story where he said, 'There I was upside down with nothing on the clock' at the same time he held his hand up, palm upwards. 'Oo' said one of the young ladies, 'What did you do?' At that moment his squadron commander was passing behind him and said, 'He shot a good line And climbed down it'!**

Vic Treen

January 2012

ANAGRAM ANSWERS 1. February 2. Fourteenth 3. Red roses 4. Valentine 5. Sweetheart

QUIZ ANSWERS 1. Pyramus & Thisbe, [A Midsummer's Night Dream] 2. Kate Middleton & Prince William [Pippa Middleton] 3. A Christian Martyr, who married couples according to Christian rites, when Christianity was forbidden in the Roman empire 4. Celia Johnson & Trevor Howard, [Carnforth station] 5. Dora & Agnes, [Spenlow & Wickfield] 6. Julius Caesar, [Caesarius.] 7. Sheila Hancock & John Thaw, [The Rag Trade.] 8. Catherine Parr, [Thomas Seymour] 9. Paula Wilcox & Richard Beckinsale, [Kate & Samantha] 10. Lily Langtry, [Mrs. Alice Keppel]

ON THE GRAPEVINE In our 10th Anniversary year U3A Calpe will, once again, be holding an exhibition in the Casa de Cultura, during the first week of May. As those of you who have attended or taken part in previous U3A Calpe exhibitions will already know, this gives our members a chance to show some of the many activities that we take part in, both within U3A groups, and individually. In previous years, the art work, photography, and mosaics produced by our talented members were particularly admired, and it also gives us a chance to 'showcase' what we do, to non-U3A members, who come to view the exhibition, and maybe even, decide to become a member, as a result.

In our anniversary year we want to make sure that the exhibition is an exceptional one, we have invited the Mayor to open it, and will be publicizing it widely. What we need now are group-leaders to organize work done by their members/ photos of their groups in action/information about their group etc. so that we can show the visitors to the exhibition what a lively, talented bunch of people we are!

Tina Wallis, Joy Lally and Jenny O'Neill will be co-ordinating the organization of the exhibition, so please let Jenny know if you are willing to take a turn at staffing the exhibition for an hour or two, and contact Tina or Joy to let them know your requirements, in terms of tables/exhibition space you will be needing/or with any queries you have. [We would also appreciate help from some nice strong men, in setting up tables, exhibition screens etc. and then removing them at the end of the week!] You can contact Jenny on 96-583-7944, Tina on 96-583-3197 or Joy on 96-649-8681.

AND FINALLY...

At the recent meeting with the Mayor of Calpe, U3A committee members were told that the Social Services department would be setting up a dried goods collection, in order to help local families during the 'Crisis'. Our President, Beverly Holder promised, on behalf of our members, that U3A Calpe would take part in this. We are asking members to bring along dried / canned foodstuffs to our monthly meetings, from March, so that these can be passed on to help this worthy cause. We all get a great deal from being able to live in a lovely place like Calpe, so let's make sure that we also put something back!

We know that many of Jean Laikin's oldest friends would wish to attend her memorial service, but no longer drive, and find it difficult to get to the Casa de Cultura. Could you be a 'Good Samaritan', and offer a lift to any such U3A members? And if you are one of those members who needs assistance, please telephone Joy Lally, 96-649-8681, and she will try to arrange transport for you.

Jean's family will be attending the Celebration of her life, & drinking a toast to her memory at the Pensionista's club later. They cordially invite you to join them, if you were a friend of Jean's.