

# U3A Calpe NEWSLETTER

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

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## Valentine's Dinner & Dance

Please book **now** for Saturday 14th February at the Tennis Club in Calpe. The cost will be approximately €15.

Please book at this month's general meeting or with Tina Wallis on 96 583 3197 or at [tinamaria19@gmail.com](mailto:tinamaria19@gmail.com)

Hello, and welcome to our first newsletter of the New Year.

We hope that you all enjoyed yourselves over the festive season, whether you were here in sunny Spain or were feeling the chill in the UK or other parts of the world.

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 2015.

We look forward to seeing you all at this month's general meeting where we will be enjoying a drink and some *tapas* at the end, compliments of the Ifach Hotel.

## Coming events

Our next general meeting will be on **Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> January 2015** at the Ifach Hotel, Salon Mare Nostrum at 10:00 for 10:30 AM.

We are delighted to announce that our speaker this month will be Dick Hanscombe with his talk entitled “Mediterranean Gardens.”

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

- 19th February
- 19th March
- 16th April
- 21st May
- 18th June
- July and August
- **No meetings**
- 17th September
- 15th October
- 19th November (AGM)

## Website News

From: Pat Spencer

Pat has contributed 3 new items to our Web site: 'Renewing your EHIC card', which is a new page in our Directory, plus 'Holiday Jobs' and 'Non-Melanoma Skin Cancer', both of which are downloadable PDF files in Pat's *Health and well-being* section of the Directory.

Pat thinks the *Holiday Jobs* information will be especially useful.

## Travel

### "Alice in Wonderland"

Careline's pantomime in January 2015.

We are currently looking at the Sunday 18th January Matinée performance showing at Alcalali.

Lunch before at the *Restaurant Castellvi*.

More details on our Web site and at the next general meeting.

### Benidorm Palace

Friday 20th February 2015  
Cost: €55 pp including dinner with wine and cava  
Fabulous show "Efex", and return coach transfers.

### Senorio de Barahonda Winery, Yecla and the Shoe Museum, Elda

Friday 6th March, 2015  
Closing date: 31st January  
Cost: € 35 (Non-members welcome: €40)  
Price Includes lunch and entrance fee to the shoe museum. Book today at [u3atravel@gmail.com](mailto:u3atravel@gmail.com), or at the next general meeting.

## Northern Spain/Southern France

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

Everyone who showed an interest at last months meeting, please put your names on the new list at the travel desk at this months meeting. This trip requires a €10 deposit.

**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 [u3atravel@gmail.com](mailto:u3atravel@gmail.com)

## Just For Fun!

A quiz for the new year.

1. What do the Amish call their fellow Americans?
2. Name these 5 authors, from their middle names:  
— Conan —  
— Stanley —  
— Stearns —  
— Rice —  
— Beecher —
3. What was the name of Charles Darwin's yacht?
4. What is the botanical difference between a tree and a shrub?
5. What comes next: width; height; length; ... ?
6. The store *Primark* is:  
(a) English?  
(b) Irish?  
(c) German?  
(d) Swedish?

## Groups News

### Dance Fitness

This group will be run in association with the U3A as it is an already existing class at the Footlights Studio (formerly New Med Dance).

Giovanna has now opened it up for any members of the U3A who would like to join at any time.

It is held on a Tuesday and Thursday morning from 10-11am and costs €5 per class.

Please contact her for more information on 634 347 937 or [editor@u3acalpe.org](mailto:editor@u3acalpe.org)

### Flower Arranging

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

The dates of classes up to May are:

- 26th January
- 9th February
- 9th & 23rd March
- 13th & 27th April

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.

### Swimming

Nicola Martinez is running her U3A session on Wednesday mornings from 10-11AM.

They offer U3A members various discounts. To get these we need to buy an access members card for only €3. Here are the following monthly payment options with no visit restrictions:

- Swim, Sauna and Jacuzzi €20 (normal price €35)
- Swim + AquaGym - Tuesdays and Thursdays 10-11am for €35
- AquaGym + Gym – Tuesdays and Thursdays 10-11am for €28

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

Please contact Nicola for full details on 96 583 2837.

### Discussion Group

#### Created or evolved?

This is the subject for our next discussion group meeting on January 29th.

The latest evidence of the composition of every living cell in our body shows there to be some 10 to 100 trillion, each one containing 100 million proteins of 20 thousand different types, its data base larger than the whole of the *Encyclopaedia Britannica*. These awesome statistics are often put forward as evidence of God's Creativity as no other entity could have been responsible.

Equally fascinating are other recent scientific revelations. Water from the recently discovered Lake Willem, half a kilometre below the Antarctic ice, is found to have microbial life. More than half the world's ice is older than the Solar System and originated in interstellar space.

The coma of two comets that formed before the solar system have been analysed for the first time and found to contain Hydrogen, Nitrogen, Carbon and Oxygen. These are the essential building blocks of all life on Earth. Most recently, compounds of molecular Nitrogen have been detected by the Philae Lander.

The question is, these elements that created us seem to have existed in the universe at least nine billion years before the Earth was formed, plenty of time for evolution to have done its job, or did 'somebody' create it? Surely it can't be coincidence that the first living cells appeared on earth just when it was cooling down and the bombardment of the icy comets began to fill our oceans?

We are all made from stardust, but are *we* the alien life that SETI has

been searching for throughout the galaxy? This is not a quest to determine if there is a god or not, simply to determine how *we* got here !

If this subject intrigues you, perhaps you would like to come along and join the discussion.

Peter Purvey, 96 583 4139

## **Reports**

### **Event Report: Christmas Formal Dinner and Dance**

*By: Tina Wallis*

On Wednesday, 3rd December 2014, 105 very smartly dressed members and guests gathered together in the foyer of the Ifach Hotel for Cava and canapés, before entering the main salon for a splendid evening of wining, dining and dancing!

The atmosphere was electric. Everybody was in a happy party mood and the room looked very festive with party bags for all.

The wine flowed freely and the staff were very friendly.

The first two courses were wonderful but a few guests were disappointed with their main course. However, the desserts were delicious.

The duo “Timewarp” were excellent and everyone was on their feet dancing the night away.

We had spot prizes and a super raffle of 12 lovely gifts and with the prize from the President of a TV!

We had our own, reasonably priced, bar—and a visit during the evening by our Mayor of Calpe, César Sanchez. He was very willing and was

taken onto the dance floor by some of our ladies.

It was a great evening, full of laughter and fun and it was a lovely way to start off the festive season.

## **Answers to quiz**

1. “The English”
2. Arthur Conan Doyle  
Earl Stanley Gardner  
Thomas Stearns Eliot  
Edgar Rice Burroughs  
Harriet Beecher Stowe
3. *The Beagle*
4. There is no botanical difference. Both trees and shrubs can belong to the same botanical family—of many such families. Trees are just bigger!
5. Time (the 4th dimension)
6. Irish