

U3A Calpe NEWSLETTER

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

www.u3acalpe.org

In this issue

January 2016	1
New members.....	1
Barbara Livesey	2
Travel and Culture....	2
Valencia trip.....	2
Groups	2
Bowling.....	2
Cribbage.....	2
A new group?	2
The Poppy.....	2
January Quiz.....	3
Reports	3
Annual Quiz.....	3
Dinner dance	3
Peter’s Curious Corner	4
From your editor.....	4

Next speaker

The speaker at our January meeting will be Father Marcus talking about his recent trip to India (a non-religious talk).

He is an excellent speaker and we have something to look forward to.

Welcome everyone to the Newsletter for January. Hopefully you have all recovered from the excesses of the festive season and returned safely from wherever you have been. I wonder if my New Year resolutions will last longer than last year: I doubt it!

It is New Year's Eve as I start this month's edition of the Newsletter; the morning sun is streaming into the window of my room here and I reflect on how lucky we all are to be living in this climate and thoughts go to the poor souls in the UK who are affected by the floods, with more rain due to come. I am sure most of you have friends and relatives in these areas and it must be a nightmare for them all.

One of my friends is a paramedic in mid-Wales where resources are severely stretched at the best of times and recently life has been very difficult and upsetting for her and her family who she admits have had it

relatively easy compared with those folk in Cumbria and Yorkshire.

So, to our next U3A year... As you know we return on **21st January** to our first General Meeting and your Committee looks forward to greeting you then.

We will be reinstating the suggestions box used in previous years where you can post (anonymously if you wish) any suggestions for helping us to run our U3A more effectively and efficiently: your Committee really welcomes your ideas and comments.

New members

We welcome the new members who joined us last time and hope they will enjoy their U3A experience and find lots to interest them.

These new members are: Roger Perks, Geoffrey James Bowles, Keith and Nancy Appleyard, Lynn Wishart, and Trevor and Jacqueline Phillips.

Barbara Livesey

We are very sad to report the news of the death of Barbara Livesey on Friday, 8th January. Many thanks go to Pat Spencer for the following tribute to a much loved lady.

Barbara retired to Calpe 30 years ago with Fred her husband, who died last year. They joined many local associations and entered into the Calpe lifestyle with energy and gusto. They were among the first members of the U3A and joined many of the groups: Travel, Bridge, Walking, Creative Writing, Spanish and Bowls, and probably others.

Travel in Spain was one of her main interests and only as recently as October was on a trip to Cullera with MOFTAG.

She loved living in Calpe; she loved the lifestyle here, the social side, and the weather. She was a great host and made new Calpe incomers welcome.

Barbara made many friends over the years and will be remembered by those who knew her with great affection.

Travel and Culture

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.

Valencia trip

Our next day trip is the one to Valencia for shopping on Friday 22nd January, the day after our General Meeting. Your only decisions to make are where in the city you wish to be

dropped off and how to spend your euros in the sales!

Groups

Bowling

I was sent the following photo by Grahame Hall showing a group of 10 Bowling Group members enjoying a game on Christmas Eve in lovely sunshine, followed by pizza and drinks at a sea front restaurant: not a bad life eh?



Photos from any other groups, which you wish to share with others, together with a short caption, will be welcomed for future editions.

Cribbage

We are looking for someone to take on the role of Group Leader for our Cribbage Group. How about it - perhaps one of the newer members would like to step up?

A new group?

Any ideas for new groups will be welcomed: we have rather fewer groups at present than we have had in the past.

The Poppy

By: *Pat Spencer*

The following is an extract from an article (written for the AFPO magazine) which we have not been able to include before. Please forgive the fact

that it is so untimely but I wanted to put it in rather than wait until next November, as we think it is an important topic for us all to consider!

The Great War Veterans of France, Canada, Australia and New Zealand have all adopted the poppy as a national symbol of remembrance. From the writing of a poem that was written under battlefield conditions to the memory of a friend and comrade. And the dedication and determination of two amazing women separated by country but not by ideals. We now have this emblem of the Poppy for “keeping faith with all who died.”

Moina Michael wrote a personal pledge, transfixed as she was by the last verse of the poem:

Oh! You who sleep in Flanders Fields,
Sleep sweet - to rise anew!
We caught the torch you threw
And holding high, we keep the Faith
With all who died.

What the poppy means: a symbol of remembrance and hope, worn by millions of people; red because of the natural colour of field poppies.

It is **not** a symbol of death or a sign of support for war, a reflection of politics of religion, or red to reflect the colour of blood.

Wearing a poppy is a personal choice and reflects individual and personal memories. It is not compulsory but is greatly appreciated by those it helps: those serving in our Armed Forces, the veterans and their families

January Quiz

From: *John Pickford*

1. Who is the oldest actress to play a Bond girl ?

2. Apple's original logo featured which famous inventor?
3. The largest gold statue in the world is a statue of what?

Answers next month!

Reports

Annual Quiz

Our quiz for 2015 was again a rousing success, and thanks go to Anne Melling and her helpers Edith Watson and Helena Hutchings, who all worked over and above the call of duty to ensure we all had a great time. It seems a long time ago now but I am sure you wish to know how your team fared in the scheme of things so here are the results:

1st Prize: Loveable Rogues (Amanda, Roger, Lee & Jenny): 129 points

2nd Prize: Northern Lights (Ian, Bev, Gordon & Sue): 128 points

3rd Prize: Whoevers (John & Teresa Pickford, Gordon & Liz Green): 119 points

No Hoppers & Olta Ego: 117 points

Fearsome Foursome: 116 points

Rodgers Dodgers: 114 points

Lacklustres: 113 points

Pensionistas & Castle Mob: 108 points

A Bridge too Far & North & South: 103 points

Rotovators: 102 points

Fustera Four: 98 points

JL-EM: 97 points

The Blanks: 96 points

Congratulations to the winners and the rest of us hope to do better next time!

Dinner dance

Our next social event will be the dinner dance to be held at Venta la Chata on **Saturday, 27th February**.

All details are on our Web site, and Anne Melling will be waiting to part you from your cash at the next General Meeting, when she will also ask for your menu choices and the names of those on your table.

Over 100 members have signed up already, so make sure you do not miss out if you wish to join us on what promises to be a great night.

Peter's Curious Corner

By: *Peter Purvey*

A four-legged Chinese robot has just walked 134 kilometres on one battery charge. (If it could bring my breakfast in bed I might buy one!)

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The coma of a comet that recently passed through the Solar System has been found on analysis to contain alcohol and sugar. Scientists have named it the "Happy Hour" comet. Unfortunately, it won't return for 8,000 years. (Will it come back as a celestial bar in the sky?)

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Fairbanks, Alaska. Samples from an ice core dating back to 30,000 years ago were found to contain microbes. To the scientist's astonishment, when thawed out they came alive!

From your editor

Don't forget to send me any articles you wish to include in future Newsletters and I will be sure to do so.

Email me at
thebonds14@hotmail.com