

# NEWSLETTER



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Here it is already – the start of a brand New Year! A time for new beginnings, and new ways of doing things. U3A Calpe is starting the year with a new **VENUE**, for our January meeting, the **BOLERO** café/restaurant. And holding the meeting on a new **DAY**, Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> January. Come along and try it – you'll get a free cup of coffee for your efforts!

Its also the time for New Years resolutions – so lets all resolve to be positive, and to look for the good in others. We have a great deal to be thankful for, living in a beautiful place like this, and enjoying the benefits brought to us by our membership of U3A Calpe.

And if your New Years resolutions are to learn a new skill, improve your Spanish, or to lose those extra pounds you put on over Christmas, - take a look at the Groups list, sign up with some of our Group-leaders , at the meeting, or even get yourself a 'Spanish Buddie' [ see details below.]

So lets all look forward to a Happy and successful New Year, for U3A Calpe's 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

## New Members

We wish to welcome those new members who joined U3A Calpe during November and December. We hope that you enjoy taking part in groups activities, and maybe even starting up a new group of your own!

## Forthcoming Events

The next GENERAL MEETING will be on THURSDAY 16<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY at the Casa de Cultura [theatre], the 'The Costa Barber Singers' will entertain you followed by a question and answer 30 minute session by Carol Saunders on the workings of the town hall [non political].

## Travel and Culture

The Travel Group is pleased to announce that Rod Anderton will be heading up culture, and is coming under the wing of the travel Group, which will now be called 'Travel and Culture'. Our new, enlarged group will be offering you the chance to enjoy Cultural & Travel trips and events, which we are currently researching and will announce in due course.

The Careline Theatre Alicali 'JACK AND THE BEANSTALK' Thursday 12<sup>th</sup>. January at 8:00 pm. The price of the tickets reduced to 11 Euros p.p. Having sold our original allocation of 45 tickets, I have reserved a further 10 tickets on a first come basis. Members are arranging their own transport and car sharing, if you need a lift please let John Pickford know.

Come with us to MURCIA and obtain all your shopping in one day, Monday 16<sup>th</sup>. January. Drop off at Ikea and Primark Shopping complexes. For members who prefer to visit the City of Murcia, the coach will also have a drop off point in the city centre. Pick up 8:45 am from outside the Esmeralda Hotel, leaving promptly at 9:00 am. Payment can be made at the U3A General Meeting 11<sup>th</sup>. January or on boarding the coach, there are only 7 bookable spaces left for this trip.

Elche, we hope to go ahead with a day trip to Elche on 9<sup>th</sup>. March. This would include Alcludia's Archaeological Site and Elche's History Museum, a visit to the Basilca, market and shops. The cost including lunch should be 30 Euros [providing there is sufficient interest].

Please contact John Pickford on 96 583 4904, or e-mail [johnpickfordtravel@gmail.com](mailto:johnpickfordtravel@gmail.com)

## 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 others language, get together once a week , or more, to practice in an informal atmosphere. Its being backed by the Ayuntamiento, & organizations, such as AFPO.

Tom Suddards is organizing this for U3A members, you can contact Tom on 96 587 4111, or e-mail [tomsuddards@telefonica.net](mailto:tomsuddards@telefonica.net)

## U3A Calpe Christmas Party

[See photos on our website!]

On December 10<sup>th</sup> 109 of us enjoyed an excellent Christmas party, organized by Tina Wallis, at the Bolero restaurant. We each received a party-bag, and Tina showed us to our tables, [where our menu-choices were displayed, to help with those 'senior moments'!]

The food and drink flowed freely, and the entertainment, by Daniel, was exactly right, gentle ballads when we were eating [and talking,] 'proper tunes' so that those who can ballroom dance were able to do so, [a special commendation here for Maureen and Peter Dunn !]. Then, finally some lively 'Rock 'n roll' era music for the rest of us to jig around to!

We also enjoyed our traditional 'carol service' led by Mary Anderton, and members of U3A Calpe Choir. Tina even managed to provide some 'spot-prizes', including one of her own, beautiful, flower-arrangements. All this for only 12 euros each, definitely the bargain of the year!

As one of our oldest members said, 'It's the best U3A dinner I've ever been to!' So a big 'thank you' to Tina, our Social events co-ordinator, for all her hard work on our behalf – we can't wait for your next event, Tina!

## A New Year's message from the President

Ten years ago, Jean Laikin and the late Jackie Johnson discussed the idea of a Calpe U3A, the idea quickly gained momentum and within a few short weeks, U3A Calpe was born.

As we approach the tenth anniversary of U3A Calpe, we would be remiss if we did not look back with a sense of pride and satisfaction for what U3A Calpe has achieved. It has been an enormous success and in the New Year, we look forward to continuing the fellowship that the U3A Calpe inspires.

To be following in the footsteps of those who have made the U3A Calpe such a huge success is a great honour. I must admit that I was filled with apprehension when elected President, however working with the dedicated members of the U3A Calpe Committee removed most of the anxiety I may have felt.

On this year's Committee are; John Pickford, Vice President and Travel, John is a knowledgeable travel advisor who will continue to ensure that a variety of interesting excursions are offered. Edith Watson, Treasurer, Edith's financial background has proven to be more than adequate in meeting the onerous task of Treasurer. Janet Bond, Secretary, Janet has that wonderful ability of ensuring the Committee is well organized and runs smoothly. Sandy Bianco, Groups Coordinator and Keith Cherry, Sports Coordinator provide continuity from their positions on past Committee's and share their experience and knowledge with the group leaders. Joy Lally, a person of many talents is, during Edith Barton's absence, editing the Newsletter. Val Osborne, Membership Secretary, Val has undertaken the formidable responsibility of maintaining an accurate database of our membership, and last but not the least is Tina Wallis, Social Events Coordinator; the inimitable Tina, has that wonderful talent of turning the most mundane happening into a special occasion.

On behalf of your Committee, it is my privilege to wish everyone a very Happy New Year. May this New Year bring joy and happiness to you, your family and friends, and provide you with many beautiful memories that you may cherish forever.

Beverly Holder



## News items from U3A Groups

### *FLOWER ARRANGING GROUP.*

As from January 9<sup>th</sup>, the Flower Arranging Group will meet on Mondays, 12-45 to 2-45, at the Bolero. Contact Tina Wallis, Tel. 96 583 3197

### *DISCUSSION AND PHILOSOPHY GROUPS*

The Discussion Group continues to meet at the the Galeta Mar Hotel on the 1st and 4th Thursday of each month, at 11-00 am. I would like to see some new faces as we have lost four people recently which makes it hardly worth while to continue. We discuss a variety of topics suggested by members and I invite anyone to pop in and join us for a chat and a coffee.

The Philosophy Group now has nominal dozen or so members with an attendance of six to eight at each meeting but not always the same people as there is a lot of coming and going at all seasons of the year. I don't present any mysterious or deep concepts but try to find some aspect of practical philosophy that I feel would be of interest. Recent topics include, Wisdom and Knowledge; Happiness and Friendship; Old Age, and more recently, Lust for Power, Greed and Religion. I invite those present to express their opinions and sometimes the discussions get quite lively.

I am always open to suggestions from anybody who might have some knowledge or interest in philosophy to suggest new topics for future meetings. We also meet at Galeta Mar on the last Saturday of the month at 3 pm. If you have e-mail I always send out reminders for the meetings.

Peter F. Purvey TEL.96 583 4139

#### ***THE LOSERS GROUP.***

Leader Hilary Hare,tel. 96 649 7014. would welcome new members,- come along and learn how to lose those unwanted pounds.[Lbs, not £s! the cost is only 2 euros,and a piece of fruit.]

#### ***BRIDGE FOR BEGINNERS GROUP.***

New sessions from Jan. 16<sup>th</sup>, 7-00 pm, at Esmeralda hotel. Contact Joy Lally, Tel. 96 649 8681, for details.

### **Funding for New Groups**

In October's General meeting the majority of members, by show of hands, indicated that they wished the Committee to discuss the issue of Funding , for new groups. The following are the suggestions from the Committee, for your consideration;

1. Funding should be offered only to NEW groups, to help them get ' up & running'.
2. Any member seeking such funding should make a written application, briefly stating the nature of their proposed group, the equipment needed, and the use to which U3A funding would be put.
3. This should be given to the Groups Co-ordinator,Sandy Bianco, who will then present it at a committee meeting, for the committee to decide whether funding be granted.
- 4.Any such funding will be in the form of a LOAN, with a maximum value of 50 euros. The loan to be repaid,within 12 months, from group-members contributions.
5. Should the group fail to repay the loan, or cease to operate, any equipment bought with U3A funding will remain the property of U3A Calpe, to be disposed of as the Committee sees fit.

### **Puzzle Corner**

#### ***NEW YEAR ANAGRAMS***

1. YAPP WEARY HEN [to all our readers] 2. MA PANACHE [cheers] 3. VERY SANE EWE[hope it was a good one] 4. SENIOR LOUITS [[try to keep them] 5. SUNDAY ANGELIS [Och aye]

#### ***QUIZ FOR BRIGHT PEOPLE***

1. Name the one sport in which neither the spectators,nor the participants, know the score, or the leader, until the contest ends.
2. What famous North American landmark is constantly moving backwards?
- 3.Of all vegetables only 2 can live to produce on their own for several seasons,instead of having to be planted every year. What are these perennial vegetables?
- 4.Which fruit has its seeds on the outside?
- 5.In many liquor stores you can buy Pear brandy,with a real pear inside the bottle.How did it get there?
6. Only 3 words in English begin with DW, what are they?
7. There are 14 Punctuation-marks in the English language.Can you name at least 7 of these?
8. Which is the only vegetable or fruit that is never sold frozen, canned, processed,cooked,dried, - or any other way except fresh?
- 9.Name 6 things you can wear on your feet which begin with the letter 'S'

ANSWERS ON PAGE 4

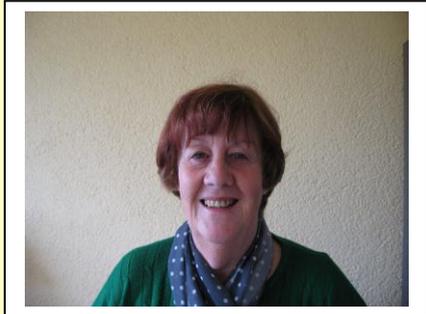
### **Profile of our new Secretary Janet Bond**

Janet and her husband Ray were brought up and educated in London, married in 1966 and moved from London to Malvern in Worcestershire when they wanted to buy their first home, deciding that a move out of the city would make for a better quality of life away from the high prices in the south east.

Ray spent his working life in the construction industry as a Senior Estimator and Surveyor and Janet joined the Civil Service on the move to Malvern. They moved a couple of times during their working life, but remained in Herefordshire; in Ledbury and a village near Ross on Wye.

Their decision to retire to Spain happened when one of Ray's brothers who had a holiday home further 'down south' suggested they look for a property nearby and they did what many folk did which was one of those cheap 4-day inspection trips popular in the property boom which now seems long ago! Janet and Ray decided that they preferred the area around Calpe with its proximity to Moraira, Benissa, Javea and Denia and eventually purchased a new villa in the La Fustera area of Benissa which they love and moved with their two Cavalier King Charles Spaniels and Burmese and Tonkinese cats some 9 years ago.

'Joining the U3A was one of the best things I ever did', said Janet with so many activities, available just for the choosing although in her case it was the desire to learn Spanish which she considered to be a



necessity rather than a desire in the first instance. Janet now coordinates the U3A Spanish classes but admits she has a long way to go before becoming a competent Spanish speaker. She took over the duties as Secretary of our U3A after the AGM in October and is thoroughly enjoying being more involved in the running of the organisation.

'But what do you find to do?' several folk have asked from their homes in the UK with the central heating on 24/7 from September to May, huddled round the fire to keep warm. 'Well', we say, 'Come to this part of Spain and you will find us playing sports in Tee shirts

in December, walking the prom with our pets in sunshine for most of the year and even in the harshest winter there's usually some sunshine to be enjoyed. We've even had a picnic on Calpe beach on Boxing Day'. It's a good retirement here with so much to do we often ask ourselves how we ever had time to go to work!!

### Answers to Puzzles

**ANAGRAM ANSWERS.** 1. Happy New Year 2. Champagne 3. New Years Eve 4. Resolutions 5. Auld Lang Syne.

**QUIZ ANSWERS** 1. Boxing 2. Niagara falls [the rim wears down 75cm. every year due to water/sand pouring over it] 3. Asparagus, Rhubarb 4. Strawberry 5. It grew there! Bottles are wired onto tiny fruitlets on the tree, and removed once each pear grows & ripens. 6. Dwarf, Dwell, Dwindle. 7 Comma, full stop, exclamation-mark, question-mark, hyphen, parentheses, quotation-marks, colon, semi-colon, dash, brackets, period, braces and ellipses. 8. Lettuce. 9. Shoes, slippers, socks, stockings, sandals, skates, skis, snowshoes, stilts, sneakers.

### On the Grapevine

We hear that U3A Calpe's choir members are enjoying a well-earned rest after a hectic Christmas programme of events, which included a concert at La Senieta, for Teulada-Moraira Lions, a Carol Service at Nuestra Senora de la Merced church, performances for local Children's and Old-people's homes, and their sell-out concert in the Salon Blau, which raised over 700 euros for charity, [& had a lengthy 'write-up' in The Post, on December 21<sup>st</sup>.] Well done to you all, and a special thank you to Mary Anderton and Gordon Lightfoot, for all their hard work.

### AND FINALLY...

U3A Calpe Bowls group enjoyed a good day out on Boxing Day, playing bowls in glorious sunshine, and then enjoying a festive drink, [or two!] with tapas. A full report, with photos, appeared in The Post, on January 4<sup>th</sup>, nice headgear everyone.... but how did Santa manage to eat anything through that beard?

Make sure that you sign up for U3A Calpe's 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gala dinner & dance, to be held on March 7<sup>th</sup>, at the Solymar hotel. This is a subsidized event, at only 20 euros each, so don't miss out!

Tina Wallis will be taking names/money at the January meeting, Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup>, at the Bolero.[Even free parking is included, another winner from Tina!]