

# NEWSLETTER



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March heralds our 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary, and if you are picking up this newsletter at our March 8<sup>th</sup> meeting, our Gala dinner is already a thing of the past, we hope that you enjoyed it! [or if you are reading this online, hope you have a good time there!]

Many thanks to those of you who have brought along a contribution for our dried/canned foods collection, which will be passed on to Calpe social services department, for distribution to needy families in Calpe. We hope to make these collections at every General meeting from now on, and if there are groups who want to set up collections of their own, that would also be welcomed.

## New Members

We wish to welcome those 18 new members who joined U3A Calpe during February. We hope that you enjoy taking part in groups activities, and maybe even starting up a new group of your own!

## FORTHCOMING EVENTS

NEXT GENERAL MEETING will be on THURSDAY 8<sup>th</sup> MARCH at the Casa de Cultura. [theatre]. Where we will be having a Fashion show, put on by the Calpe charity shop. So come along and you may find the very thing to spruce up your Spring wardrobe!, in addition there will be an introduction to the New U3A website by Michael Scannell.

Our APRIL meeting will be on THURSDAY, 12<sup>th</sup> APRIL, 10-00 for 10-30 at the Casa de Cultura theatre.

**JEAN LAIKIN** Norman and Jean's family would like to thank everyone who came to celebrate Jean's life, at the Casa de Cultura, on 16<sup>th</sup> February. Some lovely memories were shared and 330 euros were raised, to donate to charity. The majority of this money has been given to Caritas, with a smaller amount having been donated to the Mayor's new charity.

## TRAVEL AND CULTURE

Contact John Pickford 96 583 4904, or email: [johnpickfordtravel@gmail.com](mailto:johnpickfordtravel@gmail.com), or Rod Anderton, 96-583-2081, email: [rodanderton@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:rodanderton@yahoo.co.uk)

ELCHE trip on March 9<sup>th</sup>, 57 of our members will be setting off to Elche, we have 2 spaces available, due to a late cancellation. Those going please note 8.30am outside Esmerelda hotel.

VALENCIA DAY TRIP, MONDAY JUNE 11<sup>TH</sup>. "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, and is filling up fast, so book early to avoid disappointment.

Valencia info. On [www.valenciaguide.org/valencia/valenciahistory.asp](http://www.valenciaguide.org/valencia/valenciahistory.asp)

**NEW TRIP** CARTAGENA VISIT. April 19<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup>. 2 day coach trip and tour of this historical city, founded by the Carthaginians, an important port for the Roman empire, and many other civilizations. Price of 94 euros includes overnight stay in a 3 star Hotel, with half-board included. Visits to places of cultural interest are included, [but not entrance fees.]

Deposits of 25 euros p.p, being taken at the travel desk, balance by 31<sup>st</sup> March<sup>t</sup>, or contact John Pickford. (see contact details above)

**STOP PRESS !** "IBIZA TRIP WILL NOW BE 21<sup>st</sup>- 24<sup>th</sup> MAY"

## **U3A CALPE GROUPS INFORMATION**

**WATERCOLOUR PAINTING and MOSAICS.** We need volunteers who are willing to run these groups, either in their home, or at a public venue. We know that there are talented Watercolour painters and Mosaic-makers out there, but our current watercolour class, run by Carole Ritchie, is full, & is likely to remain so, while our former mosaics teacher has moved away.

You don't need to be an expert to run a group, many of our groups are 'mutual, self-help' based, whereby all the members help each other, and share resources, whilst enjoying their activity. So if you'd like to get involved in either of these groups, or in getting them up & running, please let our Group co-ordinator, Sandy Bianco, have your details. Tel. 96-574-4850, or email [sandvebianco@gmail.com](mailto:sandvebianco@gmail.com)

### **U3A CALPE - JACKIE JOHNSON AND THE STARTING POINT : By Brian Johnson**



When Jackie and I came to spend more time in Spain after I took semi-retirement she had heard about the U3A movement in the UK and felt it would be a good idea to start a U3A in Calpe. She had also heard that Jean Laikin had harboured similar thoughts. Consequently, in March 2002 a meeting was held in bar Union, with a gathering of like-minded people we knew, and a friend of ours who was holidaying in Spain at the time, and who was an English U3A member, gave us a talk about the U3A in general, and all about the various groups in his local branch.

This generated great interest and a further meeting was arranged for April, which was attended by about fifty people. Various groups were initiated and have proved very successful. Jackie, for instance, started a Creative writing group, and subsequently two of her members managed to get books published.

Jackie also started the first Walking group intended for people with various disabilities, and this group also

proved to be very popular.

Jean Laikin was more into social affairs, and organized many trips, and very popular lunches at various restaurants.

In November an AGM was held and Mary Anderton was elected as our first President, and eventually a constitution was drawn up, as required by Spanish law, then it was 'All systems go!'

The rest is now history. Calpe U3A has blossomed to what it is today, with over 500 members, and more than 40 groups.

Consequently other branches have been formed in various towns up and down the Costa Blanca. We have many interesting groups in our own U3A, and numerous social events, which have brought people together, and for people on their own it is a great opportunity to make friends.

So I am very proud of what Jackie and Jean have achieved for us, but also very sad that both are no longer with us to share in the enjoyment which the U3A brings to our lives.

## **PUZZLE CORNER**

**ANAGRAMS 1. VAIN ANY SERR 2. JAM BOUND EIDEL 3. DASH YOUR VEEST 4. A GLAD NINER 5. BINTH RUNGS**

**ANNIVERSARY QUIZ**

1. If your husband bought you a ruby brooch for your Wedding anniversary which one would you be celebrating?
2. Who was warned to ‘ beware the Ides of March,’ and what happened when he ignored this warning?
3. Shrove Tuesday was celebrated on february 21<sup>st</sup> this year. Why do we traditionally eat pancakes on this day?
4. Which female British singer had a hit song entitled ‘ the Anniversary Waltz’?
5. Why do Scots celebrate on January 25<sup>th</sup>? And how do they traditionally do so?
6. Which UK football team mark a solemn anniversary in February every year by wearing black armbands, and what is this anniversary?
7. On what date is Saint Swithin’s day? And why is the weather on this day so important?
8. What Royal anniversary is being celebrated this year, and who was the only other British monarch to enjoy the same celebration?
9. If you had been married for 9 years, what would you expect your Anniversary presents to be made from?
10. Chinese New Year, on January 23<sup>rd</sup> brought in the year of the Dragon. Which of the following is NOT one of the animals which appears in the Chinese calendar. DOG PIG CAT MONKEY

[ANSWERS ON PAGE 4]

**ENID’S KITCHEN**

**SEA BASS WITH ROCKET AND POTATO PUREE**

Pre-heat the oven to 180 c/ gas mark 4. Prepare 1 tablespoon each of chopped flat-leaved parsley and oregano, also 3 tblsp. Chopped rocket.

Meanwhile, peel and cut into chunks 1 kilo of potatoes. Bring to the boil then salt & simmer until tender, not falling apart.[20–25 minutes.]

Line a baking tin with parchment paper. Using 1 kilo of sea-bass, cut it into thin slices & spread it on the paper.

Prepare a dressing to cover the fish. Whisk together 100mls olive oil, juice of 1 lemon, 2 tblsp hot water & salt and pepper in a bowl. Add the chopped parsley & oregano & a crushed garlic clove. Brush the fish with this.

When the potatoes are ready cook the fish in the oven for 4 minutes whilst you drain and mash the potatoes, adding oil or butter to create a thick puree. Stir in the rocket, season to taste & serve with the fish.

**Calpe U3A Table Tennis Group**

The U3A Table Tennis group started some seven years ago in the Gran Sol hotel. We played on an old badly treated table in a very cramped space.

We then moved on to the Esmeralda Hotel, still with only one table. With the improved venue in a more central location our numbers began to swell, and we extended the time to accommodate more levels of play, with beginners playing in the first half, and more experienced players in the second half of the three hour session.

Now look at us. We have played at the Sports Hall since late 2008. Nine very reasonable tables, and we have over thirty people attending most weeks, over forty sometimes, but the list of players is much greater. There are varying standards of players, from people who have never held a bat, to some who have played in a league somewhere. **ALL ARE VERY WELCOME - AND FOR THE COST OF ONLY A EURO A SESSION.** The only stipulations are that you have fun and support the bar upstairs.

We also allow guest players, friends and family of members, who come out here on holiday for a couple of weeks, and they are welcome to join us.

There is talk of charging us for the sports hall or pavillion, but at the moment it is free. We are so lucky. Keith Cherry

**ANAGRAM ANSWERS** 1. Anniversary 2. Diamond Jubilee 3. Shrove Tuesday 4. Gala Dinner 5. Burns Night

**QUIZ ANSWERS** 1. 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary 2. Julius Caesar, he was assassinated on the steps of the Senate. 3. To use up fatty rich ingredients, before fasting for Lent. 4. Anne Shelton 5. The Birthday of Robbie Burns, a Haggis is piped in by a bagpipe player, and a toast of whisky drunk. 6. Manchester united, the Munich air disaster. 7. July 15<sup>th</sup>, it is reputed that if it rains that day there will be rain for the next 40 days!. 8. The Queen's Diamond Jubilee, Queen Victoria. 9. Copper 10. Cat.

### **ON THE GRAPEVINE Willing Volunteer required! To run the "buddy scheme"**

We know that some of our Members do not have access to computers and as these are such useful tools for communication within our U3A we have decided to introduce a 'buddy scheme' whereby they can be helped in this respect.

The actual running of the scheme would be down to the organiser to do as they think fit, so in the first instance we are seeking a willing volunteer to take on the organisation of this task. If you think you would like to help please get in touch with one of the committee and we will take it from there....

***AND FINALLY.....*** A message for all you Chess players, from the President of Calpe Chess club.

Hello, my name is Edward Teal, and I am the actual President of Calpe Chess club.

I would like to invite any of your chess playing members to come along and join us at the club.

We meet every Friday at 9-00 pm at the Casa de Cultura, [seminar II]

The atmosphere is friendly and welcoming, and it does not matter if they do not speak Spanish, Neither do the chess pieces! I can be contacted at [ajedrez@calpe.es](mailto:ajedrez@calpe.es). or [TEAL@telefonica.net](mailto:TEAL@telefonica.net)

Saludos, Edward Teal

**5 MINUTE QUIZ;** what word connects the following? a. John Philip Sousa b. an American called Jo, one of several sisters c. a 'mad' animal whose hindlegs are longer than its forelegs d. Julius Caesar e. the third out of a series of twelve?



