

NEWSLETTER



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Maytime greetings to all our members, but in particular to Enid and Peter Barton, who are at last back here in Calpe, after a long, and painful 'exile' recovering from their serious road accident in the UK. You can read their thank-you letter below, and we'd like to say welcome back to them both. We hope that most of our members managed to get along to our 10th Anniversary Exhibition, earlier this month, to see what a talented group of people we have in U3A Calpe, and what varied activities are on offer. If its inspired you, pick up a groups list, make a phone call, and take up a new activity, or better still, start up a new group of your own!

New Members

Welcome to those new members who joined U3A Calpe during April. We hope that you enjoy taking part in group activities, trips and events this year, and perhaps consider helping to run the U3A in future, we will be needing more committee members and 'Helping hands' next season, when some of our existing officers take a well-earned rest!

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

NEXT GENERAL MEETING will be on THURSDAY 17th MAY at the Casa de Cultura. [theatre.] 10-00 for 10-30. Our speaker will be Geneology expert, Mike Rendell, topic 'who do you think you are'? Our JUNE meeting will be on THURSDAY, 14th JUNE. As usual its at 10-00 for 10-30 at the Casa de Cultura theatre, when its hoped that our speaker will be telling us all about the U3A's Far-east cruise!

MESSAGE FROM PETER & ENID BARTON We have much appreciated being members of the U3A for the last 5 years, but even more so over the last 6 months. Being victims of a nasty car crash last October was very upsetting. Yes, we often repeated to ourselves "it's a miracle we are alive" This is what the first Police-officer as the scene said to our son. Cards bearing good wishes arrived, e-mails followed & phone calls enquiring after our progress continue. These kind thoughts have meant a lot to us, and supported us at low moments.

Thank you, all of you. We are looking forward to meeting up again, when, hopefully, we are back in Calpe on April 29th. Peter has been very positive and has started fishing again with my brother, as he can sit on a seat by the ponds nearby. I have worn out the charms of the nearby town of Ashbourne, and enjoyed the recent good weather which sees Derbyshire at its best, with lush grass dotted with lambs and spring flowers. Now we feel 'we must go down to the sea again' and look forward to seeing you all.

Thanks again, Enid & Peter Barton

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 rodanderton@yahoo.co.uk

VALENCIA DAY TRIP, MONDAY JUNE 11TH now fully booked .Contact John re any cancellations

MAY 28th VISIT TO THE CAVES OF CANELOBRE AND VALOR CHOCOLATE FACTORY This is a day-trip, starting with a visit to the Valor chocolate factory, at Villajoyosa, the 'Joyful village'. We will then set off for the Caves of Canelobre, approximately 24K from Alicante, stopping for a 3-course meal en-route, [wine & water included.]

The price, all-inclusive, is 25 euros each. Contact John Pickford or book at the next meeting.

AYORA HONEY FESTIVAL OCTOBER 13th & 14th This is a festival to celebrate the life of the Bee, and all its by-products, and is the largest of its kind in the Valencia region. Cost will be around 75-

85euros, which includes coach travel, and overnight HB stay at a hotel in Comfretes, 20K from Ayora village.

There are 55 places available, and the closing date for bookings is June 30th 2012.

U3A CALPE GROUPS INFORMATION

WATERCOLOUR PAINTING A second Watercolour painting group will be starting on June 18th. This will be run by Hilary Hare, and will take place on Monday afternoons, at her house. Contact Hilary, tel 96 649 7014, or Sandy Bianco 96 574 4850 for more details.

DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY Any one who saw Ian Coleman's photographs in our recent exhibition, and who feels inspired to learn some tips from Ian, please contact him, on 96-583-4388 or sign up on the groups list at our May meeting.

Travel Report on the Cartagena Trip

This trip was organized by Campello U3A, so only 7 of us boarded in Calpe, picking up 30 more U3A passengers, with Elle our excellent guide, & Boris, our intrepid coach driver. We arrived at midday in Cartagena, where Elle took us to see the Art Nouveau Town Hall, & we then had a boat trip round the harbour & bay, where the P&O liner 'Azora' & Sailmotor Cruiser 'Windsurf' were berthed.

Cartagena is a thousand year old city, Hannibal & Escipion battled over it, The Carthaginians settled there in 229 bc, to be conquered by the Romans in 209bc.

Viewed from the sea are monuments like the roman theatre & forum, which we later visited.

After offloading & lunching at hotel Manolo we travelled through the city, viewing the modernistic railway station, then taking the lift to the Castillo de la Concepcion, for a panoramic view of the port & city. Built in 13th Century for King Alfonso 'the wise', it is now an interpretation centre, helping visitors understand the history of Cartagena.

On the way down 4 of us called to view the Civil War Shelters Museum, built in one of the many shelters, which showed a sample of the profound changes in everyday life suffered by the population during the Civil war. Cartagena suffered severe bombing due to the strategic importance of its port. After dinner, and a good night's sleep, we set off next day to visit the roman theatre & museum, passing from the modern plaza del Ayuntamiento, back to the 1st Century bc. Here are many artifacts discovered when excavating the city. We then entered the magnificent theatre of ancient Carthage Nova, built to entertain 6000 spectators, with an imposing stage façade, set to display the interplay of the materials used, a truly remarkable building.

We then went to visit the Casino a gentlemen's club, [unfortunately closed to visitors that morning] & we were sorry when we were told we'd be leaving for Mar Menor & La Manga*. Most Calpe U3A members would rather have stayed in Cartagena, - but another visit won't go amiss!

Our thanks go to Theresa, from Campello U3A, for arranging the trip, Elle for being such a good guide, & Boris, for getting us there & back safely. Valerie Trundle

* Or as Jean Laikin put it, in her own inimitable style, on one of her many trips, "I'm now going to take you to Mar Menor, - so that you never need go there again!"

PUZZLE CORNER

ANAGRAMS

A Days Eats [without the 5 a day!]

1. per skip [1 word]
2. log flambe & kor shine ruddy pig [5 words]
3. rally joy, mop [3 words]
4. eat coated steaks [2 words]

MAYTIME QUIZ

1. On what date in May was 'Empire day' traditionally celebrated, in 19th century England?
2. What famous football event takes place in the UK in May, and which 2 Premiership teams will take part in it this year?
3. Which native British shrub has thorns & red-berries, and is commonly known as 'May'?
4. 'It is the month of Maying, and? Complete the line of this traditional English song.

5. Which group of people were transported in the ship the Mayflower, and where were they travelling to?
6. What is the famous gardening event which is held every year in the UK during May, and where is it held?
7. Which 'May' invited a young Cary Grant to 'come up sometime, and see me.'?
8. Which famous book, by H.E.Bates, introduced us to the Larkin family?
9. What does V E day commemorate? And on what date does it take place?
10. Which insects are commonly known as 'Maybugs'?

ANSWERS ON PAGE 4

MORE MEMORIES OF RAF ELEMENTARY FLYING SCHOOL.

By Vic Treen

I come to the third of my anecdotes about near misses from death during the early days of my flying training and you may wonder why I am still concentrating on this aspect of learning to fly. A long time ago I read an article about the ratio of deaths of pilots during flying training to those killed by enemy action in combat. It was a staggering figure of almost 25% and I never saw it published again. I suspect they did not want a sudden drop in the number of appropriate applicants!

I was engaged in a solo cross country to Salisbury, the name of the capital of Southern Rhodesia at that time. For most of the time the flight was pretty much routine with the opportunity of seeing the railway track to my starboard side from time to time. Having landed and enjoyed a mug of tea and a bun, after reporting to control, I had to set out on a course which needed proper navigation and meant flying over the bundu nearly all the way.

Bundu was the typical countryside, totally barren with short scrubby trees, thick bush and tall dried grasses which hid stony ground dotted with boulders. That meant that in the case of a serious problem there was no chance of making a controlled landing.

After about 45 minutes I checked fuel tanks and found the port tank half full and the starboard tank just over a quarter full, so I changed the tanks and carried on. Then I made my big mistake. I decided to be a clever dick and changed back, to bring the level in the starboard tank to precisely one quarter. A bit later I spotted a mountain away to the right and took a fix on it. I noted the time and flew on for a while and then took another fix and noted the time again. Now knowing my groundspeed from the time between fixes I was able to calculate my position from the angles and enter it in the log book. I went back to enjoy the solitude again, a lovely sunny afternoon, not a living thing in sight in any direction, a tail wind and very little drift.

And then the engine stopped. Now my mind really was concentrated! Look downwind for a possible landing site. No point, it was a bundu all the way. Start checking the instruments, cylinder head temperature O.K. oil pressure low, fuel pressure zero. Oh God, I had forgotten to change the tanks.

Now, in any other training craft that would have been certain disaster in these circumstances, but I was in a Fairfield Cornell, the only plane I ever came across that had a self-starter. I needed luck to get it to restart in the air but if I worked fast, before the engine cooled too much I had a chance. I put the nose down to increase airspeed to apply torque to the propeller, then I had to pump slowly with my left hand to start priming the carburettor, pump very fast with my right hand to bring fuel up from the tank and judge from the instruments when the pressure was right to press the starter button.

Whilst this was going on I had to operate the joystick with my knees so that I did not drop a wing and go into a spin. At the same time I had to keep my feet balanced on the rudder pedals to keep her straight. After about 3 or 4 revolutions the engine fired – and I was going to stay alive!

I would like to claim remarkable skill for this outcome, but I know in my heart that once again I had been very lucky. The rest of the flight was uneventful and I logged in normally when I got back to base. The log book entries made no mention of the stupid juggling with the tanks!

[The editor would like to thank Vic for sharing his experiences as a young WW2 pilot with us, and say that we're very glad that he lived to 'shoot us a line' or two!]

ENID'S KITCHEN

Sweet Strawberry Cupcakes

Pre-heat oven to 180c/mark 4 Line a 12 hole baking tin with paper-cases.
 Prepare the batter. Beat together 100ml sunflower oil[lighter than olive oil] 90 grams Caster sugar [or grind ordinary sugar] and 2 eggs until the mix looks 'caramelly'
 Add 200 grams of mashed strawberries, sieve in 180 grams plain flour mixed with $\frac{3}{4}$ teaspoon of bicarbonate of soda.
 Pour mixture into the cases,[leave room for rising] and bake for approx. 20 minutes.
 Cool on a rack,
 Choose your own decoration.

ANAGRAM ANSWERS 1. kippers 2. leg of lamb & Yorkshire pudding 3. jam roly poly 4. toasted teacakes

QUIZ ANSWERS 1. May 24th 2. The F.A. cup, Liverpool & Chelsea 3. Hawthorn 4. ...merry lads are playing 5. The Pilgrim fathers, leaving England for America 6. Chelsea flower show, held in the Chelsea pensioners gardens in London 7. Mae West 8. The Darling Buds of May 9. Victory in Europe, after WW2, on May 8th 10. Cockchafer beetles [Melolontha melolontha]

ON THE GRAPEVINE We hear that congratulations are in order, to two of our members, Brian Norman and Peter Lally, who along with other members of the Costa Blanca mountain walkers, 'swept the board' in the recent Mirador challenge walk, held in Javea. The CB mountain walkers took 1st, 2nd & 3rd places, Brian & Peter's team of three receiving 3 cups, [for fastest completion of a single section, coming in second place overall, only 1 minute behind the winning team, & for being the oldest competitors to complete the 27 Kilometre course!] Well done to both of you!

AND FINALLY... Thank you to all those who helped out with our recent exhibition, the Group-leaders who took the trouble to display the activities and work done by their groups, those who helped set up and dismantle the exhibition, those involved in publicizing the event, and the people who took part in helping to staff the exhibition. It wouldn't have happened without you!

A special thank you to Rod & Mary Anderton, for stepping in when illness & absences depleted the numbers of committee members, & for arranging the cava reception for the Mayor and other guests.

Carole Saunders also deserves our thanks, despite her busy lifestyle, & rehearsals for the forthcoming G&S production, 'The Mikado' she was always happy to help out, to ensure that everything went smoothly.

And a final thank you to Michael Scanell, our website master in John's absence, who never failed to help out in tracking down suitable photographs, publicizing the event on the website, producing cd copies, etc. and all in record time!

Joy Lally[temporary Editor]