

U3A Calpe NEWSLETTER

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“Hello to Summer”

Our 2016 summer lunch will be on **Thursday, 16th June**, after the June general meeting.

Details on page 3—and on our Web site..

Hi everyone. Here is the newsletter for May. It may appear a little thin this month, after April's bumper issue, but I have been languishing with a heavy cold the past few days and not up to pounding the keys with no brain cell working.

New members

Here are the names of the new members who joined in April.

Maria Del Carmen
Robert Paul Hodge
Irene and Jim Dewar
Michael Pilling
Leonard Jefferies.

We hope as usual you find plenty to enjoy amongst the activities we offer.

We have had many new members joining us since January and it would be very much appreciated if some of you would consider starting a Group or give some thought to standing for the Committee at the AGM in November.

Contact Diane Putnam or one of the committee if you would

like to step up (contact details may be found on our Web site).

Coming events

The next General Meeting will be on **Thursday, 19th May** at the *Hotel Ifach*, at 10:00AM for 10:30.

No guest speaker this time, but 2 members—Mary Anderton and Peter Purvey—will each give a brief talk.

Members who have heard them before will know how interesting and amusing they can be!

We will be organising nibbles with a glass of wine—or if you prefer, orange juice or water—on the patio just outside the meeting room after the meeting closes, which will give you a chance to socialise and circulate, and have a chat with your friends.

Publicity flyer

We have produced a flyer about the Calpe U3A, with a membership application form attached.

It gives a taste of opportunities on tap through the U3A, and will be available at many different locations in the town—banks, the Town Hall, estate agents, solicitors, hairdressers and many more.

It will play its part in growing our membership.

Note: the printable membership application form on our Web site has also been updated:

<http://www.u3acalpe.org/sites/default/files/U3A-Application-Form-2016.pdf>

Since it is a tad more easy to fill in than the form on our flyer, and contains information missing from that form, it is the one which we hope applicants will continue to use.

Body Donation

A sensitive subject this but something which members have asked about.

There is a change to the rules for body donation to Alicante University and **anyone who has previously registered must do so again using the new forms.**

There is now a charge of €1,000 for the removal of the body to the university, payable to the undertaker chosen. . There are also some changes to the terms and conditions, which are explained in the forms. A member who has used the new forms this tells us it is a simple matter to re-register.

We have copies of the forms in both Spanish and English. They are available to anyone who contacts me (thebonds14@hotmail.com) and we will put them on our Web site.

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.

Day Trip: Canelobre Caves and Valor Chocolate Museum

Tuesday, 7th June

30 euros per person, including lunch and guides



- Pick up at 9:30 from Hotel Esmeralda for our journey to Villa Joyosa to enjoy our tour of the *Valor* chocolate museum and processing facility
- We are allowing, say, 2 to 2 and a half hours for you to enjoy your lunch at an excellent restaurant which the team have already checked out for us
- After lunch we will visit the magnificent Caves of Canelobre, just 24 kilometres inland from Alicante near Busot, which are said to be Spain's largest and deepest cave system

Check out our Web site for further details

Cofrentes and the Ayora Honey Festival

7th - 9th October
(3 days, 2 nights)



Our suggested programme is on our Web site, but please feel free, if you prefer, to do your own thing while there.

Day trip to Xátiva

Monday, 7th November

Visit to the Xátiva brewery and its Castle.

Groups

Discussion Group

This group next meets on 26th May at 3:00 PM at Peter Purvey's house. You may ring for details on 96 583 4139. Discussion this month will include: schools to academies, Trump for President, and the most useful and influential gadgets of all time. All suggestions welcome.

“Hello to Summer”

Our 2016 summer lunch will be on **Thursday, 16th June** after the June General Meeting.

The menu is on our Web site. You can also browse it at our next meeting.

Sign up at the meeting or contact Anne Melling direct on **667 764 292** or at anneandtom16b@gmail.com if you or your friends wish to make up a party.

May Quiz

By: *John Pickford*

Despite common belief, the word *sushi* does not refer to raw fish but?

1. Vinegary Rice
2. Pickled Ginger
3. Wasabi Sauce

Answers next time!

Peter Purvey's Curious Corner

Improved relations between the USA and Cuba may result in universal use of a new compound developed in 2006 by the Cuban centre for genetic engineering that eliminates the need for amputations for those with diabetes. 90% of lower limb amputations are caused by diabetes.

*

Did you know that the calories in two slices of normal-sized pizza require 3.5 miles of walking or 43 minutes of running to eliminate?

*

Three planets circling a star 40 light years from Earth may have the right qualities to harbour life. They are the most Earth-like planets ever discovered in our Solar System.

*

A four hundred year old fossil sea creature, recently found, apparently dragged it off-spring around in capsules attached to its back by strings. The one centimetre sized animal is not related to any living

creature. (An alien seeing a dog walker for the first time may cause puzzlement!)

Answers to last month's Quiz

1. The game 'Chinese checkers' originated in what country?

Answer: Germany

Ah yes, Chinese Checkers, a wonderful variant of checkers and the most quintessentially Chinese game of them all—except that it is neither Chinese in origin nor a variation of draughts (American name: checkers).

In fact the story of how Chinese Checkers came about (and was eventually introduced to actual Chinese citizens) is about as delightfully convoluted a story as any board game could have.

In the 1880s an American surgeon called George Howard Monks created a game called 'Halma.' Players moved their pieces from the corner "camps" of a 16×16 square board in an attempt to take over the camp of their opponent. The game was quite popular and a German company made a variation of it called *Stern-Halma* (or 'Star Halma'). This six-pointed variation of the Halma board then travelled back to the United States in the 1920s where it was marketed by the Pressman game company as 'Hop Ching Checkers' and later 'Chinese Checkers.' The name was simply a ploy to appeal to the exoticism of the Far East.

American travellers eventually shared the game with the Japanese, who, in turn, shared Chinese Checkers with the actual Chinese—who had never seen the game before.

2. The piggy bank derives its name from: (a) nursery rhymes? (b) clay? (c) an English Duke? (d) its shape?

Answer: clay.

For such a simple object, the history of the piggy bank and how it became named (and shaped) as such is a curious adventure in the history of not just one but many cultures.

In Western culture, the piggy bank began life in the Middle Ages as a simple jar. Common orange clay, known as "pygg" clay was used to sculpt a variety of household wares like jars, pots, and specifically an early version of the piggy bank known as a "pygg pot" that people would drop spare coins into.

Over the centuries and thanks to vowel shifts and the evolution of English, the word "pygg" for the cheap clay and "pigge" for the barnyard animal merged and both ended up with the modern and identical pronunciation of "pig."

At some point in the early 19th century, English potters started making "pig banks" in the shape of actual pigs as a sort of visual pun. People loved the concept and the simple clay jars that had previously served as coin storage gave way to piggy banks as we now know them.

Cancellation: Barcelona trip

Sadly, the Christmas trip to Barcelona has had to be cancelled due to lack of support.

Please do your best to support our travel team, who go out of their way, spending their own time and funding their own expenses, to research the visits for us.

Janet Bond