

# U3A Calpe NEWSLETTER

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[www.u3acalpe.org](http://www.u3acalpe.org)

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## Annual General Meeting

This will take place on **Thursday, 19th November** at the *Ifach* Hotel.

After the meeting there will be cava and cake for everyone..

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November again, can it really be so? and here we are thinking about the AGM and it does not seem as though a year has passed.

Let us spare a thought for those affected by Hurricane Patricia in Mexico—all over the news this morning as I write this—and be thankful that we along the *Costa* here have only had enough rain to freshen up our gardens and the occasional road flooding, which was over very quickly.

And the temperature is still mild here for the time of year.

## New members

We would like to welcome the new members who joined us this past month: These members are Petra Kuhn, Anja and John Westerdyk, Joan Lowder and Caroline Goutier.

We hope you will enjoy your time with the U3A and find plenty of activities to interest you.

## Coming events

Don't forget your ID (either membership card or a photo ID) when you attend the **AGM on 19th November**.

Our next social event will be the annual quiz on **Friday, 27th November** at the Tennis Club in Calpe.

Always a popular event, so see Anne Melling to book your place—either in a team of four or Anne will put you in a team.

Anne's contact details are:  
[anneandtom16b@gmail.com](mailto:anneandtom16b@gmail.com)  
**667 764 292**

## Award from the *Ayuntamiento*

Since the announcement in last month's Newsletter we have received our Premier Award from the Mayor at a very nice ceremony at the *Casa de Cultura* on Valencia Day, 9th October.

We on the committee were all a little apprehensive about what to expect as at a previous year's ceremony all the speeches were in Valencian, which none of us with our hard-learned fairly basic Castilian Spanish could understand. This year there was a commentary in Castilian delivered clearly enough that we could understand it.

We were seated with the other prize winners and the atmosphere was friendly and proceedings swiftly delivered.

The video showed Calpe in a very good light and our section—filmed during various activities in the U3A—was excellent. We will show the video at a future meeting, after we have received it.



This photo shows our President, John Pickford, and founding President Mary Anderton, proudly receiving the Award from the Mayor:

The committee would also very much like to thank the other members who turned out to join us on the night.

In case you are not aware of the Award it was given “in recognition of

our training and support to the elderly in the municipality and for work on the integration and socialisation of elderly people.” I am sure you will agree that this recognises the true spirit of the U3A, and we were very proud to receive it.

It is the second time that the Premier Award has gone to an organisation that carries out its function in the English language and is good to gain recognition for the splendid work that expats carry out.

You will see the Award itself—a large and heavy bust of Jaume Pastor i Fluixa—proudly overseeing proceedings at the AGM!

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## Travel and Culture

Contact Penny and Ellen on the travel team for details of forthcoming trips: [ellen.mitchell1@btinternet.com](mailto:ellen.mitchell1@btinternet.com) or [penelopebrighton@hotmail.com](mailto:penelopebrighton@hotmail.com)

Also Rod Anderton if you wish to be added to his Cultural Interest Group: [tranderton@yahoo.com](mailto:tranderton@yahoo.com).

## Christmas Market Break in Madrid

We now have a few spaces available for the Christmas shopping trip to Madrid.

But hurry! they will be snapped up quickly.

## Day trip to Valencia

Don't forget to sign up for the Valencia day trip on **22nd January**, which is filling up fast.

It is a ‘do as you please’ day, with several drop-off points in the city.

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## Groups

### Discussion Group

Thursday 26th November

Peter Purvey asks: following his recent spectacular tours, is Pope Francis the greatest ever international promoter of his faith since Billy Graham or Martin Luther King? Or is he really the humble man with an important message for all mankind that he purports to be?

Perhaps he is both. How will history view this quite extraordinary man?

All suggestions will be considered.

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### As I age, I realise:

1. I talk to myself, because sometimes I need expert advice.
2. Sometimes I roll my eyes out loud.
3. I don't need anger management: I need people to stop pissing me off.
4. My people skills are just fine: It's my tolerance of idiots that needs work.
5. The biggest lie I tell myself is "I don't need to write that down, I'll remember it."
6. When I was a child I thought nap time was punishment. Now it's like a mini-vacation.
7. The day the world runs out of wine is just too terrible to think about.
8. Even duct tape can't fix stupid, but it can muffle the sound.
9. Wouldn't it be great if we could put ourselves in the dryer for ten minutes; come out wrinkle-free and three sizes smaller?
10. If God wanted me to touch my toes, he would've put them on my knees.
11. When the kids text me *plz*, which is shorter than *please*, I

text back *no*, which is shorter than *yes*.

12. 'Getting Lucky' means walking into a room and remembering what I came in there for.

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### November Quiz

(From John Pickford)

1. The screenplay for the James Bond film *You Only Live Twice* was written by which children's author?
2. Which country has the highest atomic element discoveries to its name?
3. What is packaged meat treated with to keep it pink?

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### Reports

#### MSC Preziosa cruise to ports on the Mediterranean

By: Penny Pearson

(Penny has also sent us photos which are too many to include here—but we will put some of them on our Web site.)

On 15th October, 2015 we began our Cruise from Valencia. The ship was HUGE !! There were 4 thousand guests and over one thousand crew.

Once we had found our cabin and unpacked our suit-cases, it was time for lunch. And what choices there were! It was going to be a good week.

The ship was sailing; and we looked forward to visiting our first port of call -Marseilles in southern France.

We investigated the ship and discovered the swimming pools and Jacuzzis, piano bars and theatre, and tried not to get lost. It was going to be a very full week!

In Marseilles we took a bus into the town and explored this busy city for a while, and then returned to the ship to prepare for our next exciting evening! We enjoyed the meal, the company, and then a show at the theatre.

Genoa, in Italy, was the next port of call, and we toured this elegant city in an open-topped tourist bus. At the beautiful Ferrari Fountain in the centre of a splendid square, a bride and groom were having their photos taken. At the evening meal, I was surprised with a delicious birthday-cake and good wishes from fellow cruisers.

Sunday was the next day, and we arrived at *Civitavecchia* at 7:00AM. This left plenty of time to travel by bus to Rome and spend some time soaking up the wonderful atmosphere of St.Peter's Square on a Holy day. Together with about 35,000 others, we watched a Service of Mass. Pope Francis canonized the first married couple in modern times, declaring the parents of St.Therese of Lisieux saints in their own right. I felt lucky to have visited Rome on a Sunday. When we returned to the ship, we exchanged experiences with our friends at dinner.

Sicily was our fourth port-of-call—the town of Palermo. We walked ashore and we saw just how large the ship was. It competed with the surrounding apartment blocks, and overshadowed the little town.

I had never been to the island of Sardinia before, and this was where we docked on day five. An open-topped bus was again our chosen means of visiting the town of Cagliari. The first beautiful building we saw was the impressive Town Hall. We drove to the top of nearby Mount Erpin, and surveyed the splendid view below.

Only one more full day to go before arriving back in Valencia! This day was devoted to Palma Mallorca. After meeting with a group of others, we went on a sight-seeing tour of places of interest – the Bull Ring, the Ramblas shopping street, a Pearl-manufacturing work-shop, and the Gothic Cathedral, built in 1230. The architecture, and particularly the stained-glass windows were most impressive.

Returning to the ship for our last dinner together, we were all rather tired and maybe ready for home? But it was an excellent cruise with many memories to sustain us.

Thank you to our Travel Team for organising this for us—well done!

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## *Mr Tiddles*

By *Chris Hare*

This is the story of a cat named Mr Tiddles. It is a touching tale, one of those heart-warming, feel-good yarns with a happy ending which will make you glow all over, be proud to be an animal-loving Brit, and very proud of the heroes of the hour.

Back in 1977 firemen in England staged their first national strike. Obviously, steps needed to be taken. Our very existence was being threatened.

And so the government of the day did what they always do when they have to tackle a difficult problem—they called in the army.

Fortunately the army were equipped with their own fire engines, (called Green Goddesses), and the soldiers were well enough trained to deal with pretty well any emergency.

Pretty well ...

999 calls were still taken, and a Green Goddess was dispatched to wherever there was a fire, or in this case, to where a cat was stuck up a tree.

Mrs Plumstead, an elderly widow living miles from anywhere in deepest Bedfordshire, had done everything she could to tempt Mr Tiddles down from the branch where he sat, ignoring both her pleas and the food she'd left out for him.

At her wits end and worried sick, she dialled 999 and explained the situation. Within the hour a Green Goddess arrived with a corporal and three young soldiers. I would have just turned the hose on Mr Tiddles and knocked him out of the tree. But these four fellows, stalwarts that they were, unloaded the ladder and set about rescuing the cat, which they succeeded in doing with only a few scratches and a bite to show for their heroics.

Mrs Plumstead was over the moon, and showed her thanks by inviting the rescuers into her cottage to be patched up and to partake of her lardy cakes and several bottles of homemade dandelion and burdock—powerful stuff, which they happily quaffed before starting on the parsnip wine.

That's it readers. Ain't that a sweet story? And as I said at the beginning, a happy ending.

**Postscript.** Well it would have been a happy ending, if it had ended there. But it didn't. The Green Goddess drove off, the soldiers were three sheets to the wind and happily waving goodbye and calling out their thanks when, halfway up the lane, they ran over the cat.

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### *Peter Purvey's Curious Corner*

1. Researchers at Florida State University have determined that washing up the dishes reduces stress and improves one's psychological well-being. So throw out the dishwasher!!
2. Fossilised bones found in a cave near Johannesburg have been identified as a new species of our family that lived between 2.2 and 2.8 million years ago. They have long legs, feet like ours but ape-like, curved hands and small brains. (I am sure that I passed someone like that in *Gabriel Miro* last week!)

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### *A logic puzzle*

(From Diane Putnam)

### *Answer to the puzzle*

The question was: who owns the fish?

**Answer:** the German, in house 4.

1	2	3	4	5
Norwegian	Dane	Brit	German	Swede
Water	Tea	Milk	Coffee	Beer
Dunhill	Blends	Pall Mall	Prince	Bluemasters
Cats	Horse	Birds	Fish	Dogs
Yellow	Blue	Red	Green	White

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## John Pickford's Puzzle Corner

### Answers to last month's quiz

1. The largest stadium in the world is located in?

**Answer:** North Korea, The stadium has seating for 150,000 spectators and has even once held 190,000 spectators. The stadium was built to be a multi-purpose stadium although, while it does host various sports events, it's primary function has been to host the Arirang Mass Games, which is a giant gymnastics and artistic festival usually held each August and spanning several weeks of celebration.

2. Which punctuation mark on a keyboard didn't have a dedicated key until the 1970s?

**Answer:** The exclamation mark. Prior to the mid-1970s, typists who wanted to insert an exclamation mark into their text were forced to type a full stop, hit the back space key, and strike an apostrophe over the full stop—to form a makeshift exclamation mark.

3. Which classic board game has been solved for all possible outcomes?

**Answer:** Draughts—or Checkers, as Americans call it. In 2007 computer scientist Jonathan Schaeffer completed an 18-year quest to solve all the possible moves in the game and all possible legal positions. Unlike IBM's computer 'Deep Blue', which uses enormous amounts of computing power to analyse future moves on the fly (because completely solving the chess board is still out of reach), Schaeffer's system,

'Chinook', evolved over years of slowly crunching through positions and potential endgames until it had learned every possible outcome. By the late 1990s it was consistently beating talented players including the world champion Marion Tinsley.