

U3A Calpe NEWSLETTER

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The U3A Annual Quiz

Our Annual Quiz s on **Friday, 27th November** at the Tennis Club.

There are still places available. If you are not already in a team we will put you together with others.

Welcome to the October 2015 Newsletter which we hope you will enjoy reading.

By now hopefully you are fully back into the flow of Spanish life, a little cooler and ready to enjoy the various group activities which have started up again. How nice to have the roads to ourselves again after the tourist season, and parking a little easier in Calpe.

New members

We would especially like to welcome the following new members, who joined us at our September meeting:
Mrs Marlene Wilton, Mr Johnston Davies. Ms Joyce Carroll, Mr Dean Lycett, Mrs Sarah Lycett, Mr David Shaw.

We hope they will find much among our activities to interest them and that they make many new friends within our U3A.

Coming events

The next General Meeting will be on **Thursday, 8th October** at the *Hotel Ifach*, at 10:00AM for 10:30.

Please note that this is the *second* Thursday of the month, earlier than usual, in order not to clash with the Mediterranean cruise which begins on the 15th.

The speaker will be our own member Andrew Johnson.

Items for the Newsletter

Please forward to me any items, however small, which you wish to include (thebonds14@hotmail.com) and I will be sure to include them. We would especially like to hear from Group Leaders about the 'goings on' in their groups—many members do not get to the monthly meetings, so this is an ideal way to obtain publicity for your group.

U3A Calpe wins 1st Prize!

U3A Calpe has been awarded the prestigious *Premio* award by the municipality of Calpe in recognition of its training and education support to the elderly in the municipality as well as its work on the integration and socialisation of elderly people.

This award will be presented at the *Casa de Cultura* on 9th October starting at 8:00PM. The Town Hall team has been busy filming some of our activities for a video to be shown on the night and we hope that some of you may like to join the committee at the *Casa* when we receive the award.

We will hopefully have more detail on the event at the next meeting and will report on it in the next Newsletter. We have been promised a copy of the video and we will show it for you at a future General meeting.

Members' News

Members may wish to know that Ros Skerrett has rather reluctantly moved back to the UK. She very unselfishly thought that for the sake of her family she should move now to be nearer to them should she need some help in the future. She has bought a bungalow in Derbyshire and we wish her well in settling in to this new phase of her life.

Those of us privileged to be her friends, and, I am sure, the charity shop in Calpe, send our very best wishes and we will miss her! Ros and the family are keeping the villa in Calpe and we look forward to many more happy times together when they come out to visit.

If you wish to contact Ros she will be on her same email address, which I have if you would like it.

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. Many cultural events are not advertised in the press much in advance. By signing up to the group for his emails you should be ahead of the game for tickets.

Christmas market trip to Madrid

This trip is now fully booked.

Balances need to be paid before the end of the month.

Day trip to Valencia

22nd January. 10 euros per person—a bargain!

Finally we wish everyone going on the Med Cruise a wonderful time and we look forward to hearing all about it when you return.

The Wedding Hat (part 2)

By: *Chris Hare*

As I said last month, the bride's mother loved her hat, initially. A wondrous creation of fresh flowers which, by the time we'd got to the reception—held in a vast marquee on the lawns of her home, had wilted. Died, in fact. And smelt pretty foul.

But by now she'd come to realise that this hat was not quite the thing to be seen wearing among the *hoi polloi* of Richmond anyway. So she marched down to the water's edge, removed the hat and hurled it into the Thames at the same time screaming two words, the second of which was 'off.'

The toastmaster and I had been invited to partake of the banquet. The pie and mash was delicious, but jellied eels?—no way. And I didn't think I could stomach a plate of whelks, even when smothered in a sauce of brandy, fresh cream and Heinz tomato ketchup. We therefore liberated a couple of Havana cigars and a bottle of Bollinger and went to spend a pleasant hour down on the private jetty until our services were needed again.

Whilst puffing contentedly and quaffing champagne, a police launch pulled alongside. They'd recovered the hat, which had been found caught in a weir.

Now they were looking for the body. Had we seen one? I had a peek at the police information sheet: 'In all likelihood a suicide. But should the subject be found alive, approach with caution. Subject is clearly deranged and may be violent.'

The toastmaster said, in a voice that conveyed they didn't do this sort of dance in Royal circles, 'The owner is very much alive. The last time I saw her she was putting her left leg in, and shaking it all about.' The police sergeant needed to verify the facts for himself, and to get the bride's mother to identify the remains of the hat, so we took him, and it, up to the marquee.

The sergeant stopped dead at the sight of the bride's father, who himself looked like he'd seen a ghost. Then... handshakes, hugs, yelps of delight and introductions to many of the bride's father's mates, and a bigger collection of villains you never saw. And the reason for this bonhomie?

It transpired that years before, when the sergeant was but a rookie-pig fresh out of training college, the first

person he had arrested was... the bride's father, then a very young bookie's runner.

All's well that ends as you like it, as Shakespeare didn't quite say.

A logic puzzle

From: *Diane Putnam*

It is widely believed that the following frustrating riddle was created by Albert Einstein as a boy. Many also believe it was thought up by Lewis Carroll when he was taking a break from double-dropping acid tabs and writing *Alice in Wonderland*. It is also said that only 2% of the world is able to solve it, which is of course a ludicrous statistic unless everyone in the world has already tackled this riddle. All we know is that it is driving some people slowly mad. Try and tackle it yourself!

The riddle: there are five houses in five different colours in a row. In each house lives a person with a different nationality. The five owners drink a certain type of beverage, smoke a certain brand of cigar and keep a certain pet. None of the owners have the same pet, smoke the same brand of cigar or drink the same beverage.

Other facts:

- 1 The Brit lives in the red house
- 2 The Swede keeps dogs as pets
- 3 The Dane drinks tea
- 4 The green house is on the immediate left of the white house
- 5 The green house's owner drinks coffee
- 6 The owner who smokes *Pall Mall* rears birds

- 7 The owner of the yellow house smokes *Dunhill*
- 8 The owner living in the centre house drinks milk
- 9 The Norwegian lives in the first house
- 10 The owner who smokes *Blends* lives next to the one who keeps cats
- 11 The owner who keeps the horse lives next to the one who smokes *Dunhill*
- 12 The owner who smokes *Bluemasters* drinks beer
- 13 The German smokes *Prince*
- 14 The Norwegian lives next to the blue house
- 15 The owner who smokes *Blends* lives next to the one who drinks water

The question is: who owns the fish?

There are no tricks involved and for solving the trick you only need to make use of logic.

The solution: will be posted in a later edition of this Newsletter!

Reports

Day trip to Elche

By: *Betty Walker*



Our 90-minute coach trip to Elche began at 8:30 so not too long to sit. On arrival we did have a welcome

coffee break after which we decided to take a ride on the tourist train through Elche's famous palm groves (thousands of them) and the ride also took us round the town of Elche. We enjoyed the very interesting English commentary which gave a good insight as to what we all would like to see there.

Some visited St Mary's Basilica which was built on the original mosque site. A few people actually climbed the 170 steps up the tower to see beautiful views over Elche. Elche has some very good museums but too many to see in one day. Maybe you could do this with an overnight trip? A walk to the river was well worthwhile as it was only like a channel but surrounded on both sides by excellent artistic graffiti paintings. Near the basilica there was a lot of fun to be had in the dance-like water fountains.



Everyone found a good place to eat lunch at reasonable prices and good food. It was noticeable that there were quite a few Irish bars around and some found a very nice Scottish bar. Some folks found a fitness area in the palm grove while others found a comfy bench to relax on.

All in all it was a good trip so a big thank-you to Ellen and Penny for all their hard work in organising the trip and also a big thank-you to Rod for informative commentary on the way

there. Last but not least thank-you to all fellow members who supported this trip and making it a very pleasant day for everybody. (Photos from John)

Baby Equipment Loan

From: *Sandy Bianco*
sandyebianco@gmail.com

As you probably know I loan out baby equipment for visiting families with young children. People very kindly donate items to me and at present I am looking for a pushchair or stroller, also car seats, particularly a backward facing seat for young babies.

Christmas is coming so if you would like to borrow an item, please get in touch soon.

There is no charge for the use of these items but if you would like to give a small donation to MABS cancer support, that would be much appreciated.

Peter Purvey's Curious Corner

Strange but true ...

Sometime before the start of the first World War, three young friends were enjoying a boisterous fun day out together. Come evening, it began to rain heavily. Soaking wet, inebriated and almost out of money, they entered a nearby hotel. The manager, viewing them with the greatest suspicion, refused them a room but allowed them to sleep in the lounge. Come morning he made them sign the guest register. After they had left he saw that their surnames were ... Edison, Firestone and Ford! Three young men who, later, were to revolutionise the world.

The hotel still exists, now with a large plaque in the lounge to commemorate the occasion.

John Pickford's Puzzle Corner

1. The largest stadium in the world is located in?
2. Which punctuation mark on a keyboard didn't have a dedicated key until the 1970s?
3. Which classic board game has been solved for all possible outcomes?

John has given us the answers to these questions and also some supporting interesting facts which we will give you next month.