

# U3A Calpe NEWSLETTER

Suite 416, Total Postal • Calle Corbeta 10 • 03710 Calpe

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

## In this issue

September 2015.....	1
Coming events .....	1
This newsletter.....	1
The November AGM	
.....	2
Calpe U3A Annual	
Quiz.....	2
Entitlement to Medical	
Cover in the UK.....	2
Malicious Emails .....	3
Travel and Culture ...	3
Day trip to Elche	
(24th September)...	3
Mediterranean	
cruise (from 15th	
October).....	3
Christmas Market	
break in Madrid	
(from 3rd December)	
.....	3
Trip Report.....	3
Northern Spain and	
Southern France ...	3
Groups .....	4
The Wedding Hat.....	4
Oddities .....	5
John's Trivia Quiz.....	5

---

## U3A Annual Quiz

Book early for our next social event—our annual quiz.

27th November.  
Details on our Web site and in this newsletter!

---

Hello everyone. Here is the Newsletter for September, starting off the new 2015/16 U3A programme.

Your Committee hopes you have had a good summer.

I won't mention the stifling heat which has done nothing for my resolve to do all the jobs during the break which I normally do not have time to do.

Suffice to say I have spent the summer indoors except for the most necessary trips to the supermarket, hang out the washing or plunging into the pool to cool off and watching far too much day-time TV. Needless to say all the jobs without exception remain undone.

I am sure we all pray for rain but even the most sure-fire way of getting some like cleaning the windows is way too much of an effort – and I understand it is set to continue – phew!

## Coming events

The next General Meetings will be on **Thursday, 17th September** at the *Hotel Ifach*, at 10:00AM for 10:30.

We will have a glass of cava and piece of cake after the meeting.

Our main speaker for September will be Philip Ashley, the well-known local Musical Director. I am certain we can be assured of an interesting talk for our first one of the season.

## This newsletter

Remember that without your articles there will be no newsletter.

So please forward anything you would like to see in future issues to me, since I will be collating them.

Janet Bond  
([thebonds14@hotmail.com](mailto:thebonds14@hotmail.com))

## The November AGM

One thing which your Committee wishes to address in good time is nominations for next year's Committee.

Over the past few years since this Committee has been in place we have had virtually no new nominations coming forward. This has meant that at times we have had to double up on the tasks and sometimes have been stretched owing to unavoidable absences. This coming year several people definitely will be standing down and so we need replacements for them: that said, all posts are to be contested.

We have had many new members over the past year and with our current membership at over 500 it would be nice if you would consider putting your name forward. The only qualifications needed are computer literacy, an ability to muck in as a team and, most important, a sense of humour.

We will have nomination forms at the September meeting so please give it a thought—and we look forward to being deluged with applications! Details of the posts can be found on our Web site.

## Calpe U3A Annual Quiz

Our next social event will be our annual quiz on **Friday, 27th November** at the Tennis Club, at 7:00PM for 7:30. Anne Melling is looking after arrangements and will be starting to take names, numbers and your money at the next (September) General Meeting.

Details are: teams of 4; cost 14€ for members, non-members 16€; 3-course meal with wine and water; and, of course, prizes.

---

## Entitlement to Medical Cover in the UK

By: *Pat Spencer* (including information provided by Ted Marshall)

The NHS is a residence-based system and moving abroad can mean losing your entitlement to receive healthcare free of charge on the NHS.

However, if you have your healthcare paid for by the UK by means of an S1 in your country of residence, from April 2015 your right to return to England for all treatment, including elective, has been extended.

This means you can access NHS treatment in England as if ordinarily resident. (This means treatment will be free unless a statutory charge also applies to residents in England—for example, prescription charges).

You will not need to obtain any kind of authorisation from your country of residence prior to seeking treatment.

These changes will be made in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland as soon as practicable after 6th April. You are advised to check your entitlement before seeking treatment in those areas.

Your S1 will help to prove your entitlement to treatment on the NHS.

If you decide to have treatment in the UK you need plan ahead: contact the NHS Trust in your chosen area to find out what the procedure is.

Information from Pension Services, part of the Department for Work and Pensions

Telephone number: 0044 1912 181 999, between 8:00AM and 5:00PM UK time.

---

## **Malicious Emails**

Ian Coleman, who runs a well-established U3A computing group, offering computer lessons to members, has recently offered members some important advice.

You can find it on our Web site, in the post in our President's blog entitled *Beware of Malicious Emails*, and posted on the 21st June.

---

## **Travel and Culture**

Please check our Web site regularly for any updates, or see our notice board.

Suggestions for future trips welcome, so please use the suggestions box available on the desk at meetings.

### **Day trip to Elche (24th September)**

Places still available, only 10€ per person! It would cost you more in tolls and fuel to go by car.

Lots to see: Cacti Gardens, Historical Monuments, *Palmeras* or hop on board the local train.

This is a subsidised trip.

### **Mediterranean cruise (from 15th October)**

Tickets will be given out on the coach and these will state your cabin numbers.

The agent is going to check us in online so that we can board a bit faster (hopefully).

The travel team hopes you have a wonderful trip: however remember they will be on holiday too, so if you have any complaints please address them to the customer service desk on board the ship.

## **Christmas Market break in Madrid (from 3rd December)**

Price now reduced to 225€ per person. (70€ single supplement.)

3 nights in a city hotel on half board with wine at dinner.

*Only two spaces left (no single rooms).*

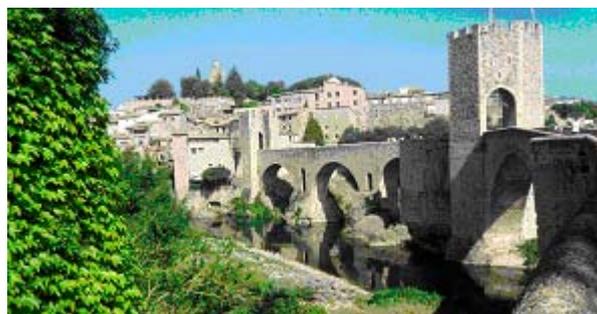
---

## **Trip Report**

### **Northern Spain and Southern France**

By: *Peter Purvey*

(This is an additional report to the one by Betty Gower already published on our Web site)



We all enjoyed this trip at the beginning of June, brilliantly organised by Ellen and Penny with Gandia Tours. A comfy coach, a great driver and guide and a super hotel in the Santa Susanna area offering so much food served at each meal you couldn't eat it all!

Our first whole day out was to the Pyrenees area of Ribes de Freser. Then upwards to the Nuria valley by small train and by ski cabin to the top of the mountain overlooking France.

A half-day visit to Gerona followed with an official guide to make sure that we saw the best of the Roman and medieval remains.

A long day trip to Southern France to the impressive medieval city of

Carcasonne which I had always wanted to see, and to me the highlight of the trip. This was followed by a visit to Figueres and the astonishing museum that Dali designed and built for his works of art. He certainly had a fixation about eggs and women.

Along the way we stopped at the Medieval fortified town of Besalu , once home to the Cathars, the seaside village Cadaques where Dali lived, and also Empuriabrava, the Venice of the Costa Brava, where every street has a canal down the middle, with houses on both sides and the owner's boats tied up at the front gate!

Our last morning was a visit to the medieval walled village of Pals. Almost completely destroyed during the Civil War, it took thirty years of loving care to restore. It is now a visitor's delight.

At this time of the year the absence of the huge crowds and the fierce heat of summer made sightseeing most enjoyable though we did have our fair share of walking on cobblestone streets!

---

## Groups

Diane Putnam (Groups Coordinator) has re-vamped the Groups List over the summer to make it easier to read.

You should receive the list with the bulk email sent by John Pickford and you will find all details also on our Web site.

---

## The Wedding Hat

By: *Chris Hare*

I'm flattered to be offered a chance to redeem myself following the articles I wrote in April and May on

*processional cyclists* in Spain. Sorry about that. (Yeah, right.)

This month the Calpe U3A powers-that-be have asked me to write a piece about my other life, the one I had in England—as a photographer.

My favourite type of photography was weddings. I covered more than 1,700 of them during my forty plus year span behind the camera, but of course I can't remember them all. In fact, given my advanced years, and even when I really try, I can't remember more than a dozen or so.

But occasionally something happens that makes a wedding truly memorable, something you will never forget no matter how old you get. For instance, one time the bride turned out to be a bloke. Then there was the vicar (a complete pain) who, after he'd officiated at a wedding I was photographing, was visited by the police at his vicarage and arrested for bigamy. Yes—him, the vicar. Naughty boy. And who could forget that time in the vestry doing the signing of the registers bit when the bride's waters broke? Remember, this all happened donkey's years ago, so it couldn't possibly be repeated in our 'enlightened' age.

Probably the most memorable wedding I covered was the one with the bride's mother's hat. This hat would have been more at home at a funeral. It was covered in fresh flowers and looked like a well-kept grave. Revolting. But she liked it—at first.

They were a very well-to-do family, originally from London's East End. The bride's father had made his fortune as a bookmaker, then he'd sold his chain of shops to Ladbrokes and made an even bigger fortune. He moved his family away from Plaistow to a huge mock-Tudor mansion on

the banks of the Thames near Richmond.

I was booked to take photographs from first thing in the morning to midnight. They'd hired a toastmaster who usually worked in Royal circles, and the entertainment was by Billy Cotton's band—remember him? "Wakey Wakey!"

So much for the background.

Now to the plot ...

No, no plot this time. No space. But watch for the concluding part next month—which has a surprisingly happy ending and will bring tears to your eyes. Guaranteed.

---

## Oddities

(From Peter Purvey)

1. A 130 million year old fossil of a snake recently discovered in Brazil was found to have four limbs (2 arms, 2 legs) each with tiny fingers and toes with claw-like ends.

Experts now consider that their ancestry may be land-based and not aquatic as previously thought.

2. Physicists have recently identified a neutrino (a sub-atomic particle with no electric charge, or mass) with an energy a thousand times greater than that achieved by the new souped-up Large Hadron Collider. It can fly through our galaxy in a straight line at near light speed.

How weird!

---

## John's Trivia Quiz

1. Aztec kings wore cloaks made from what unusual material?
2. Cats and other animals used in genetic research gain what novel ability?
3. Which world leader kidnapped a filmmaker to remake *Godzilla*?

Answers will be revealed at the next General meeting!