

# U3A Calpe NEWSLETTER

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## In this issue

September 2012	
New members.....	1
Coming events.....	1
Travel and Culture....	2
Ayora Honey	
Festival .....	2
Galicia.....	2
Groups .....	2
Social events .....	2
New discussion	
group .....	2
Christmas at	
Guardamar .....	3
September Quiz .....	3
September-themed	
anagrams .....	3
Quiz .....	3
Enid's Kitchen .....	3
Bread and butter	
pudding.....	3
More Memories of RAF	
Elementary Flying	
School, Guinea Fowl.	4
Anagram Answers.....	5
Answers to Quiz.....	5

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## Mark your diary!

There will be a quiz night at the *Bolero* in October, and our AGM will be taking place in November.

You can read about both on page 2 of this Newsletter.

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Welcome back to a new season of U3A Calpe meetings after our summer break. We hope that those members who stayed around Calpe managed to cope with the heat and the influx of summer visitors and that those who went further afield enjoyed their travels.

Our first General Meeting, on September 13th will be at the less formal venue of the *Bolero* restaurant. The October meeting and AGM in November meetings will be at the *Casa de Cultura*.

The committee look forward to meeting you at the General Meeting at the *Bolero*, on September 13th at the usual time: 10:00 for 10:30. So please come along and introduce yourself. There will be a free glass of wine and *tapas* after the meeting with some music while we are chatting amongst ourselves.

This is traditionally the time of year when new groups are starting and existing groups

are recruiting new members, so if you are a keen sports person, need to improve your Spanish, like the idea of singing in a choir, or would like to participate in a variety of board-games or other activities such as debating the burning issues of the day do come along and see what we have to offer. You will also be able to find out about trips and special events which are planned for Autumn and Winter 2012.

## New members

We wish to welcome those new members who joined U3A Calpe at our June meeting and during the summer months. We hope that you enjoy taking part in groups activities or maybe even starting up a new group of your own!

## Coming events

The next General Meetings will be on **Thursday 11th October** at the *Casa de Cultura*, at 10:00AM for 10:30.

Nomination papers for the various committee positions will be available at both the September and October meetings. So if you are thinking about joining next year's committee it's your chance to find out more about what this involves and how to put your name forward.

The committee for the following 12 months will then be voted in at our AGM, which takes place on **Thursday, November 15th**, at the usual time, in the *Casa de Cultura* theatre.

We will be needing new committee members to replace Beverly Holder and Edith Watson to whom the rest of the committee would like to extend their thanks for their excellent work and on behalf of all our members wish them a happy 'retirement.' We shall also be looking for a new travel group treasurer. Further details will be given at our September general meeting.

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## **Travel and Culture**

Contact John Pickford on 96 583 4904, or [johnpickfordtravel@gmail.com](mailto:johnpickfordtravel@gmail.com), or Rod Anderton, on 96-583-2081, or [rodanderton@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:rodanderton@yahoo.co.uk)

(Change details when necessary!)

## **Ayora Honey Festival**

This trip to the Ayora Honey Festival on October 13th and 14th, travelling by coach, is on a half-board basis at a hotel in Cofrentes. It also includes a boat trip on the Jucar River and Sunday lunch.

John Pickford is leading this trip.

## **Galicia**

This is a 6-day trip commencing on September 23rd, after which we will be welcoming a new Travel team leader, Liz Sanderson.

You can contact her on 96 583 9581 or at [liz.travel.u3acalpe.com](http://liz.travel.u3acalpe.com)

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## **Groups**

### **Social events**

Autumn quiz night at the *Bolero*.

This event was very popular last year so we are repeating it on October 12th, 7:00 for 7:30. Teams of 6 at a cost of 10 euros each, which includes a supper.

Please see Tina Wallis at her desk.

### **New discussion group**

It is often said that an active and inquiring mind is one of the keys to longevity by keeping The 'little grey cells' from falling asleep, and what better way to ensure this than to join a discussion group. If you are such a person and would like to share your opinions and ideas with others on a variety of topics, then the New Discussion Group may be of interest to you.

Apart from current affairs and, occasionally, personal problems, there is no restriction on the nature or topic offered for discussion. In addition, new or startling discoveries or advances in all branches of the Arts or Sciences may be offered by members for discussion. We have a small group of regulars but we are looking forward to seeing some new faces.

This new group replaces the existing Discussion and Philosophy groups and to begin with will meet at 'Villa Serendib', La Cometa III, 21L (Calpe) the home of Peter Purvey, on the last Thursday of each month at 3:30PM, starting on September 27th. A glass of wine may help to make the meetings more enjoyable and informal.

You can contact Peter on 96 583 4139 or 616 067 875.

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## *Christmas at Guardamar*

By: Norman Westworth

Many old friends have asked me whether I would consider organizing this event which Jean ran so effectively for many years. I think I would like to give it a try!

If you are interested please contact me, by telephone on 96 583 2623, or email [sunshinecalpe@gmail.com](mailto:sunshinecalpe@gmail.com) or see me in person at the meeting on September 13th so that I can gauge the level of interest. I would also welcome some helping hands, particularly with the typing and clerical work involved.

Note that this is not being organized by the travel team therefore money should **not** be paid into the U3A travel account, but **only** directly to me.

I hope to hear from old friends who have enjoyed Christmas at Guardamar before, but newcomers will also be made very welcome.

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## *September Quiz*

### *September-themed anagrams*

1. HACK TOOL COBS
2. I'M THE STARVE
3. OMIR SUMS VEER
4. 'OSE FAT BALLOONS

### *Quiz*

1. September comes from the Latin word for 7th and yet September is the 9th month of the year. Why is this?
2. Which American female singer /songwriter claimed that it 'might as well rain until September'?

3. What is unique about the horoscope sign Libra?
4. Septimus Severus was the Roman Emperor from 193-211 AD. Where was he actually born and where did he die?
5. Which actor/comedian, noted for his large nose, had a hit record with the 'September Song'?
6. What is the name of the Southern Irish town where bachelors go to harvest a wife before harvest time each year?
7. Which famous Frenchman who 'thanked Heaven for little girls' was born on September 12th?
8. What terrible event took place in New York, on September 11th, 2001?

Answers at the end of the Newsletter

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## *Enid's Kitchen*

### *Bread and butter pudding*

1. Spread 4 slices of lightly toasted bread with butter, cut into quarters, and place upside down in an ovenproof dish and sprinkle with a third of a cup of raisins.
2. Mix 2 lightly beaten eggs with 1 cupful of evaporated milk, 1 cupful boiling water and  $\frac{1}{2}$  cup of sugar. Pour over the bread, and leave to stand for 10 minutes.
3. Sprinkle with 4 tablespoons sugar, and cinnamon powder to taste, then bake for 25 minutes at 180° C or 350° F.

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## **More Memories of RAF Elementary Flying School, Guinea Fowl**

By: *Vic Treen*

This, the fourth of my anecdotes about being a trainee pilot at Guinea Fowl in Southern Rhodesia and experiencing 'close shaves' with disaster is different. It was the cause of an urgent radio message to the Air Ministry in London which resulted in an urgent signal from the Air Ministry to all training stations wherever they may be which had just received or were about to receive a consignment of Fairchild Cornell planes. They were ordered to ground the planes until they had been thoroughly checked against specification. To make it more intriguing I will call this 'The case of the missing top hat.'

Here I think I should point out that the procedures which I mention in my stories were those of the 1940's and modern pilots would probably not know what I am talking about! An important part of the training programme is learning to fly by instruments if you cannot see the ground or the stars. Training for this is accomplished in the early stages by flying 'under the hood'. The student pilot taxis to the end of the perimeter track and pulls a frame from the back of the seat over his head and attaches it to the top of the instrument panel. The frame is covered in black opaque fabric so you cannot see anything outside the cockpit. This means that you have to rely on your instruments to know the attitude, direction and height of the aircraft.

After you have completed the vital actions for take-off the instructor tells you when it is all clear and you taxi forward, turn 90 degrees using

the gyro compass, open the throttle fully and again, using your gyro, run down the runway until you reach take-off speed, pull the stick back and climb to 500 feet and then once more turn 90 degrees in the direction dictated by the circuit direction for that particular airfield.

Now, Gyros tend to drift off after a time so normally you set the magnetic compass at this stage whilst climbing from 500 to 1000 feet. The standard compass on the Cornell has a movable ring, the grid ring, round the top and on the right hand side is a lever which you flip up to unlock the ring so that two parallel lines on the top of the glass can be lined up with the magnetic needle. The compass is mounted on a 'top hat.' This is a piece of sheet metal shaped to raise the compass to a comfortable height between the pilot's legs so that he can operate the grid ring easily. However on this plane this compass was mounted on the floor and I couldn't reach it. I had to do something quickly so, thinking this might be test of initiative, I flung myself forward in my straps and managed get my finger tips behind the compass and reach for the locking lever. But it wasn't there! Instead there was a knurled nut, on the end of a threaded pin, which clipped down onto the grid ring. I tried to turn the nut with my finger and thumb but my other fingers slipped off of the compass and my straps snatched me back hard into my seat. This resulted in me pulling the stick, which was in my left hand, right back and the nose of the aircraft, as I could see from the instruments, now pointed vertically upwards and we had no airspeed at all. So we stalled and immediately went into spin. The instructor screamed from the front cockpit, "I've got her!"

Fortunately, we were not flying from our home station but for safety

reasons from an emergency landing ground out in the Bundu. Now, the minimum height for a Cornell to recover from that situation is normally 1000 feet, but we were on a high plateau in that area and the density of the air was reduced which was compounded by the heat of lunch time sun. I honestly thought my time was up. All I could do was watch the instruments, most of which were 'off the dial' anyway though the altimeter worked fine and read zero by the time Flying Officer Cartwright brought her under control and headed back to base.

Obviously he had performed a miracle, probably helped by completing two tours of operations in Europe before being 'rested'. After a few moments of ominous silence he suddenly exploded. "Treen!" he shouted, "you are a very good pilot, and it's a lovely day. And I thought, 'Treen's a good pilot,' and I totally relaxed and looked at the countryside and almost dozed off. And then you did something so bloody god-awful it made me s..t blue lights and be sure I was about to die."

I knew this was not the time to make excuses so I sat quietly whilst he flew back to base, landed, taxied to the dispersal area and we climbed out and started heading for the mess. Then he quietly asked me what happened to cause a near disaster. I now explained about the missing top hat. He stopped dead in his tracks, turned and ran back to the plane, climbed up onto the wing and looked into the rear cockpit and uttered an expletive. Then he sprinted to the control tower and told the station commander what had happened. Then the radio messages started flying as I mentioned above. Finally, we started heading for the mess again and as we walked he apologised to me for his outburst and when we got to the mess he bought me a drink.

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## *Anagram Answers*

1. BACK TO SCHOOL 2. HARVEST TIME 3. SUMMER IS OVER 4. FOOTBALL SEASON

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## *Answers to Quiz*

1. September was the 7th of a 10 month calendar until the Romans added July and August ( named after their emperors) and switched to a 12 month calendar. 2. Carole King. 3. It represents a pair of scales. The only horoscope sign to represent an inanimate object rather than an animal human or fish. 4. He was African, born in Leptis Magna (now Libya) and died in Britain. 5. Jimmy 'Schnozzola' Durante. 6. Lisdoonvanna, County Clare. 7. Maurice Chevalier. 8. The Twin Towers of the Trade Centre were destroyed by terrorists deliberately flying two aircraft into them.