

# U3A Calpe NEWSLETTER

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## New committee

This edition contains all the names of your new committee members.

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Hello everyone and welcome to a short Newsletter this month.

The Committee is now taking a break until mid-January, with several lucky members going abroad or visiting family for the festive season, and others just chilling and having a rest!.

## New members

At the AGM we had several new members join our U3A and we look forward to welcoming them to our January meeting.

## Coming events

The next General Meeting will be on **Thursday, 21st January** at the *Hotel Ifach*, at 10:00AM for 10:30.

## General Meeting dates for 2016

We have fixed the following meeting dates for 2016 with the *Ifach* Hotel.

Note that one or two are not our usual 3rd Thursday, owing to either holidays or availability of the *Ifach*: we advise you to keep an eye on our Web site in case of any changes, as although we inform the local press of our details they do not always publish our articles.

21st January  
18th February  
24th March  
21st April  
19th May  
16th June

22nd September  
20th October

17th November (**AGM**)

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## The new Committee



At the recent AGM the following were elected to form the Committee for the 2015/16 season and we welcome the new members on board. Remember we are your elected custodians and as ever will do our very best to serve you.

### Officers

President	John Pickford
Vice-President	Diane Putnam
Treasurer	Gordon Green
Secretary	Janet Bond

### Vocales

Groups Coordinator  
Diane Putnam

Travel Treasurer and Assistant U3A  
Treasurer  
Teresa Pickford

Travel Coordinators  
Penelope Brighton  
Ellen Mitchell

Membership Secretary  
Helena Hutchings

Sports Coordinator  
Keith Cherry

Publicity and Culture  
Rod Anderton

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## Groups

### Discussion Group

As there is no meeting in December we are holding two in January: the first on Thursday 7th when we will discuss “The Science and Ethics of Old Age.”

The second meeting will be on Thursday 28th. Subject to be decided. Both meetings at 3:00PM at Peter Purvey’s home.

For more information ring Peter on 96 583 4139.

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### Peter Purvey's Curious Corner

Dem bones, dem bones—again !

Huge 6-inch-wide fossilised teeth are washing up on a N Carolina beach. They are from a prehistoric shark that lived from 15 million to 5 million years ago. At 60 feet long and as big as a bus, a great white would have looked like a minnow. It is thought that storms unearthed them from the sea floor. (Phew!. Glad they are not around any more)

Skeletal remains recently found in a cave in China have been identified as *Homo sapiens*. In other words, us. Mystery is, however, that they have been dated to around 80 thousand years ago whereas it was previously thought that we did not arrive in China more than 40 thousand years ago. (Back to the drawing board!)

BAE and the UK Government have together invested over 80 million pounds in a company called Reaction Engines. They are developing a power unit called Sabre, which they hope will get passengers anywhere in the world within four hours. (Hardly time to have a good meal and a siesta).

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## Answers to John's November Quiz

1. The screenplay for the James Bond film *You Only Live Twice* was written by which children's author?

**Answer:** Roald Dahl

While most people know Roald Dahl as the author of iconic children's books such as *James and the Giant Peach* and *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*, he was also an accomplished screenwriter who adapted many works for Hollywood as well as a decorated military man and intelligence officer.

With that in mind, it's not entirely surprising to find out that not only did he know Ian Fleming, author of the James Bond books, but that he was selected to adapt the book *You Only Live Twice* into a screenplay. The work was particularly tricky in two ways. First, Fleming had died two years prior to the start of the film process and was thus unable to contribute feedback. Second, the book was considered to be one of his weaker ones and Dahl insisted it really needed some shoring up to make it to the silver screen.

The film's producers gave Dahl a large degree of freedom with the script; it was the first Bond film which radically departed from the plot of the book upon which it was based. The adaptation was well received and Dahl was quickly enlisted to adapt another one of Fleming's books into a film: *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang*.

2. Which country has the highest atomic element discoveries to its name?

**Answer:** the UK

When we talk about elemental discoveries, we typically talk about them in terms of who discovered them. Rutherford discovered nitrogen, Davy discovered potassium, Curie discovered radium, and so on.

But what if you organize the periodic table according to the countries hosting the scientists doing the discovering? In 2013, PhD student Jamie Gallagher mapped out the entire periodic table by flagging each element with the country in which it was discovered.

Under such organization, it is revealed that The United Kingdom leads by a solid margin with 23 total elements, edging out Sweden and Germany (tied with 19), and the United States and France (following behind and tied with 17).

What's interesting about Gallagher's way of organizing the period table is how, when viewed in sum, it offers a sort of historical overview of the history of elemental exploration. Many of the elements discovered by scientists working in the United Kingdom, for example, were discovered in the 18th and 19th centuries and include common elements like sodium, magnesium, and calcium that had not, despite being common and abundant, been isolated by the scientific community. Conversely, the majority of elemental discoveries belonging to the United States are in the metallic/radioactive section of the periodic table, like einsteinium and fermium, and were a direct result of America's extensive nuclear weapons program in the mid-20th century.

3. What is packaged meat treated with to keep it pink?

**Answer:** carbon monoxide

Red meat browns with age as the blood in the muscle tissue oxidizes. Despite the fact that it's perfectly safe to cook and eat after it no longer looks bright red and fresh from the slaughterhouse (assuming it has been properly stored and handled), the browning process is off-putting to picky consumers.

To avoid American consumers leaving perfectly good meat on the shelf, the meatpacking industry uses a clever trick: they treat and package red meat with a mixture of carbon monoxide, carbon dioxide, and nitrogen. The carbon monoxide is specifically included in the mixture to prevent the browning that is so off-putting to consumers (without the carbon monoxide in the mixture, the meat would take on a grey/purple cast thanks to the other compounds in the mixture).

Although the process is benign (breathing in carbon monoxide is very dangerous for humans, but eating treated meat has no effect), not everyone finds the process acceptable. The process is banned in many countries and the Health Science Institute has called for a cessation of the practice in the United States on the ground that the treatment doesn't actually inhibit microbial growth, but it does give older meat the appearance of freshness which can lead to consumers eating meat that looks fresh from the butcher block but is unsafe to eat.

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## *Finally*

May I, on behalf of the Committee, wish you and your loved ones all best wishes for the festive season and a happy and healthy New Year.

Don't forget to save a few euros for the trip to Valencia in January!

Janet Bond