

NEWSLETTER



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June, a month once sacred to Juno, hence junoesque. As the wife of Jupiter she was, naturally, the goddess of marriage. Could this be why June was thought to be a lucky month to be wed? Happy Anniversary to all those who did marry in June.

Welcome to our new members! Why not join one of the group holidays to meet some members. John and Theresa will help you at the travel desk at a General Meeting. Use the website to find out all about us. Any committee member will be glad to help you, look for our badges and photographs at meetings.

Forthcoming Events:

Momentos Musical

Your U3A Choir present a Programme of ever popular light entertainment on Thursday 7th July, Salau Blau, Casa de Cultura at 7:30p.m
TICKETS 5 Euros in aid of CARITAS, CALPE
on sale at the June General Meeting, or available by phone from Mary, 96 583 2081;
Lee, 96583 7944 or online u3achoir@hotmail.co.uk

Tina invites you to a Quiz night with meal at the El Bolero Restaurante on October 26th.
Book now!

Here on December 10th? There will be a U3A CHRISTMAS MEAL at the El Bolero Restaurante. Put your name(s) down now to ensure a place.

News from the Lions:

The annual BOUTIQUE CAROL FASHION SHOW takes place at Restaurante Puerto Blanco on June 16th. Enjoy a delightful lunch on the terrace as the models drift elegantly through the tables. It's very informal, there's no loud music and the setting is perfect. Many husbands have discovered what a pleasant day it is, so bring yours too!

Tickets are €24 and this includes the three course lunch with a glass of wine and a donation to Caritas in Calpe.

Information and reservations, telephone 96 583 4852

MOFTAG invites you:

Be early on Saturday, June 11th at 10 a.m., for the home made cake stall and raffle near the English butcher & Delphin pub.

Bring & Buy--proceeds to charity.

SURPRISE SURPRISE !!

We decided to try driving to England in May, using this trip as an opportunity to visit some friends in Pau. It was lovely to find that the hotel we had decided to try as our overnight stop offered us a spacious, modern room with a very comfortable lounge chair as an extra. The hotel was opened in 2008 as part of a bodega and only cost 45 euros for the room. The young French manager met us at reception, gave us a free glass of one of his wines and later cooked us a delicious meal.

After a continental breakfast the next morning, we were on our way to Jaca which had looked inviting last time we had passed through. It would be a good place for a lunch stop. As we parked small boys were throwing crackers about...why were they not in school? Turning into the cathedral square we were faced with the all too familiar railings all around it. Something was afoot, so, using my meagre Spanish I queried what people were waiting for. It was the first Friday in May, Jaca's big historic fiesta.



One of many!



We **had** to stay but were just about to give up when the first band arrived. People in mediaeval costumes of velvet and brocade assembled near a side door then disappeared into the church with all the local dignitaries. Luckily they soon reappeared, lining up in front of the main entrance. During all this time the mighty carillon had been sounding so it was a relief when they were silenced to allow the main event to unfurl. I choose that word because groups representing artisans, spinners, fighting men, each appeared in their turn, in brightly coloured costumes. Each leader carried their own large banner which they manfully swayed, bowing in front of the costumed nobles & town representatives

Earlier a lone man had been wandering around in a tall-crowned hat which was covered in flowers. The lady explaining everything to us in fast fluent Spanish had no explanation for his hat other than it was spring. Now he was joined by more of the same, then men with guns. They stopped, pointed their guns to the sky and fired in absolute union. I jumped several mm., hands over ears. Cavaliers came galloping down the street, one horse skidding dangerously. What a relief when he found his feet. I could thoroughly recommend this event, if only we had been able to stay for the evening do! Enid B.



AUSTRALIA IN THE FLOODS



Last November Geoff and I made the long trip to Australia for my daughter's wedding and for a possible extra trip to New Zealand. We flew this time with a new (to us) airline – Royal Brunei Airlines. It was excellent, and the extremely long flight was split into three sections: Heathrow to Dubai (8 hrs); Dubai to Brunei (7 hrs); and Brunei to Brisbane (8 hrs). So we arrived more alert than on previous flights.

We then had constant heavy rain every day for the whole of November.

Our holiday accommodation was a Granny Flat in the garden of Charlie's (don't call me Charlotte!) and Tony's garden. The wedding was to be in the White Eagle Lodge, Witta, which is within walking distance from the house. It DID stop raining for most of the special day. My daughter had chosen a themed wedding: we were all to be in Fancy Dress! Bride and Groom were King and Queen of Hearts, and the younger guests were both amusing and colourful. (Geoff and I went as Mother and Step-Father of the Bride, and were fairly "normal" compared with Robin Hood, Rob Roy, a princess, Vincent van Gogh, a Ninja Turtle, escaped convicts and various delectable maidens. After the Wedding Reception, the rain started in earnest again!

Two days later, we felt rain water dripping from our ceiling, and ALSO it was coming up through the tiles on the floor! We couldn't stay in the Granny Flat another night. Suitcases were packed, and we evacuated and moved into the next-door-neighbour's house; and she made us very welcome for the next week. But still the rain persisted.

A decision had to be made. We had another six weeks of our holiday to go..... Or could we change our flight and return to Sunny Calpe for Christmas???

Yes, we COULD change our flight at NO extra cost, and leave in ten days time. Decision made! We packed as much socialising as we could into those ten days (raining every day still) and arrived home to find that Calpe too had experienced torrential rain. It continued to rain in Queensland, and they were to experience flooding throughout the area for many weeks.

Witta is on high ground, so my daughter and family were safe, but very WET. As you will have seen in the Press, the rain continued for two more months. Our thoughts were with those who lost homes, and whose lives were changed by the devastating floods in Queensland of 2010 – 2011.

Penny Clifford

Thanks for sharing this special trip with us. I particularly like the idea of a themed event, such fun!



TRAVEL NEWS

Those members that booked the 7 day Royal Caribbean cruise round the med 22nd – 29th May were unanimous in saying what a wonderful time they had and how much they enjoyed not only the cruise but the various ports of call, also the splendour and quality of the ship with its many facilities, dinning, shows and other presentations that were first class, its a pity more of our members didn't take advantage of this trip as it was remarkable value for the cost.

Bookings are now being taken for our 1 day trip to Hoya De Cadenas wineries on the 17th of Sept, not to be missed.

Bookings are also being taken for the 6 days 5 nights "White Villages Tour" starting on the 3rd of Oct, I would recommend that you book asap to save being disappointed. See you at the meeting!

John Pickford.

Special bulletin for Groups. <<<<<<<<

Next year the committee hope you will support the U3A Exhibition of U3A ctivities in the Casa Cultura.

Please start to save actual exhibits, e. g. paintings, patchwork, mosaics, photographs(either of a particular topic or of yourselves involved in various sporting activities or holidays.) A diary of your group's meetings would be interesting, interviews with the group members.

Don't leave it to the last minute!

End of term

Once again, members who voluntarily go into school to help familiarise the Spanish children with how spoken English sounds are invited to a lovely meal at the Mirador on June 8th at 8pm.

It's fun to connect with the children.

This year, on the World Day for Volunteers, the children gave us a lovely concert and we were thanked and awarded with our Certificates by Chimo Tur. The end of the Christmas term we were wined and dined with the staff in the school canteen, after all the children had left the premises. They taught us Valenciana songs, we taught them "We do like to be beside the seaside". Their chef produces better food than many restaurants.



Hope you enjoyed the lemon meringue pie, here's another tempting recipe from Miss Ellie

Picnic Bars.

The recipe will make approx 10 fingers from a square baking tin 18x18cm and 3cm deep.

125grms self raising flour & a pinch of salt

125 grms butter

125grms soft brown sugar

Mix all together (it will be a thick soft type paste) press flat into the tin (not too hard) then prick it with a fork

Bake in preheated oven, 160/65 (fan oven) for 18/20mins. It should be a light golden colour.

As it cools down the centre will sink in the centre. Now mix the filling:

FILLING

125gms chopped dates

50gms flaked almonds

75gms dess. co-co nut

75gms. Soft brown sugar

75gms chopped glace cherries

2 eggs, beaten

75gms self raising flour

Mix all together to a paste type mix

When the base is cold, spread the filling over it making sure it goes to the corners and dredge with Demerara sugar. Bake in oven set at 160c for 30/35mins. It will look golden brown when cold. Cut into fingers while still in the tin

Sometimes it will seem greasy underneath but that is o.k.-- it's because of the butter!

When I do this I have two tins and double up on all the items. **ENJOY!**

Have you heard?

You can recycle your old mobile phone at the Post Office in Calpe.

Danielle has picked up some of the correct envelopes and will give one to members who bring their old phones to the meeting. You put the phone only, not the charger, into this, addressed and printed with RED CROSS and hand it in at the Correos.

Quiz answers for May.

1. avacado aguacante 2. berza cabbage 3. aubergine berenena 4. calabacin courgette

5. remolacha beetroot.

They are all vegetables.