

U3A Calpe NEWSLETTER

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Informal Summer Dinner and Dance

This promises to be a lovely evening of dinner, drinks and dancing! It will be held at Restaurante Dracula (in the Port) on Wednesday 29th April at 7 for 7:30pm and will cost €16 to include cava reception, 3 course meal with coffee and wine. Further information is provided later on in the newsletter.

Hello, and welcome to our March newsletter.

We hope that you are “Springing Forward” into what is already shaping up to be a beautiful season. The daffodils and Iris are coming out and we are having (mostly) glorious weather!

Please do not forget that without your news and articles to put in it, we would not have a newsletter at all. So please keep sending in your fun facts, stories and news items! Please continue to send all your news and articles for further newsletters to Giovanna Wallis on editor@u3acalpe.com

We are delighted to announce that at our general meeting this month we will have the U3A choir performing for us. If you missed their performance on Saturday 14th March at the Salon Blau, this is your chance to see them in action!

Coming events

Our next general meeting will be on **Thursday 19th March 2015** at the Ifach Hotel, Salon Mare Nostrum at 10:00 for 10:30 AM.

Please see below for all of our meeting dates for this year:

- 16th April
- 21st May
- 18th June
- July and August **No meetings**
- 17th September
- 15th October
- 19th November (AGM)

We are delighted to announce that next month our speaker will be David Elford, who is the ex financial director of Liberty's of London (Department Store in Regent Street). He will talk to us about his time at the store.

As usual, you can pick up all travel information and many of our groups signing up information at our general meetings and it is always a great opportunity to meet with fellow members.

Member News – Computer Buddies

From: Ian Coleman

I often get asked “What iPad should I buy?” This is marketing, in the way we say Hoover, when we actually mean vacuum. In fact they mean what tablet should I buy. All tablets are basically the same, it is the operating system that is different. The two main contenders are Apple iOS and Google Android. Apple in my opinion is the best system but its tablet has its drawbacks.

With the Apple tablet the memory capacity you buy it with is the memory capacity you are stuck with, whereas with Android tablets these mostly come with the ability to increase the memory capacity by the addition of a memory card. This is particularly useful if you wish to use the tablet as an entertainment system by watching movies on the go or for saving photos, as both eat up memory fast.

The addition of Apps, (applications or programs) is available for both systems. But I have found that what is free for the Android system is chargeable for Apple. For example there is an excellent App called iTranslate. For the Android this is free and will translate typed and spoken words and replay them, whereas for the Apple the free version it will only translate typed words and for the spoken version this is charged for.

Lastly there is the cost factor, Apple tablets tend to be much more expensive to buy than Android tablets and although you may believe you will only buy one in your lifetime, with technology moving faster every day, you may find yourself buying a replacement quicker than you think.

For any computer or tablet assistance you may need, be it setting up Skype, to working with Microsoft office or photo editing, you will find me under computer buddies on the group listing.

The Odd and Curious

Another Nessie?

Ancient bones that have been found on the Isle of Skye from time to time have been identified as those from a new species of *Ischysaurus*, a 14 foot long aquatic monster with fearsome teeth that roamed Scottish waters some 170 million years ago.

At the same time what was thought to be a plaster cast in a Doncaster museum has turned out to be... wait for it... another new species of *Ischysaurus* some 189 years old.

Travel

Northern Spain/Southern France

A 7 day/6 night trip departing on 31st May 2015.

Cost: €385 pp, single supplement is just €90 for the whole week.

A fantastic tour of this lovely area. We still have places on this wonderful trip! A deposit of €80 secures your place and the balance is due on or before 15th April.

Check out the web page for more details.

Manises, Albufera and Cullera

Day trip – 24th June

Cost: €32 for Members €38 non members

This is a subsidised trip.

We will visit the Manises Ceramic Museum followed by a boat trip. Then lunch with wine in Albufera then on to Cullera for some free time to wander or sit watching the world go by. As it's in the summer this seems a perfect trip.

This will sell out quickly so get your name down as soon as possible with €10pp deposit to secure your place.

Med Cruise

8 day Cruise – departing on 15th October 2015 from Valencia with coach transfers included.

Price on Application - still places available.

This is a great value cruise with mostly balcony cabins. Contact our travel team and we will get you a price. Unfortunately the prices have gone up although not very much.

Please note: in future all trips booked at the general meetings will be subject to a holding deposit of €5.

We are currently looking into some more trips for our members at the moment so keep checking out our web page.

Any questions? Come over to our travel desk at the meetings or drop us an email at the addresses listed below.

If you have any ideas for us please let any of our travel team know we are always open to suggestions.

For any further information or suggestions for any future trips, please contact ellen.mitchell@btinternet.com or penelopebrighton@hotmail.com

Social Events News

Informal Summer Dinner and Dance

As mentioned on the front page of this newsletter, we are holding an informal dinner and dance at Restaurant Dracula (in the port) on Wednesday 29th April 2015.

This event will cost €16 per person and includes a cava reception, 3 course meal with bread, *Alioli* and wine with coffee included.

There will be live music by Daniel and this event promises to be a great start to those balmy summer evenings we are all craving.

We are continuing to take monies and menu choices at this month's general meeting. Depending on the initial response, we may have to limit this event to members only so book early to avoid disappointment.

Groups News

Dance Fitness

This group is run in association with the U3A as it is an already existing class at the Footlights Studio (formerly New Med Dance).

It is open for any members of the U3A who would like to join at any time. It is a low impact fun class designed to raise your heart rate and mobilise your joints.

It is held on a Tuesday and Thursday morning from 10-11am and costs €5 per class.

Please contact Giovanna Wallis for more information on 634 347 937 or editor@u3acalpe.org

Flower Arranging

This group, run by Tina Wallis, has started again on Mondays at 10:30am at *Restaurante Exotic* on *La Fossa* beach.

The dates of classes up to May are:

- 23rd March
- 13th & 27th April

Please contact Tina on 96 583 3197 or tinamaria19@gmail.com for more information and to sign up for this group.

J.U.G.s Lunch

For the April meeting, the group will be returning to the Tennis Club,

Calpe. The lunch in March was so successful and the food was wonderful!

Also, the date will be Thursday 2nd April which is Maundy Thursday and part of *Semana Santa*. It was agreed by the group that the town and sea fronts would be very busy with holiday makers for Easter, and it would be nicer for it to be a bit more sedate at the Tennis Club.

Val Weatherald will be taking names and monies at this month's general meeting.

New Discussion Group

As so many were away or laid low with the local 'bug' I had to cancel the February meeting. So we shall meet again on Thursday 26th March at 3 for 3.15pm.

We shall be discussing
INTELLIGENCE - NORMAL,
ARTIFICIAL OR ALIEN

Anyone with views on this subject is welcome to come along to the meeting at 3pm at my house. Please ring Peter Purvey for directions on 96 583 4139

Reports

Group Report: Watercolour Painting

By: Teresa Pickford

My Grandfather was a gifted amateur artist and as a child I spent many hours with him in his studio, with my own set of paints and an easel. When the weather was kind we would paint or sketch outside. At school I carried on my love of art in general, I still can't resist an art gallery. However, I was always first to finish in exams as I've never been good at taking my time!

Since those days I've not had the time to indulge in my hobby, until the last few years with U3A Calpe.

I joined Hilary Hare's group which meets at her house, outside when sunny! It has revived my interest and I have picked up a few tips. The company is good and it is nice to chat and work with like minded people. I heartily recommend anyone to join and either start up or pursue this pastime. Hilary specialises in water colour, so you only need a small starter set, available in town. Have a go!

Group Report: Canasta

By: Diane Putnam

Canasta is a card game, played by us, with four or six people to a table, each table having two teams who sit A, B, A, B, etc round the table. A table plays with four packs of cards including jokers.

The idea of the game is for a team to collect sets, and sets gain points. Obviously the team with the most points or the first to reach 25,000 points is the winner.

I joined as a beginner, but the other players all helped, gave advice and/or guidance when I asked, and were very patient whilst I learnt.

That said, it is light hearted and fun, and can be addictive, with people sometimes squeezing in an extra game approaching the 4 pm mark.

Then it is tea time! We all sit round together for a cuppa or two, and choccie biscuits or scrumptious homemade cake, and a general chat.

Why not give it a try on a Tuesday or Wednesday afternoon? You will be made very welcome, space permitting at Sandra's home. Sandra is an excellent leader and host.