



# u3a Vall del Pop

## News4u Issue 16 - Nov 2010

### FUN AT THE BBC

By Jenny Holmes.

At the General meeting on Thursday 4th November, we were treated to a memorable talk by David Shute. Those of you who missed this talk missed a real gem.

David was one of those intrepid reporters who took on dare devil assignments for the BBC, and he gave us a fascinating insight into the background of many of his exploits. His vivid descriptions were illustrated through original recordings made for BBC Radio Four's Today programme and Woman's Hour.



Every escapade brought its own problems. When reporting from a stunt glider at the National Championships, his recording equipment could not cope with the high gee forces experienced during the aerobatics and his voice took on the quality of a chipmunk. Communication difficulties occurred when he dived with the Royal Engineers. Wearing an old fashioned diving suit and attempting an interview from the sea bed with, believe or not, appropriately named Commander David Jones, he had to rig up a complicated system of visual questions. On another occasion he rode pillion on a Royal Artillery motor cycle with his essential commentary crib sheet pinned to his driver's back. His terror was transmitted via the microphone as they passed through the tunnel of fire.

Public speaking can be fraught with difficulties when the mind and the voice do not connect appropriately. Young reporters apparently took delight in setting verbal traps to trip up their colleagues. The result led to spoonerisms such as, the Lesbian army in Beirut, the British Broadcastration Corporation and many more that often went out live.

His query about being allowed to over-run his allocated 30 minutes met with unanimous approval, but this extra time was still not long enough for his audience and he was asked if he could return at a later date. Although supposedly retired in Spain he is now hugely appreciated by cruising and after dinner audiences. Should he manage, sometime in the future, to fit us into his busy schedule it will be another occasion not to be missed.



*It may have been few weeks ago now - but the excitement of treading the grapes at Maserof must still be a treasured memory for all those who took the opportunity to join the TCP group - judging by the photo!*

## A Few Words from the President.

Your committee have been busy over the past month or two, trying to pass on our experience to future office holders by adding addenda to the Constitution. This is not a change to the Constitution but rather a few words of guidance in how to operate it smoothly, and allowing for maximum involvement of the members.



The addenda are aimed at solving two problems. The first regarding the role of Treasurer, aimed at clarifying the handling of the new Travel fund, and also laying out the procedure for handling the accounts, from the collecting of subscriptions to the paying in of the same to the bank. All with auditable control and the necessary transparency for the membership.

Our other addendum is aimed at regularising the procedure concerning the holding of extraordinary meetings. We became aware that the Constitution lays down no procedure for the democratic participation of members prior to Extraordinary General meetings and so we are setting out to rectify this. Both of these addenda will be presented to the members before being attached to the Constitution.

This I know is all boring stuff but that is what committees do. They also organise some exciting things not the least of which will be the forthcoming December meeting held on the 2<sup>nd</sup>. So why not come along, for besides the normal business, we will also have a host of entertainments, including a small play, carols for you all to sing, and of course festive refreshments.

**Regards.**

**David Garside. President.**



### **Editorial - Byron Dawson**

"Parting is such sweet sorrow." I have been editor of the U3A newsletter for the last two years and feel that now is the time for the introduction of some new blood. Jazz Waspe will be putting this newsletter together ready for the formal transfer at the end of the year. Many thanks to all my readers. I am sure the newsletter will go from strength to strength with Jazz and I wish her all the best.

*Thanks Byron ... you are a hard act to follow, but I'll do my best! Jazz.*

## ***DISCOUNTS FOR U3A MEMBERS***

The list of local businesses willing to give a discount to members showing their membership cards is growing, so it's certainly worth going to the website, clicking into "Members Only" and looking at the details. At the moment the list includes : curtain making, physiotherapy, insurance, handyman/plumber, UK. car hire, beauty treatments/ reflexology / hairdressing in your home, dentist in Pego, skincare in Parcent, Fiesta Crafts and Specsavers in Javea, Book World in Calpe and Ondara, plus Occasions and The Chair in Jalón.

You may also like to browse the websites of other U3A groups in the area and see what discounts they offer to members. Many of these offer general "discounts to U3A members" and you could easily find that you are able to save as a member of the U3A Vall del Pop. If you do, let us know your experiences!

If you find any other local organisation who is willing to give a discount upon the production of a current U3A membership card, please email [jazzwaspe@hotmail.com](mailto:jazzwaspe@hotmail.com) so that we can include it in the list online.



### FOR ALL THOSE WHO APPRECIATE A GOOD READ . . . . .

Our new "**Book-Swap**" group began in November 2010 with great excitement and enthusiasm and a small but elite band of confirmed bookworms. What better than to be part of a group of happy U3A-ers sitting round a table in a local cafe with a good cup of coffee and a pile of recommended books in the centre?

The idea is so simple. You come along with a book which you have read and enjoyed, and now feel ready to send on a journey of appreciation. You add the precious book to the growing heap of similar items on the table. You root through the books already there, pick one which attracts you and wait for its previous owner to tell you all about it. You have a coffee while you think. You tell someone else about the book which you have contributed. After a while, you leave to walk to the U3A general meeting to meet other friends, carrying a new book which you know you will enjoy reading then passing on!

There is no limit on the number of books you can bring - the more the better! You can even bring DVD's if you would like to. Or CD's ... why not?

EVERY THURSDAY WHEN THERE IS A GENERAL MEETING.

VINYATER BODEGA, Jalón. (down the road and opposite Pepe Santos's)

ABOUT 9.15 (or whenever you're ready!)



FASHI ON SHOW AND CHR I STMAS BAZAAR  
THURSDAY DECEMBER 2ND 3PM  
ALCALALÍ CIVIC CENTRE. (BAR CREU)

Loads of stalls to get you in the Christmas spirit





## VISIT TO VILLAJOYOSA AND THE VALOR FACTORY.

By Rita Ballentyne

Being a confirmed chocoholic, when U3A announced that there was to be a visit to the Chocolate Factory, how could I not go?

We had an 8.30 a.m. departure with some in the group muttering about getting up in the dark. At Villajoyosa a delightful guide, Marlana, met us and off we went for a guided walk. The old town has very colourful houses, tiny streets and is quite picturesque, the sort of place I would like to go back to and drift around with a camera. Marlana took us to the old fortified church dedicated to Santa Marta, the town's patron Saint, where she gave us a very informative talk on the corsairs and Barbary pirates of old that had threatened Villajoyosa in 16th century.



While Marlana was telling us the history of the Church, she told us of the diving suits. Most of the group were mystified, diving suits in the 15th and 16th centuries? Surely not. Anyway after much discussion it was decided between Marlana and the group that she meant divine souls not diving suits. As she had a good sense of humour, we all laughed a lot.. I thoroughly enjoyed the tour as I am sure everybody else did and I now want to read up on Villajoyosa's history.

After the tour everybody went their own way, many to the market. We went to the Valor chocolate shop and had a scrummy hot chocolate sitting in the sun and looking at the sea, sheer bliss. We then made our way to the coach for the ride to the restaurante La Cova in Campello. The lunch was delicious and we all ate more than we needed. After this, back to the coach and onto the Valor chocolate factory.



After a film giving the history of Valor and, how chocolate was made, the tour began. First the little museum in which all the very old implements for making chocolate were kept, then on to the factory. I am not really sure just what I expected but the very modern highly automated production line was most impressive with many hundreds of litres of chocolate in the great gleaming vats just waiting to make all the lovely bars and individual treats on which to gorge oneself. Then on to the shop where we were given free samples and most of us bought various goodies to take home.

**It was with great sadness that we learned of the death of Alf Davey.**

**Together with his wife Jan, he brought a great deal of pleasure to our dance group. They both gave their time every week to help everyone, regardless of ability.**

**Alf was a pleasure to know, we had lots of laughs at the class and he will be greatly missed by us all. Our thoughts are with Jan at this time.**

**Some of you will know that Alf & Jan held a social on the second Thursday of the month at Teulada, and it has been decided to cancel the event in November.**

**However, it is hoped to arrange one for December 9th and to treat it as a "Tribute Event" in his memory. We would like it to be an evening for everyone, dancers or not!**

**Please let me know if you can make it.**

**Vincent O'Brien**

**Phone; 966 405 225**

## A FUNNY THING HAPPENED ON THE WAY TO LA COLINA .

The Jalón U3A Pop In Group is few in number: 4 only. It was set up 2 years ago to be a “giving” group: to offer one’s service to members with a need that cannot be met with any longer. Examples of what was in mind were shopping, for those without a car; visits to the local doctor; a visit to a café/bar just to get out of the house; or a visit by someone to break the silence or loneliness with a “cuppa” at home. There are legions of small tasks – these are but a few.



However, the problem is finding a “customer”; people are reluctant to ask for help; reluctant to admit a small need which would or would not be a “trouble” to a give.

In the absence of calls we have directed our help to a Nursing Home in Calpe called La Colina. It is a residential/Nursing Home for English people; so language is not a problem for us; however the staff are all Spanish speaking and extremely busy. There is a mixture of infirm in both body and mind: wheelchair bound or early mild dementia.

They appreciate our visits so much: most are 80+ and some have no living relatives: we are their substitute. Added to our visits we have a monthly “Sing Along”. They join us in singing “old favourites”: some very old songs & some a little more modern: even Elvis songs are in the 25 songs that we use for our 1-1 ½ hour concert. We sing along with the residents; we see how much they love the memories linked to each song. Yesterday one of the songs was “She loves you yeah, yeah, yeah” by the Beatles. My fellow singer (a non U3A member) and I put on wigs for fun. I do not possess any other than my Barrister’s wig. To add a touch of humour I turned it back to front, as the picture shows!

After the concert one of the ladies spoke to me: she has an MS type of ailment, but has a wonderful memory and voice. She informed me that she nearly choked when she saw my wig: she used to be a Barrister herself. Suddenly the world became a very much smaller place for both of us: we spoke Barrister talk; we used the jargon of the job; we compared; we nattered like a pair of “Briefs”. I tell you of this experience as a tale of what could happen to a helper in Pop-In; talk and kindness to another may open a door of most interesting and unusual conversations of the lives and thoughts of others. Others who would be delighted to talk to a helper/friend.

Someone said it will happen to us all: we cannot remain in our present state of health; age will take an intruder role; Pop In might soften the visit. Others need us; whether we are prepared to offer a very small hour or two of our days for another person is the decision that is needed.

It does have very strange and unexpected rewards at times.

Michael Bulleid



PRESS RELEASE ISSUED ON BEHALF OF CARELINE THEATRE

## That Time of Year.

It's that time of year again. The time when the magic of the festive season is well into the making. One chunk of that magic that is well on the way to making the stage of the Alcalali theatre is the Careline pantomime,

## Ali Baba and the Forty Thieves.

It opens there on Wednesday January 12 and plays there for five evening performances and two matinees until Sunday January 16. The matinees are on the afternoons of the Saturday and Sunday.

Careline Theatre have a long standing reputation for staging pantomimes that are a bit special and their next pantomime will not only enhance that reputation but give us something that is a bit different. Ali Baba and the Forty Thieves is not based on a fairy story but on a story from the Arabian Nights. In its original form a pretty blood-thirsty one at that. Yet in the hands of an experienced writer of pantomimes and a very talented director it adds to all the traditional fun of pantomime the mystical excitement of the East.

Norman Robbins is just such a writer and Candy Wright just such a director and in Careline Theatre they have the backing of probably the most experienced and widely acclaimed pantomime team on the Costa Blanca.

Candy has a terrific cast: and once again Wardrobe Mistress, Jan Walker will be providing stunning costumes, Musical Director, Roger Dean and Choreographer, Suzanna Mace will be giving the show some absolutely fabulous musical numbers.

The wonderful eastern promise of Ali Baba and his Forty Thieves is going to be delivered in full measure on the Alcalali stage this autumn. Don't miss it.

Tickets are priced at 12 euros for adults and 10 euros for children. . They are on sale at Kelly's of La Xara and from the box office on 652 294 750.

( \* Anne and Derek have organised tickets for the U3A on Friday 14th.)

BERNARD KING. 96 646 23 85.

### MAKE PAYING YOUR SUBS EASIER IN 2011

U3A subscriptions will be due as usual in January 2011, but this time we are offering you a choice of payment methods. You can pay at the General Meeting as in previous years, or you can sit at home and make the payment online by bank transfer. Don't forget , - the new rate has been reduced to only €10, and you can do this anytime from now. Here's how to do it ...

Go to your own on-line bank details      Complete the simple form  
Quote present membership number      U3A Bank account no is 2100 6033 21 0200038126

All important details are in the number. No other information is required.

Your new membership card will be waiting for you at the next meeting. If you need help please see me at the meeting.

Rod Wasp - Treasurer



## Christmas Meal at La Solana.

On  
Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> December



Come and enjoy a chance to have a chat and a good meal with fellow members.

Lots of Tapas and choice of main meal\*

Cost 16 €.

\*Chicken, Lamb or Salmon.

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## Valentine's Meal

Treat your friend or partner to a fantastic meal at

**El Paraiso**

on

**Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> February.      7.30 for 8.00**

Great menu & Live Music      Cost 16€

Telephone Sandra on 965581353

or      email [secretary@u3avalldelpop.com](mailto:secretary@u3avalldelpop.com)

### **JANUARY WITH GREENFINGERS.**

The General meeting in January will be held on the 13th, and will take the form of a Question and Answer session with Dick and Clodagh Handscombe, authors of many books about gardening in this area and regular newspaper columnists.

The Handscombes have years of experience of gardening in this area - so can answer those difficult questions you may have. Just write them down and put in the suggestion box at the December meeting.



# DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



The Travel and Culture Group are working hard all the time to bring you a variety of great things to do, so remember to check the website for up-to-date information. Go to "Groups", then find "Travel Group" For the "Culture Group" Derek and Anne can always answer any queries on 966 481 069 if you ring after 5PM.. For "Travel" ring Annie on 965 732 771, or the person running the event.

## NOVEMBER 25<sup>TH</sup>

### DAY TRIP TO BOCAIRENT.

The coach will leave Jalón at 8.15 a.m. We hope to call at a recycle glass museum and shop before arriving at Bogairent , where there will be a guided walking tour through the historic centre, with its narrow cobbled streets, a visit to the beautiful church, the ice house, and we shall learn the history of the Covetes dels Moros. Then time for an (optional ) 3-course lunch at the Hotel L'Estacio. After lunch we will visit the unique bullring and then travel back to Jalón, arriving at approx. 18.30 hrs. Price per person to include coach, entry fees, guide, and tips, - 18 euros (optional lunch 10 euros extra). More details on the website, or contact Annie on 965 732 771. (This trip is now full but we have a reserve list, if anyone wants to put their name down.)

## NOVEMBER 27<sup>TH</sup>

"TIME TO KILL" The Autumn production by the Monte Pego Theatre Company at Rafol Town Hall Theatre.

Tickets are normally 12 euros, but group discount brings it down to 10.80€if 9 people would like to go. Phone Derek and Anne after 5pm on 96 648 1069.

## DECEMBER 1<sup>ST</sup>

"THE MEMORY OF WATER". A comedy by Javea Players at the Union Musical in Gata de Gorgos. Tickets 10€from Derek and Anne. If the group is larger than 20 people, a discount of 2€per ticket will be refunded on the night.

## DECEMBER 3<sup>RD</sup>.

BENIDORM PALACE for the spectacular show, meal and transport to and from Jalón. Cost depends on numbers, but will be about 52€in total. This is actually full now, but ring Sharlotte and Brian on 600280669 to see whether there are any drop-outs.

## DECEMBER 10<sup>TH</sup>

CHRISTMAS QUIZ., 7.30 pm, Bar Nou Senija. Usual format and menu but we will be encouraging a bit of festive spirit with a few different activities...Santa Hats optional! Price includes entry to the quiz (PRIZES TO BE WON!), plus a fish and chip supper with wine, beer or water. Teams of 4 will be drawn at random on the night, so come along for this very sociable evening where you can mix, make friends, enjoy fresh food and try your hand at winning a worthwhile prize! Please book with Derek and Anne, and pay in advance so that they can liaise with the restaurant.

## DECEMBER 14<sup>TH</sup>

### U3A'S CHRISTMAS DINNER.

La Solana, Alcalalí. For only 16€, we are promised a great menu and Christmas entertainment. Phone Sandra on 96 558 1353

## JANUARY 14<sup>TH</sup>

ALI BABA AND THE FORTY THIEVES. The annual Careline panto in Alcalalí. (See press release on previous page.) €10.80 ( Group discount applies - so we need more than 10 people to get this low price.) Tickets from Derek and Anne.

## FEBRUARY 10<sup>TH</sup>

VALENTINES MEAL at El Paraiso in Parcent. €16 for a great menu plus live music. Tickets from Sandra pn 965 581 353

## MAY 11<sup>TH</sup> - MAY 18<sup>TH</sup> 2011

### ROME AND TUSCANY. 750€

This trip is being organised jointly with other U3A groups, and full details are on the Moraira/Teulada website. 10 places have been allocated for our U3A., and we are now full, but you are welcome to enquire whether anyone has dropped out.



## DETAILS OF THE NEXT MEETING

The next General Meeting will be on  
Thursday 2nd December IN Xalo Town Hall

## CHRISTMAS SPECIAL !

No speaker this month, BUT. . . .

PANTO ! CHRISTMAS SONGS ! , and more !!

