

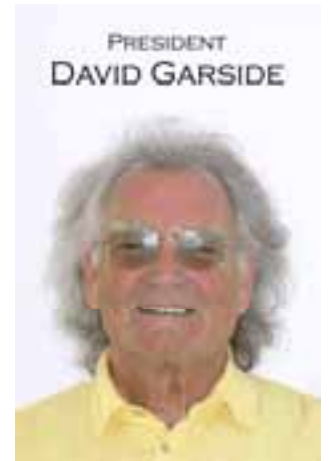


u3a Vall del Pop

News4u

Issue 14 - Sept 2010

Changes for the U3A



Normally when we write a report on the General Meeting it is with a focus on the talk given at the end of the proceedings. Following this General Meeting, instead of an interesting lecture, there was an Extraordinary General meeting.

Fortunately we are not without our stars amongst the Group leaders, so the day was not without levity. For instance, John Chilcott has been amusing us with his florid reports and of late calls for money from the "Wish list" to buy a helicopter. This time he declared his wish had been fulfilled upon receiving a card containing the pictures of not only the requested helicopter, but two accompanying support ships. Gail, who often competes with John in the humour stakes, reported that her group, called the Wednesday Wanderers, have through diligence and I suspect a lot of training, moved from ambling amongst orange groves and "grade easy" to walks of the more serious nature of "grade medium." Watch out John she will be after one of your helicopters soon. We were given the great news that the Ballroom Dancing will now be held in the prestigious Multi Uso Building in Alcalali, the same building in which our open day was organised last year. Vince urged all interested people attend the next session on Tuesday 21st Sept, starting 10-00 till 12-00. There is easy parking and if we don't keep up a good attendance the Mayor could reconsider his generous offer. Byron informed us that the astronomy group would be starting on the 16th, Sept, commencing 16-00 in the Centro Civico Alcalali. The Computer Group are planning to extend their activities to cover all types of technology, including special sessions on digital photographic manipulation. Ken's enthusiasm was palpable and certainly promises to enliven our technological lives. Along with most activities, the Film Group announced the start of the new season on 8th September. The first movie is to be "Happy Go Lucky" a Mike Lee film. Bruno informed us that the Spanish language Group had continued throughout the summer, as did his Dog Walking group, which because of the heat has been held during the evening. All of this news adds up to the renewal of activities after the summer break.

The Extraordinary meeting was a stormy affair where eventually the committee proposals were passed. They were aimed at cleaning up our financial rules, giving total transparency to our finances and protection for those responsible for its handling. Finally the changes allow for the Travel Group to manage its funds, with committee overview. In truth, there were no winners at the meeting and I must apologise for any upset caused. This was not the normal way we conduct our business and I would appeal to any of you who were shocked, to return to one of the next meetings, where I'm sure we will have reverted to our usual jovial selves. It is necessary to put this dispute in perspective. The committee might well be helpful in co-ordinating the activities, managing the funds and cooperating with outside bodies, but in the end the real heart, the whole reason for our existence resides with Group activities. A round of applause for those who stuck it out to the end.

A few words from the President

Welcome to the start of another "term" of exciting new activities, with over 40 groups to choose from there will be little time for boredom.

I would like to remind everyone that next spring the local elections will be taking place. In the past we have not quitted ourselves well. For example, in Alcalali, 80% of the host population voted, whilst amongst the expatriates it was only 18%. This has not served us well. It has indicated a lack of interest in our local community and has encouraged the local council to ignore us in their deliberations. If we are to take the next step to integration, it is our duty to participate in the next elections.

For those who have not yet registered, here is the procedure to do so.

1. You will need to be on the "Padron" (The budget handed down from the Valencia Comunidad is based on this figure and each missing name means that bit less for each council to spend.)
2. Take to your Ayuntamiento the following:
 - Your Passport or ID card
 - The escritura of your property or a copia simple or official rental agreement.
3. You will need to request inclusion on the "Padron"
4. Depending on your Ayuntamiento you will also be required to fill in a simple form.
5. When this is completed you should be eligible for inclusion on the voting register. You can do this by asking for the "El derecho a votar."

I talked to a mayor yesterday and he told me that you should check on your inclusion on the register a month or so before the elections are held.

I must add this is not a call for you to vote for any particular party, just voting sends a message. If you were at the interesting talk given by Jacqui Cottrill, you will remember her call for more foreign councillors, so if you are so inclined, why not enter the fray as a candidate.

Remember voting is one more step on the way to integration.

David Garside - President



Editorial - Byron Dawson

If there is one thing that I have learnt in the last few days, it's the value of friendship. Unlike the Pakistan cricket team, life tends to bowl us a no-ball when we least expect it. It is often all too easy to pick up the bat and ball and walk off in a huff, but at the end of the day, it's us who are the losers. So to all my friends out there, and those that I have yet to meet, thank you for your understanding and making life just that little bit better and for reminding me and others, what the important things in life really are.

SAN JUAN – MIDSUMMER MADNESS -

Oliva Playa, June 23rd.

Starting with a picnic on the beach next to traditional bonfires, then watching the fireworks and dancing displays, a great evening was had by one and all. The evening concluded with a dip in the sea at midnight and a paddle for the faint-hearted. Don't you just love Spain?



DISCOUNTS FOR U3A MEMBERS!

SPECIAL OFFER for all U3A members from Carlos

If you need some help at home

..... call Carlos

handyman: 690192976



NEW GROUP -- COFFEE AND BOOKS, (plus CD'S, DVD'S ETC. ?) !!

Rod and I would like everyone who enjoys reading and who like us, seem to be always scouring charity shops for "good books", to join us in forming a brand new group. The idea is to meet on the Thursday of the monthly meeting at about 9 o'clock or half past, at a venue near to the Ayuntamiento in Jalón for coffee and friendly chat before the meeting. You bring along books you have enjoyed, and donate them to a central table, where you will be able to take away others in exchange for them. Over coffee, book-chat ensues, then off we all trot to the meeting. I have seen this working wonderfully in the UK and think it should be even better here, where it is more difficult to get hold of books. Then there is no reason why it should not be extended to CD's, DVD's etc.

Comments, ideas, sign-ups, donated books all welcome at this preliminary stage! Tell us what you think!

Jazz Waspe 652584272

Crocks Quiz Night by Michael Bulleid

On 11th June the third Quiz Night was presented by Anne and Derek. It was attended by 48 people, a full complement. I hesitate to say a "Full House" as that refers to another pastime.

This night was unique in itself as two of the contestants arrived on crutches!

The photos show the details.

Even more unique was the fact that both of them had snapped their Achilles Tendons (Geoff Slater and Michael Bulleid) with a 4 week gap between each accident. Sarah Browne is their Nurse, she has taken them on hospital (Accident & Emergency) visits after their operations, hospital appointments, shopping etc. Their lack of physical mobility may have been a contributing mental factor to their teams not winning any of the 4 prizes!



Derek and Anne refused to give any complimentary points for their attending, despite being exhausted by the climb of the many steps to the Restaurant Bar Nou in Senija. As neither of them are able to drive, they made up for it in wine consumption!

The evening was lively, well presented, and mentally taxing. Many "If only" phrases were heard from all quarters when the answers were given. Anne and Derek's words were never questioned or appealed

against.

Over two and a half hours passed in the true spirit of Jalon 3rd Age. Good to be here and to be with you. The next quiz is 8th October, so please join us, flex the memory and enjoy the experience.

Details of next meeting

The next meeting will be a

GENERAL MEETING

Thursday 7th October

Xalo Town Hall

10.15am for new members and membership renewal

10.30am for 11.00am start

Guest speakers

Malcolm Hughes Jukes – The History of Spain

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! Remember to check the website for up-to-date information, but Derek and Anne can always answer any queries on 966 481 069 if you ring after 5PM.

SEPTEMBER 17TH

“COWARDY CUSTARD” by the Footlights Theatre. At Careline Theatre in Alcalá. 10€

SEPTEMBER 24TH

CELEBRATION OF SONG. A concert by “Sounds Familiar” at the Casa de Cultura in Benissa. 12€.

Come and enjoy a wonderful evening of very varied music and song. Almost all the numbers performed by this talented group will be familiar to you.

SEPTEMBER 24TH

SEPTEMBER BALL organised by the Moraira / Teulada U3A at Teulada. 35€.

Cava reception at 7.30, followed by 3-course menu with wine, beer, soft drinks or water, plus coffee and liqueur. Dancing to follow, and a free raffle.

OCTOBER 1ST – 3RD

TRIP TO PEÑISCOLA, staying at the Peñiscola Plaza Hotel. 115€. The hotel has mini golf, jacuzzi, swimming pool and 4 cafeterias. Price includes coach travel, coach trip to the medieval city of Morella, the museum and lots more. For this one, contact Irene or Terry on 965731247, but quickly, as places are filling fast.

OCTOBER 8TH

FUN QUIZ at the Bar Nou in Senija. 10€. 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.

OCTOBER 28TH

CHOCOLATE HEAVEN. 11.5€. A great day visiting Villajoyosa and the chocolate factory. The thoughtful programme includes a tour of the old city, followed by free time and a chance to visit the market, optional lunch (15€) and a tour of the Valor chocolate factory. Contact Sandra or Bob on 965581353

DECEMBER 3RD

BENIDORM PALACE for the spectacular show, meal and transport to and from Jalón. Cost depends on numbers, but will be about 52€ in total. Please book early for this one so that arrangements can be made for our discounts! Ring Charlotte and Brian on 600280669.

MAY 8TH - MAY 11TH 2011

CORDOBA 230 €. Full and varied programme of events with coach travel to and from Moraira. 3-star hotel in a central position with half board and some other items included. More details are on our website, or ring Carol Mantle on 965050273

MAY 11TH - MAY 18TH 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., so you need to get your deposit paid ASAP if you want to join this amazing trip.