



U3A Vall del Pop

No. 79

April

2017

NEWS4U



Dear Members

The warmer weather has finally arrived and it is wonderful being able to sit outside with a glass of wine and a few nibbles.

Since the AGM in March you may have been thinking what is new with our U3A. Well, our new committee members have been warmly welcomed and attended their first committee meeting, where, along with the general administration of the association, we discussed the objectives for 2017.

One of the main points that I would like to concentrate on is working closely with other associations on the Costa Blanca. TCET have stolen the lead on this one and have already been in talks with Denia U3A. Not to be outdone, I have been in contact with Calpe U3A and have been invited to attend their General Meeting on 20th April to have a chat with their new President, who, like me, wants to develop this aspect.

Another objective for the year is to try and encourage more members to become more actively involved with groups and increase attendance at General Meetings. This month we managed to get over 100 members to the Polivalent and I do think this was down to the excellent presentation we had from Daniel Herranz, who talked on Spanish Law and the possible implications of Brexit. He has been invited to come back and talk to us again in November. We are always looking for new ideas, so please feel free to contact any committee members or myself.

During the next few days I am sure that a number of you will be flying back to the UK to see family and friends. This is really a special time, especially when you are visiting your grandchildren, so don't forget to share all your chocolate eggs and come back safe and sound.

Best wishes, Bob





NEWS FROM SONIA.....

This last Wednesday I fell in the bathroom and to save any further damage to my leg I grabbed the side of the bath and have now severely twisted my wrist, which blew up like a balloon., and it seems I have cracked a bone!

Anyway on Tuesday I was given the all clear as far as the infection was concerned and am now waiting for all the pre-op appointments e.g. blood test, x-ray, anaesthetist appointment and general weighing etc. I was hoping that would take place this week but I am down as urgent and as soon as all this is completed I go in and have two plates fitted either side of my leg. It is 3 weeks ago that I did it.

Graham and I would like to say a very big thank you to all our friends and neighbours who have helped us get through this difficult time. We didn't know we had so many friends and offers of help came from all directions. Everyone has been so kind and my house started to look like a florist shop, which was lovely. We are planning a little get-together when I am on my feet again in the summer, just to say thank you.

6th May - talk by Daniel Herranz on Spanish Tax Laws

Daniel explained that many of the Tax changes are due to local Valencian regulations, not just post-Brexit issues. He covered the general subjects of Inheritance Tax, Capital Gains Tax and Income Tax. He also said, in this very accomplished presentation, that nobody yet knows what agreements will be made with local authorities in Spain once the Brexit has taken effect. He will talk to us again in November as the situation progresses.

Rather than report verbatim what was said, as he covered these areas in some detail, we have decided to put a link on the website for the slides from his talk, and suggest that if anyone has personal or particular queries, they could contact him direct through his website www.dhtaxandlaw.com or e-mail info@dhtaxandlaw.com

Daniel understands he cannot promote his own company to members, but will do his best to assist those who could not attend the talk.

FILLERS THIS MONTH COURTESY OF OUR ERSTWHILE MEMBERSHIP REP, DAVID PRESTOE, WHO, I DISCOVERED ON THE SANGREAL TRIP, HAS A PENCHANT FOR DOUGHNUTS!

Martin Luther King:

I have a dream, that one day, a doughnut will be judged not by the colour of its glaze, but by the content of its filling.

Stalin:

Everyone deserves a doughnut. But some deserve more doughnuts than others.

Bill Clinton:

I ate the doughnut, but I didn't swallow.



SPANISH CLASSES - Beginnings and Improvers



We are pleased to confirm that two levels of Spanish lessons are now available for U3A members, aimed at beginners and at those wishing to improve their existing knowledge of the language.

LOCATION

All classes are held at the lovely purpose built school in Jalon/Xalo called 'Pas a Pas' and the Director is Ferran. It is next to 'Casa Caty' on the opposite corner or near the Square where the HELP Charity Shop, El Mosset and La Luna are located.

TIMES

Beginnings is on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10.00 - 11.00

Improvers is on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 11.00 - 12.00

We have been advised that you will get the most out of the classes by attending two sessions a week. Maximum Class size 10 people.

If oversubscribed we may be able to arrange additional classes.

BUT there are no classes on the days of the General Meetings.

DATES

The final two sessions in April are on the 25th and 27th.

In May, classes are scheduled for every Tuesday and Thursday (9 sessions in total). For June, July and August (and then the rest of the year) we will confirm dates in the near future and give you as much notice as possible.

FEES AND ADMINISTRATION

Each session will cost 5€ per person

For April, Fees are payable at the first session you attend.

For May, all fees are payable in advance at the first session you attend.

Contacts for further information or to join the classes:

Group leader for Beginnings

Marie Fitzgerald

Email groups@u3avalldelpop.com

Telephone 965 587 475 or 602 214 794

Group leader for Improvers

Carole Wardle

Email secretary@u3avalldelpop.com

**SUZANNE McALLISTER, LLIBER COUNCILLOR
SPOKE AT THE GENERAL MEETING ON 6th APRIL
(100 members present)**

Suzanne has been approached by local media to evaluate our thoughts and concerns following the Brexit situation in the UK—and how it may affect our lives here. She asked several questions, and those, plus the responses, are detailed here: -

Q. How many in the hall, who voted in the referendum voted to LEAVE the EU? 7

Q. How many, who could vote and did, voted to stay in? 38

Q. Of those who could not, or did not vote, how many would have voted to leave (3), and how many to stay? (21)

Q. Are any of the members present thinking of leaving Spain because of Brexit. NO, none

Q. How many members would consider applying for Spanish nationality if all our rights here were lost as a result of Brexit? 19

Q. If an EU passport, and dual nationality was made available and in order to keep our rights, how many would **not** apply for this? 2

Q. Has anyone experienced any negative reaction or action by a Spanish national? 1

Finally, Elaine Horton (JVH) said she had been invited to attend a Brexit meeting with the British Ambassador and others from the Consulate Brexit department. She didn't say when this meeting was going to happen.

If anyone has any particular questions, they should e-mail her on [**elaineandrichard@hotmail.com**](mailto:elaineandrichard@hotmail.com)

This information will also be on the website for your reference.

The General Meeting was made more eggciting, with the eggfest organised by Sandra. Attached to a few chairs were eggy cut-outs, and some of our members were egged on to collect their chocolate prizes, while others were left eggless.

Easter Bunny of the Year — Ken Grant, and not at all eggotistical about his top win.

In true eggalitarian style, the rest of us eggreed that it was all done in the best possible taste.



WANTED

14th May - help with Jalon Valley Help May Fayre PLUS empty Yakult or Actimel bottles for the kids to play a game at the Fayre. Contact Sandra Welham



**NOW - clothes for the Jalon Valley Help shops
Contact Elaine Horton
elaineandrichard@hotmail.com**



**NOW - if you have changed your e-mail address recently we need to know! Several e-mails get bounced back as undeliverable, so we need to get these sorted asap please.
Contact Claire Dalton, Membership Secretary**

Heraclitus:

You can't eat the same doughnut twice.

Hume:

Is this doughnut a pastry with a hole or a hole that has manifested a pastry around it?



HELP PAGE



U3A ALMONERS CONTACT: -

Sue Harvey - 965 730 605

Barbara Watmuff - 965 050 245

babsinpego@hotmail.co.uk

JALON VALLEY HELP

www.jalonvalleyhelp.com Helpline - 659 624 643



RED CROSS - (ENGLISH ASSISTANCE) CALL 678 501 586

For information about their home-help schemes and equipment

CALLING FOR AN AMBULANCE

Always USE YOUR MOBILE PHONE

This has in-built GPS and the ambulance service is now linked in to the system and can find your house more easily

MABS

www.mabscancersupport.org

contact in Costa Blanca North: Sue Reula 664 266 991

MARINA SALUD

informacion.pacientes@marinasalud.es

966 429 137/8

DENIA HEALTH CENTRE

(Screening Tests and Mammograms) 966 429 600

U3A Vall Del Pop: In search of the Holy Grail Peter Sockett



On Monday 20th March 47 members of the U3A Vall del Pop left Jalon at 8am on an expedition in search of the Holy Grail, the cup supposedly used by Jesus at the last supper. We were led through the story of the grail by David Rohl, who was supported by local guides at each of the principal sites we visited, as he put the mystery of the grail, and its arrival in Spain into context.

The story, put together from various ancient texts (including the stories of Perceval and Wolfram von Eschenbach) shows the cup, which is made of agate stone, initially carried to Rome with St. Peter, when he left the Holy Land to spread the Word of God after the crucifixion of Jesus. In the 3rd century AD the cup was carried to Huesca by St. Lawrence for safe keeping, when it was feared it was at risk in Rome. It remained in a remote farmhouse outside Huesca until the invasion by the Moors again threatened its safety. It was then moved to a remote hermitage in the Pyrenees, beyond the reach of Moorish occupation, before being moved to the monastery of San Juan de la Peña.

The agate cup was mounted, around the 12th Century, on a stone base (purportedly the Philosopher's Stone) with elaborate byzantine gold and pearl mountings, and it is now displayed in Valencia Cathedral, although a replica remains at the monastery of San Juan where it can be examined more closely than in Valencia.

After the Moors had been driven out of Spain the cup was moved to Huesca and Zaragoza cathedrals before being taken by the Princes of Barcelona to that city, from where it was given to Valencia Cathedral and remains on display. The Santo Caliz de Valencia, the Holy Grail, is recognised by the Vatican as a holy relic, and has recently been visited by Popes John Paul II and Benedict XVI.



Whether it is truly the cup of the Last Supper is still under debate, but David set out very convincing arguments why this is the true Holy Grail. After five days of exploration and travelling we all returned safely to Jalon, thanks to the skills of our driver, Pepe, on the mountain roads, much wiser and with our own thoughts on the veracity of the story.

**The full account of the trip, written by a different person for each day, will be in the Features section of the website soon.
Photos from the trip will be in the Gallery section once we get them uploaded.**

U3A trip to Xátiva

Bruno Goffin



Making beer with seawater!

In 1943, I decided to be born in the city of Antwerpen in Belgium. As a child I knew what kind of beer Maes Pils was, where Stella Artois was brewed and also that the monks in Westmalle made not only Trappist beer, but also very good cheese and bread. More than 70 years later the Belgian makers of Stella Artois (now called InBev) are the biggest brewers in the world. In 2008 they bought Anheuser Busch for \$52 billion. Nevertheless they thought they were not big enough and last year they bought SABMiller for 100 billion USD. Instead of admiring that conglomerate, I rather feel it as a direct threat for beer drinking people who cannot freely choose any more.

Just one example: -

The Premier football league in Belgium is now called after one of their brands. Luckily there are still enterprising young men with a creative mind, who are not afraid to become a competitor of multinational companies by creating a niche for their new products in a globalized market. One of them is Germán Flores, whom we met while visiting his small brewery in Xátiva on Friday, 10th March 2017. By the way, two popes were born in Xátiva: one called himself Calixtus III and the other was pope Alexander VI. They both belonged to the Borja family. If that name doesn't ring a bell, it might be because, having moved to Italy, they changed their family name to Borgia.

Back to 2017.

Seven years ago, together with a friend, the 27-year old Germán Flores created the first beer in the world to be made with seawater. They called it "Er Boquerón". Today the young brewers from Xátiva are producing two more new kinds of beer. One is "La Socarrada", which is also the nickname for the inhabitants of Xátiva. It is made with rosemary and honey, while the other is called "Toro" because it matures on the wood of the sherry barrels used by Osborne.

All the members of our U3A group were offered the opportunity to taste all three beers. No wonder we had to wait in a queue before we could buy some. The one I preferred was the dark-coloured one and I brought it home...but only as a souvenir of course!

Before we left the brewery, I told Germán how I admired him for the fact that he had started his own company and made a success of it. His story resonates in my heart. When I started my first company in Belgium, several so-called "specialists" told me that I would never be able to sell what I imported. Well...the "specialists" were wrong. As far as I am concerned, I am shouting from the rooftops: "Long live the "Socarrada" brewery in Xátiva".



And many thanks to the fellow U3A members who organised this very interesting trip.

U3A Vall del Pop Go Shopping

A well-organised trip for a session of retail therapy to "la Zenia Boulevard" situated near Torrevieja. A full coach of U3A Vall del Pop members set off for the Zenia Boulevard, which is recognised as being the largest Shopping Centre in the province of Alicante, which enabled us all to have a very enjoyable shopping experience.



A well-laid-out centre of over 150 shops, containing many well-recognised names and outlets with brand names such as Zara, Primark, H&M, C&A and Lacoste to name just a few of the better-known brands.

The Shopping Centre allows you to relax in its beautiful gardens which have more than 90 different species of Mediterranean plants. Within the centre the many avenues are decorated with flowering plants and there is ample seating for tired feet, allowing one to sit and relax. There are also in the shopping precinct a variety of bars and cafe outlets for enjoying a simple snack or a full menu, all of which seemed to be very reasonably priced and were taken full advantage of.

Because of the proximity of the centre to Alicante the coach journey was pleasant and most enjoyable with the added attraction of a raffle on board during the return journey. A very big thank you to Irene Turvey for organising this trip.

Patricia Ann Hayes

GECKO...

In my garden there's always one,
hidden in the plants or flowers,
they love the shade they love the sun
but they hate those sudden showers.

I'm watering carefully as I can,
not to startle them is my plan,
but, as I sprinkle from the spout
with a splutter one leaps out.

He zips through a crack
like he's under attack,
both of us jump
our hearts going thump.

But it can't be all that bad to bear,
in a day or two they'll be back there,
but again, well hidden out of sight
so we'll both get yet another fright.

The sun is shining hot and high,
the plants and flowers gasping, dry,
so, I'm sorry little man -
but here comes the watering can.

Sheila Skinner
Creative writing group



EGYPTOLOGY NEXT MEETING

MAY 15th—The Body in Tomb 55

Following the summer break this year, Egyptology will be moving to La Senieta theatre in Moraira. The new group is to be called 'Ancient Egypt', administered by Moraira/Teulada U3A. The likely date for lectures will be the third Monday of the month, starting in September.

We hope as many Vall del Pop members will continue to come to the talks, but there will be four a year at the Jalon Town Hall.

David will keep us all informed.

U3A Vall del Pop Wine Tasting



We are the leaders of U3A Moraira-Teulada Wine Tasting group and Brigid and Gordon very kindly invited us to join the 27 other members of the Vall del Pop Wine Tasting group on Thursday, 16th March at Celler el Vinyata in Jalón.

This proved to be an excellent venue and, on our arrival, we were impressed by the way the tables had been set up for the evening. Brigid welcomed everyone to the event and then the serious business of the evening commenced!

We tasted two whites, one rosado, three reds and one dessert wine and each of these was complemented by a selection of delicious tapas prepared and served by Celia and her team. Gordon presented comprehensive tasting notes for each of the wines.

The wines ranged from 2,60€ to 8,05€ per bottle and were all available for purchase at the end of the evening. We found the group diverse and friendly and we were made to feel very welcome. We both thoroughly enjoyed the evening, which was excellent value for 12€ per person.

Brian and Pat Clarke

Sartre:

A doughnut hole proves the existence of the doughnut.

Descartes:

How can I be sure I am not just imagining the doughnut?

Stephen Hawking:

I find your idea of a doughnut-shaped Universe intriguing. I may have to steal it.

Aristotle:

A doughnut is a doughnut.



Mountain Walkers Group

(formerly Thursday Explorers)



2nd March – Col de Rates

Lovely start to the month with this walk to the top of our own Col de Rates. We also had a special treat when instead of our usual picnic lunch we had apple strudel and ice cream at the restaurant.

9th March – Olta Summit

Another spectacular walk, and ideal walking weather. This time we did have our picnic lunch, on the summit of Olta.



16th March – Lleus Pinos

The spring weather continued for our walk from Lleus to Pinos, or it could be called Dos Ermita. We had our lunch in the Pinos church square and half sat in the sun and the remainder in the shade.

23rd March – Javea Port

Cooler and cloudy sky for the climb from Javea port up to the lighthouse, and then across to Denia tower where we had our picnic. Then back via the Javea windmills and down to the port. At 6 hours this was the longest walk this month.



30th March – Gata Soldates

Last November we did Tossal del Moro from Gata, today it was Soldates. It's a gradual climb from the town followed by a steep climb up Soldates. But then it is an easy downhill stroll back to Gata.

No complaints about the weather this month. Warm and sunny with cool winds made it ideal walking weather. April is probably the best month for walking in this area.

Usually sunny but not too hot, and very colourful with all the spring flowers.

Why not give it a try and see what you have been

missing. If you would like to join us drop me an email and I will send you full details.

For more information contact Paul or Jan pauleniston@hotmail.com 966 405 335



COMES TO JALON

The Digital Photography Group enjoyed their first official tutorial at Claudia's Bar on Wednesday 29th March. A masterly exhibition by our Leader showing how the different camera sensors work - from a basic compact, to bridge and DSLRs. This shows how images are 'cropped' by the size of the sensor. He produced something he'd done earlier, naturally, involving several sheets of card and a lot of rather troublesome sticky paper.

The tutorials will be a regular event, and we look forward to another display of Blue Peter's creative talents on 12th, with more sticky-back plastic and lots of cardboard. Modern cameras have so many buttons and gizmos that 'point and shoot' is no longer straightforward. There were those amongst us who were recalling fond memories of their Kodak Box Brownie cameras! Aah, bless.

He then took us off to the river where we found plenty of plastic but no sticklebacks...and gave us instructions to upload the photos to our private facebook page, or send them in a plain brown e-mail to his address. His critique is important - because what you see through the lens isn't always what you were hoping for when you see the picture on screen. These tutorials will really help to give more confidence to our newer group members, and 'back to forgotten basics' for those of us who like to pretend they know what they are doing.

Most of the group stayed on for an extended lunch and the chance to chat about things non-photographic!

Next tutorial on 26th April, on er - Exposure. Might have to censor that one. Not sensor it...

Lorraine

Hume:

Is this doughnut a pastry with a hole or a hole that has manifested a pastry around it.

Pelosi:

We don't need to eat a doughnut to know what's in it.

Machiavelli:

If you wish to obtain doughnuts, be armed.





4th MAY TALK AT GENERAL MEETING

Lorraine

A completely frivolous and hopefully
entertaining look at Life in the Skies
from 1970 - 1983.

**This is the era when PC meant police constable -
not personal computer or politically correct.
If you are of a sensitive or easily offended nature,
you may wish to disembark before the talk!**

EASTER EGGS.... Eggs Benedict April 16th

The secret to foolproof Poached Eggs is to drain them in a strainer before gently lowering them into a pot of hot water. This eliminates all of the annoying, excess wispy whites.

Ingredients: -

8 slices Canadian bacon or ham steak, cut into English muffin-sized pieces

4 buttered and toasted English muffins

8 Poached Eggs

salt and freshly ground black pepper

Hollandaise sauce, kept warm (best home made or can be bought)

Finely chopped fresh parsley or chives (optional)



Directions

- 1.** Melt butter in a large skillet over medium heat until foaming. Add ham slices and cook, turning occasionally, until heated through, golden brown, and crisp on both sides. Transfer to a paper towel-lined plate to drain.
- 2.** Divide English muffin halves between 4 plates. Place 1 ham slice on each English muffin half. Drain eggs on paper towel-lined plate and place one egg on each ham slice. Season eggs with salt and pepper.
- 3.** Spoon warm hollandaise over each egg. Sprinkle with parsley or chives (if using) and serve immediately.

U3A CINEMA IN PARCENT

See Cinema Group webpage for details.

Now 1.50€, pay on the door, goes towards group costs.

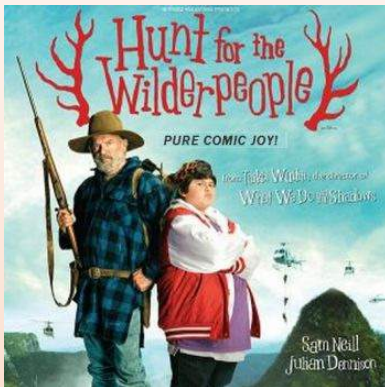
All films are shown at La Musical in Parcent, next to the Town Hall, just off the main square at the top of hill in the centre of the village.

The Cinema is open to all U3A Vall del Pop members, no booking required. Please bring your current 2017 U3A Vall del Pop membership card with you as we need to see it. (Sorry, but 2016 cards are no longer valid.)

----- FILMS THIS MONTH -----

There was only one showing in April, on the 10th April, which was: 'A Street Cat Named Bob'. Sorry if you missed it!

Monday 8th May - 'HUNT FOR THE WILDERPEOPLE'



Hilarious and heart warming comedy from New Zealand, starring Sam Neill. A rebellious teenage boy is sent to a foster home in a remote country area of New Zealand, setting in motion a chain of events that lead to the boy and his foster-father disappearing into the mountains to evade the authorities. If you've been to New Zealand, you'll love it, and if you haven't, you'll probably still love it anyway! Great script, very entertaining, and a definite feel-good. Starring Sam Neill and a marvellous cast of unknowns.

1 hour 37 mins, 2016, cert PG.

----- COMING SOON - LAST FILM OF THE SEASON! -----

Monday 22nd May - 'THE LIGHT BETWEEN OCEANS' -

a romantic drama set in the early 1920s in Western Australia. Michael Fassbender plays the traumatized and withdrawn hero from World War 1 who is hired as the sole lighthouse keeper at Janus Rock, where, in the nearby town, he meets and marries Isabel (last year's Oscar winner Alicia Vikander). After the traumas of her own pregnancies, they rescue an infant girl who was adrift at sea. Their strong love for each other is challenged by the events that unfold from the moral dilemma of their actions. Rachel Weisz also shines in a pivotal role.

2 hours 13 mins, 2016, cert 12A.



Epicurus:
The purpose of life is to enjoy the doughnut.

