

U3A Vall del Pop



No. 88 2018

NEWS4U

Dear Members,

Thank you for electing, or in some cases re-electing your committee for 2018. This now gives us a chance to settle in and start working on your behalf.

An enormous thank you must go to Carole Wardle, Anna Cameron and Brigid Redmond who have stepped down having given much of their time and energy to their roles and now we delighted to welcome Jennifer Beattie (Secretary) and Ian Morton (Webmaster).



I am sure you have heard that we are taking a fresh look at the Almoner role and would like to enlist **a member from each village to spread the load**. You have your eyes and ears to the ground, so we can react quickly to anyone who needs our support. Let the Secretary or me know if you need to ask any questions.

Of course our next big meeting is the EGM on May 3rd. I personally would like to thank the sub committee who spent a considerable amount of time reviewing and making recommendations on your behalf. For some of you, you may not see this as being important, but I would like to stress that we have not made any major changes for some considerable time and things do move on. Laws change and we need to keep our working constitution up to date. (The April General Meeting is on the 5th, as usual)

So please accept my personal invite to come along. I'll make sure that coffee and buns are available! Regards, Bob.

I would also like to say that now 'eagle-eyed' Anna has stepped down, I apologise for any full stops, commas or gaps that I may overlook in the production of this newsletter! Lorraine



I've found about 500 Easter eggs already...

trying to explain to this policeman it's not my fault
if Aldi did a bad job hiding them!

YOUR COMMITTEE FOR 2018-9

PRESIDENT	BOB WELHAM
SECRETARY	JENNIFER BEATTIE
TREASURER	BOB HILLS
ASSISTANT TREASURER	ROGER BENTLEY
GROUPS CO-ORDINATOR	MARIE FITZGERALD
MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY	BARBARA BENTLEY
ASST. MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY	ANN MARTIN
WEBMASTER	IAN MORTON
TCET CO-ORDINATOR	SANDRA WELHAM
COMMITTEE ASSOCIATES	
ALMONER'S TEAM	SUE HARVEY BARBARA WATMUFF BRIGID REDMOND
NEWSLETTER EDITOR	LORRAINE BELLAMI
PUBLICITY OFFICER	PETER SOCKETT

**There are still some Committee positions vacant
So we would like to hear from anyone who would be interested**

**Vice President - Assistant Secretary
Assistant Groups Co-Ordinator - Assistant Webmaster**

We are always at the meetings and happy to talk to members about any ideas or concerns they may have, so if you don't know who we are...here's the line up!



**U3A Vall del Pop: Thank You Luncheon
Peter Sockett**

On Thursday 22nd February Bob Welham, the President of the Vall del Pop U3A, held a Thank You Luncheon at the Awraba restaurant in Orba. The luncheon was arranged on behalf of the members of the U3A to thank the Committee, Group Leaders and other helpers who had given generously of their time during the year to ensure meetings, events, group activities and general support was available to the members.

The Committee will be subject to re-election at the AGM on Thursday 1st March, at the Murla Polivalent Centre, and the luncheon was timely to thank those who are standing down for their efforts through the last year.

After a brief welcoming address the attendees enjoyed an excellent lunch and took full advantage of the opportunity to meet the leaders of other groups and their fellow members to discuss matters of mutual interest, and trips planned for this coming year.



There was some discussion about this event at the February GM—a members vote was taken at the March GM, Please read the online Minutes for further information. Lorraine



Last chance to renew
your membership
for 2018 is on 13th March
Animo Centre
Alcalali
11am—1pm

**TWO MEMBERS HAVE RENEWED ONLINE
BUT DID NOT PUT THEIR NAMES OR MEMBERS DETAILS**

The payment of 2 x 5€ came into the bank account on 15 February,
although it may have left the sending bank a day or two earlier.

SO WE HAVE NO IDEA WHO YOU ARE.

Please get in touch with the Treasurer asap!



Jean Watson's Reading Group would be glad to have some new people.
Please contact her through the website listing and details.

**THE KEEP FIT GROUP NEEDS MORE MEMBERS
ATTENDANCE HAS TAILED OFF, SO PLEASE DO 'GET ACTIVE GET INSPIRED'
AS THEY URGED US DURING THE OLYMPICS PROGRAMMES.**

And urgently needed, before it dances off into the sunset...

A group leader for the Line Dancing group.

**Looking at photos from the May Fayre last year,
this is a big group, there must be somebody willing!**

**Please contact Marie Fitzgerald
for further information.**



Easter combines the best of the present with the traditions of the past
like Cadbury cream eggs with hunting and gathering.

I want to be as historically accurate as possible. Does anyone know exactly
what time Jesus handed out all the chocolate Easter eggs?



Casa Rosa Welcomed the U3A Vall del Pop. Sandra Welham

20 members of the U3A Vall del Pop attended an Afternoon Tea at Casa Rosa, a small 'pensione' in Alcalali.

Julie the owner made us welcome with a range of sandwiches, cakes, chocolate mousse, scones with jam and cream and of course pots of tea and coffee.

The event took place in their small dining room and our feast was served from beautiful china. Why does a china cup and saucer always make the tea taste better?

Once the 'feast' was over members took the opportunity to enjoy a chat and suddenly we realised it was already late afternoon.

Before we all departed we all sang Happy Birthday to Ann Williams
Thank you Julie. What a lovely way to spend the afternoon.



The new Spanish intermediate group has got off to a **flying start at Claudia's bar in Jalon every Tuesday** afternoon. We have an enthusiastic group of 13 and increasing as more people enquire.

Pauline is an excellent and very experienced teacher who makes the whole learning process light-hearted and fun, so the group has come together very well in just two weeks.

We will need to divide the group after Easter to make it more **manageable, so the new 'term' will probably start on the 10th May.**

So if there are any more U3A members who would like to improve their Spanish, please do get in touch with Lorraine at: -

spanishinteru3a@gmail.com

PHOTOGRAPHY GROUP TRIP TO THE PALAU DUCAL DE BORJA

We have a few new faces in the group, so a warm welcome to them, as they start the process of finding out the difference between apertures, shutters and ISO's...under Peter's tutelage.

One of our new ladies, Maggie Hodgson writes: -

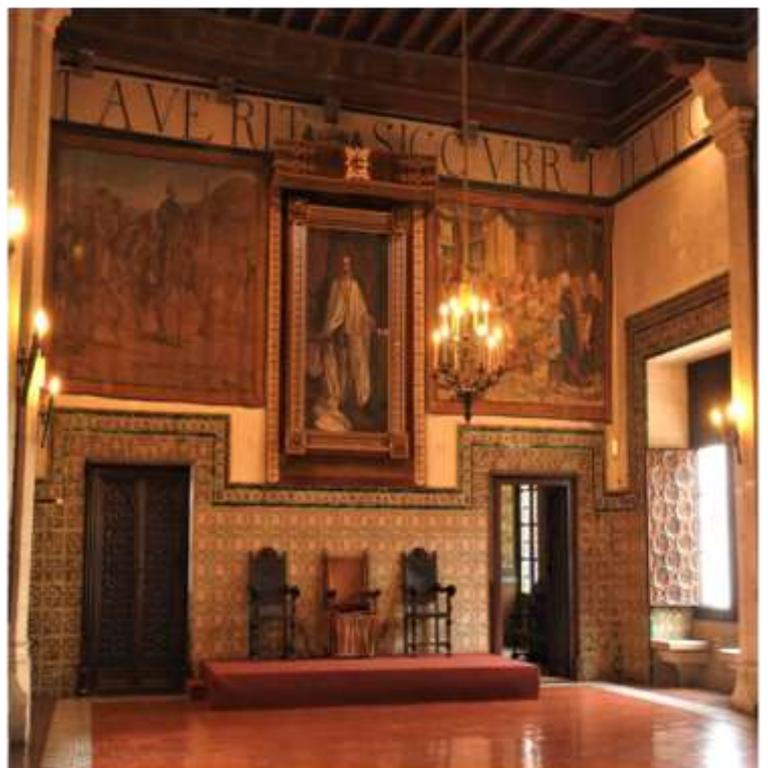
"It was an early start for my first photographic field trip, but transport and the entrance to The Borgia Palace, Gandia, was all arranged and smoothly executed. Cameras at the ready, we had the place to ourselves, and as a small group, didn't get in each other's way. Ideas were shared and shots created.

Peter gave lots of help, handy tips and specific advice.

The day was cloudy but gave sufficient light to produce shadows under balconies and through wrought ironwork. It is a Palace that is sparsely furnished, but full of special views with wooden shutters and marble floors giving wonderful reflections. There were plenty of creative opportunities.

To spend time looking at everything through a view finder was an indulgence. So was the early start worth it? It certainly was!"

The group then went off to find some lunch - a Chinese place where we all wished the staff a Happy New Year (of the Dog), and enjoyed recommendations from the Tollans who are Hong Kong experts and explained everything!



Monday Explorers Walking Group

February, with its grey skies and forecast of rain, is not the best month for hill walking...and this year was no different. Perhaps not the best month to start a new walking group!



5 February – Lliber to Parcent

For our first walk we planned an 11 km walk from Lliber to Senija. But heavy rain the night before forced us to abandon it in favour of a valley walk to Parcent. At least it was dry, and we had the almond blossoms.

12 February – Tormos to Fontilles

For our second walk we planned a 7km walk from Benimeli to the Aerials above the town. With heavy rain forecast we again changed our plans and walked from Tormos to Isbert Dam instead. As it was still dry when we got there we extended to Fontilles. Bad choice, it started to rain as we reached Fontilles.

Fortunately we could have our picnic lunch on the balcony of the visitor centre. But we did get very wet walking back to Tormos.



19 February – Alt de Ample

Third time lucky! Sunny with clear skies for this 10 km walk which starts behind the petrol station in Jalon. In fact the weather forecast was for overcast and light showers. But we hardly saw a cloud all day.



26 February – Lliber to Senija

For our fourth walk the forecast got it right. Clear blue skies with a cool wind, ideal walking weather. We enjoyed it so much that we added an extension to have a short break in the square in Senija. Pretty good weather for the after walk drink in the square in Lliber too.



We urgently need new members for this new group.

Walks are usually 5 hours, including a picnic lunch and one or two water stops.

Distance varies depending on the amount of ascent involved.

However, anyone reasonably fit and with some walking experience should be able to manage them with ease.

For more information contact Paul or Jan

paulleniston@hotmail.com

Telephone 966 405 335

U3A Vall del Pop: Tasting of the Wine of Fire — Peter Sockett



The U3A Vall del Pop Wine Tasting Group held their first wine tasting, of sparkling wines, at Celler Vinyater in Jalon, or at Casa Celia's for those who know the restaurant,. We were offered seven sparkling wines, espumante wines – wines in which the bubbles are induced by gas, cava - wines in which the bubbles are produced as part of the fermentation process, and the final star of the evening the Wine of Fire, a gold coloured wine. Celia explained that the

sparkle of a cava wine comes from the bottom when it's poured, producing what is known as the "rosary" of sparkling bubbles. The wines had all been locally sourced and were generally in the medium price range of between euro 3.75 to 6.85 per bottle. They ranged in sweetness from very sweet to dry and from a pale-yellow colour through blush pink to a beautiful red sparkling wine, with the Wine of Fire a golden yellow colour.

The espumante wines were:

Tarima Espumante, from Moscatal grapes producing a very sweet wine, which was appreciated most by the ladies;

Bahia Brut, also from Moscatal grapes which the Bodega Jalon use to produce a dry sparkling wine;

Balina de Denia, from Garnacha grapes which was again a product of the Bodega Jalon, producing a dry rose wine;

Marina Espumante Tinto, from Monastrell grapes producing an excellent smooth sweet deep red sparkling wine bursting with raspberries.

The cava wines were:

Torre Tallada, from a mix of Macabeo, Xarel-lo and Perellada grapes producing a medium dry cava;

El Miracle, from Chardonnay and Macabeo grapes which the Bodegas Vincente in Gandia, producing a medium dry cava.

The star of the evening was: Wine of Fire, which had an amazing gold colour with shots of bright yellow when shaken and was a smooth medium dry wine with tastes of a variety of fruits, including, for me, pineapple. What an excellent final wine for our tasting.

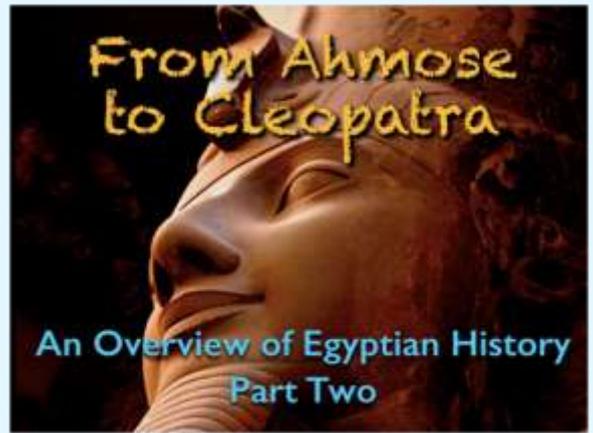
The wines were accompanied by truly excellent tapas, structured to compliment the wines we were tasting, and rounded off with a chocolate brownie.



We all headed out into the wet evening replete with an interesting selection of sparkling wines and excellent tapas – our thanks again to Celia and her team.

EGYPTOLOGY

Excellent news! Thanks to the efforts of Group Coordinator, Prue Jackson, we have been able to secure La Senieta theatre for Tuesday 13th March, lecture starting at 10.30 am. As you know, the theatre is in use for the fiesta on our usual date of Monday 19th, so I was originally going to skip March. However, you missed lectures in December and January due to my hospitalisation, and I now also have a P&O cruise in April when I will be guest lecturing between Dubai and Naples. So I thought we really needed to get Part Two of the historical overview done before I go.



I realise that some of you may have other activities on a Tuesday morning and so might not be able to attend on the 13th, but this will be a one-off and the lectures for May and June will be on the usual third Monday of the month at the usual time.

So, the lecture on Tuesday 13th March will be

'From Ahmose to Cleopatra:

An Overview of Egyptian History (Part Two).

Hope to see you there. Best wishes,
David Rohl

The Egyptology lectures are open to all U3A members including our Vall del Pop, so if you are interested, please get in touch with David davidrohlspain@gmail.com

THE BEST OF VALL DEL POP 2017



THE 'BEST OF OUR U3A'
SLIDE PRESENTATION
SHOWN LAST THURSDAY
AT THE MURLA AGM
IS AVAILABLE
TO ANY MEMBER WHO
WOULD LIKE A COPY OF IT.

For further information
Please get in touch

lorraine.u3anewsletter@gmail.com

HELP! PAGE



U3A ALMONERS TEAM CONTACTS: -

Sue Harvey - 965 730 605

Barbara Watmuff - 965 050 245

babsinpego@hotmail.co.uk

Brigid Redmond - 602 046 129

brigred4119@gmail.com

RED CROSS - (ENGLISH ASSISTANCE) CALL 678 501 586

For information about
and equipment

their home-help schemes



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 they can find your house more easily.

JALON VALLEY HELP

www.jalonvalleyhelp.com Helpline - 659 624 643

***For the benefit of new members —
you may wish to print this page and keep it by your phone.***

***Hopefully everyone will have a happy and safe 2018
but keep this handy just in case!***

***Also, for those of you who live alone,
do keep your mobile phone by your bed at night (preferably switched off)
in case you have to call someone in an emergency
and that rescue services can gain access
if you are unable to open the door.***

Cinema Group News

Our regular dates for cinema showings are slightly disrupted by Valencian and Easter holidays. As a result, the next film will be on TUESDAY 20th March and we will pause for a week on Easter Monday.



GOODBYE CHRISTOPHER ROBIN gives a glimpse into the relationship between children's author A. A. Milne (Domhnall Gleeson) and his son Christopher Robin (Will Tilston). On their picturesque farm, young Christopher Robin plays with a selection of toys, tender moments that spark inspiration in his father to create the magical world of Winnie-the-Pooh. Along with his mother Daphne (Margot Robbie), and his nanny, Christopher Robin's family are swept up in the international success of the books whose enchanting tales bring comfort to England after the First World War. But with the eyes of the world on Christopher Robin, what will be the cost to the family?

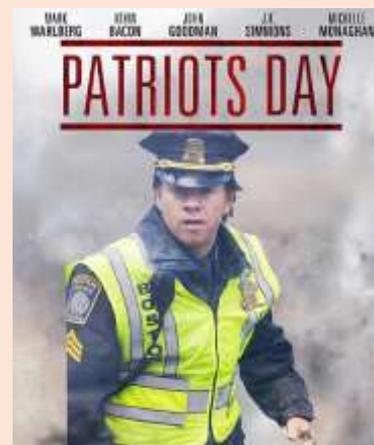
2017 Cert PG 1h 47m

PATRIOTS DAY (to be shown on 9th April)

PATRIOTS DAY is celebrated in the New England region of USA in mid April each year. It is now remembered as the day of the 2013 bombing at the Boston Marathon when 2 brothers of Czechen descent struck with home-made bombs near to the finishing line. In the resulting chaos as the wounded are cared for, Boston Police join forces with the FBI to piece together details of the attack. The brothers realise that the authorities are close to identifying them and attempt to flee the city. The police manhunt leads to a massive dragnet, shutting down the city of Boston, leading to the final bloody confrontation between the brothers and Police, who make sure there is no escape from the law. Mark Wahlberg stars as a police sergeant

with Kevin Bacon as the FBI Special Agent in a cast That includes John Goodman and J K Simmons.

2017 Cert 15 2h 13min



And in May, prepare for The BEAR

**All films are shown at La Musical in Parcent, next to the Town Hall.
The Cinema Group is open to all U3A Vall del Pop members,
who show their 2018 membership card. Cost 1.50€**

Forget the Easter bunny. I need one that can do me some good -
like the Energizer bunny.

EASTER BUNNY CARITAS COLLECTION

Please will members bring items for Caritas
To the 5th April General Meeting
Food must have a good 'use by' date please.
Toiletries and household cleaning items
urgently needed. Thank you



A.R.C.'S 50c BOOK STALL AT U3A VALL DEL POP EVERY MONTH



Carol Lockhart

Further to the General Meeting in October 2017 when members voted to support Jalon Valley ARC animal charity, a new initiative has started.

A Fund-raising Book Stall at meetings for the charity, whose motto is "In the Valley for the Valley".

Sally and Jayne, founders of ARC, are kept permanently busy rescuing lost and abandoned animals across the Vall de Pop, plus helping with neutering programmes to try and reduce the cat population. The ARC shop, near Pepe Santos in Jalon, is a popular place for bargains and the residents in the Valley are very generous with their donations.

If you are a member of the U3A and wish to pick up a good read, or DVD or CD, then please go along to the General Meetings and browse. Only 50c a time. You can also donate unwanted books, DVD's & CD's in good condition. ARC wishes to thank the U3A for helping the charity in this way and also Marie who is storing the books between meetings.

JALON VALLEY HELP APPEAL

Thank you to everyone who has responded to our appeal for toiletries and household cleaning products for the Saint Francis de Asis men's hostel in Gandia. This is very much appreciated.

However, there is a similar need for toiletries at the women's refuge, and 'that time of the month' is particularly difficult for women with little or no money. As a result the women's refuge always has a need for tampons and other sanitary products.

Donations of any such products would be very welcome. These can be taken to either of the Jalon Valley Help shops in Jalon or Alcalali or to the Animo Drop in Centre.

Please help if you can to make these ladies' lives a little less difficult. Thank you.

WISHING YOU ALL A VERY HAPPY EASTER
LORRAINE, IAN AND STEVE

