



u3a Vall del Pop

News4u

No. 23. OCT 2011

Bruno says his Farewell.

At the last committee meeting we said our farewells and thanks to Bruno, for all his handwork and contributions to the U3A Vall del Pop.

Bruno was certainly one of our more colourful members, with lots of facets to his character. Most of us will remember him for his dog walking groups, and over the years they have walked some of the most beautiful areas of the valley. His Spanish conversation group, was always encouraged by having the odd glass or two of wine.

“Es aconsejable tomar una copa de vino para relajarse.”

His translating skills for our Spanish speaking presenters was always embellished by the odd extra fact to bring the subject to life.

Bruno has a strong commitment to environmental issues which was reflected in some of the specialist speakers which he introduced to the U3A.

We wish Bruno a happy and successful future in his new life in South Africa, and he promises to send us a few articles that we will publish in the newsletter.

Thanks for everything, Bruno. Stay safe. - Sandra Welham..



Dogs are “walking on”! It seems that Bruno’s popular Sunday Morning walk with unleashed dogs will continue even without him! Details on the website.



A SPOT OF BOTHER WITH YOUR PC.?

The computer Group is issuing a fantastically generous offer to members. If you have a problem, just bring the computer to the Wednesday Meeting (11am at the Bar Creu in Alcalali). One of the resident experts will be pleased to try and solve the problem with you and perhaps give any advice or training to prevent complications arising in the future.

Remember, they also run classes - same place, same time - for PCs for all levels of ability or none!

**COMING NEXT MONTH ! -
CARD MAKERS DISPLAY**

At the next meeting, November 3rd, the cardmaking group will be displaying their skills. They will be showing some of the results achieved with the special machine bought by the U3A Development Fund, and will have hand-made cards on sale for Christmas and other occasions. Proceeds will go towards more accessories for the machine. Don't forget to stop at the stall to see what can be done, and perhaps buy that unusual and very special card.

WHAT A DINING EXPERIENCE !!

The last dining experience, before the summer break, was held at Eddie and Mary's house. The event was a "Murder, Mystery", and all the guests were given parts and told to dress accordingly. It was an after-theatre meal and as the "play" being performed was a Midsummer Night "Scream", we had Titania, Oberon, Pease Blossom, Puck, a director, producer, musical director, choreographer, scriptwriter, publicity, stage manager, and lighting.



Mary and Eddie had friends staying with them, so their parts were played by their friends and Eddie and Mary became Butler and Maid for the rest of the evening. The meal was prepared and served by Mary, and Eddie kept everyone's glasses topped up with their favourite tippie !! It was a fun occasion and all played their parts really well. The "murderer" was revealed at the end, and had been well detected by one of the "guests".
The pictures show the group as they prepared to "perform".

Eddie Wood

British Consulate Open Day:

Wednesday 26 October 2011 -

Edificio Multiusos, Calle Cipreses, Alcalali .
10.30 am (Doors open at 10am)

As you are aware, the British Consul and members of his Health and Benefit Team are coming to the valley to provide information to British Nationals resident here in the Jalon Valley. The day will consist of presentations covering a wide range of issues including Consular services, pensions, benefits and healthcare rights of UK citizens living in Spain.

You will also have the opportunity to ask general questions to the panel of presenters and to sign up for a one-to-one session where you can discuss specific issues in more detail, but applications are limited to two tickets per person and it is important if you are interested in attending that you reserve your place by clicking on :

<http://ukinspain.fco.gov.uk/en/help-for-british-nationals/living-in-spain/pensions-benefits/open-day/>

If however you have problems using the online booking form you can make a reservation by calling 902 109 356 or 913 342 194.



IT'S HARVEST TIME AGAIN !

All those of us brave enough to bare our feet at Maserof in

*the interests of next year's wine had a great old time !
Don't miss it next year!!*



Salida de los Moriscos

By Pat Thorpe

At the general meeting on 6th October, we were treated to a fascinating talk by the local Spanish historian, Jaume Noguera. He gave us an interesting history of the expulsion of the Moors in the 16th century. Although his talk was totally in Spanish it was entertainingly translated by Julia Jones.

Jaume told us of the arrival of the Moors in the 8th century, following which they colonised most of Spain. They lived in harmony with the local Christians until 16th century when they were given the option to convert to Christianity or be expelled back to North Africa. In 1609 many went voluntarily but many would not convert and rebelled against their Lord, King Philip Third of Valencia. They were mainly unarmed peasants and were soundly beaten. This accelerated the expulsion and many were sent without their children who were kept in appalling condition as slaves and servants. The Mosques were converted to Churches and renamed for Christian Saints.

At this time there were many pirate incursions and the Moors were suspected of collaborating with them. As a result those who were left were moved inland away from the coast, namely to this area. Once France had colonised Algeria, these pirate incursions stopped almost totally.

After the expulsion of the Moors, the land was left largely untended and the local Lords were forced to import replacements from Majorca to work the land. Almost a third of the total population was expelled, approximately 150,000 people in all.

Jaume named two interesting books for the enthusiast, *La Senda de Levied*, and one about our local area *La Terra I la Gent del Xalo Repoblat*. These are unfortunately only published in Valencian.



Do you want to know more ?

Following this excellent presentation at the General Meeting, we received the following email from committee-member Graham Quirk :



I can recommend “The Hand of Fatima” by Ildefonso Falcones. I found it to me an excellent historical based story, about the expulsion of the Moors, with the main character actually being a Moor.

I have another book by the same, Spanish, author called “Cathedral of the Sea” and it is set in Barcelona in the 14th century. It is a historical tale, set over many decades, and the theme revolves around the building of a new cathedral, which is dedicated to sailors and still exists. We visited Barcelona about 3 years ago and it was fascinating to note that many of the areas mentioned in the 14th century still exist. The book may be of interest to those who recently visited Barcelona. I will, hopefully, bring it along to your next book swap.*

Graham Quirk.

**Book swap group meets before every general meeting in Bar Vinyater, just a few steps from Jalon Town Hall. Many of us have also read this book and have found it un-put-down-able.*



President's message....

It was good to see such a great response to our Anniversary celebrations. What a day!



The presentation from a local historian Jaime Noguera, on the expulsion of the Moors, was

one that made us all realise how important this issue has been in shaping the villages that we live in today. Having listened to this fascinating presentation, ably translated by Julia Jones, we all moved to the recently reopened restaurant Miquels for a celebration lunch.

It was so pleasing to be able to share this experience with so many of the founder members, who without their input we wouldn't be in this position today. The meal concluded with a slice of the anniversary cake and a glass of cava. We shall certainly remember this day and hope that the rest of the events planned will go equally as well.

I hope that many of you have registered for the visit of the British Consulate on the 26th October. This is a great opportunity for us in the 'valley' to find out really important information that we all might need, but also a chance to ask question that we often get mixed messages about.

I know that you are now looking forward to the Christmas spirit and any ideas that you have, that would help us celebrate this time let me know!

Bob.

CHRISTMAS QUIZ

This is a message to all our lovely quizzers ...

The next quiz at Bar Nou, Senija is on **FRIDAY 9th DECEMBER** at 7.30pm
10 euros per person to include a delicious fish and chip supper, bread and alioli, dessert, wine and water.

HOWEVER! In keeping with the season of goodwill we shall be introducing a CHRISTMAS THEME to the evening and invite all who attend to dress up in Christmas outfits of any kind (if you wish). There will be prizes for the best costumes.

There are a few places still available if you want to join in the fun but please remember that your place is not guaranteed until we have received payment.

Phone Derek and Anne on 96 648 1069 for further information or to reserve your place.

Four day Trip to Barcelona

On Tuesday 13th. September, 32 of us left Javea, courtesy of Gandia Tours, at 8.30am, embarking on a truly momentous trip and ready for anything Barcelona, capital of Catalonia, had to offer. Well almost!! Our first day also included a stop in Tarragona for lunch and a bit of a sight-see.

Our hotel was in the heart of Barcelona, which enabled us to explore some interesting streets and buildings (and bars of course) on foot. Our second day was a coach tour and we could capture the distinct flavour of this truly Mediterranean mix of ancient and modern. Our guide led us past the famous Ramblers market and the Gothic Quarter. We were shown a panoramic view of this long city sitting in the valley below us, and were able to realise its picturesque setting in spite of the dense population living there. On our tour we saw the revitalisation for the 1992 Olympics, and Gaudi's amazing, unusual and almost fairy-talish architecture in the Temple de la Sagrada Familia. We understand he was greatly influenced by forms of nature and the whole design was like a story unravelling.

Day 3 was a free day exploring, and in the evening we visited the famous Fountain of Montjuic. From our vantage point, we enjoyed the spectacular fountain's lights and music, finishing off with Freddie Mercury and Montserrat Caballes version of 'Barcelona'. This is one event that you mustn't miss. Sadly our final day arrived and we said good bye to this lovely city and so to return to normality. However, not quite. We just had just enough time to make a stop on the way back to visit the famous Cordonú wine cellar at Sant Sadurni.

We would like to give thanks to our driver Pepe who patiently and expertly negotiated the busy streets of Barcelona and a special thanks to Sandra, who, aided and abetted by Bob, kept us informed of all the details necessary for a successful trip

(Big Thank you to Val Blakeman for this article).

ITEMS OF INTEREST FOR THE NEWSLETTER ?

If you have anything you would like to share in the newsletter, let us have it in a Word document, about 200 words or less by the 6th of any calendar month. Send to **pands_thorpe@hotmail.com**.

CHRISTMAS IS ON ITS WAY!

START THINKING ABOUT A CHRISTMAS POEM, JOKE OR STORY FOR INSERTION INTO THE DECEMBER EDITION !



Girl I.N.D.I.A.

Christmas Fund Raiser

on Sunday 4th December at 1 p.m.

Tombola

Christmas Decorations & Cards

Plants & Bulbs

Wine and Tapas

Wynne Clift the founder of the Foundation is coming over to meet everyone who has been supporting her over the past 4 years

please come and join us to help give Girls in India a chance to an Education and a better life

Camino Corrales 3, La Solana
966480066

PRESIDENTS THREE

President Bob Welham is about to cut the cake at the celebration lunch on October 6th, accompanied by past Presidents David Garside and Ken Grant. The cake is a great achievement in itself, home-made by Mary Wood and Jan Lamb and absolutely delicious.

Thanks to Nikki Luxford of Costa Blanca News for this photo..

FOR
SALE



Yamaha
electric keyboard with stand
€60 ono. 96 6480066



Black Ikea daybed; frame and
mattress in perfect condition.
€60. Telephone Clare -
966480370



Dog guard
wanted to fit
family saloon
car.

Can offer exer-
cise bike (dust
optional)

Jean Watson
96 558 1496

**IT'S THE GREEN THING TO
DO !**

GOT SOME UNWANTED ITEMS
HANGING ABOUT THE HOUSE
GATHERING DUST?

THERE MAY BE SOMEONE IN
THE U3A WHO WOULD LOVE
THEM ! WHY NOT GIVE THEM
AWAY TO A FELLOW MEMBER,
AND PERHAPS PICK UP JUST
THE THING WHICH YOU ARE
LOOKING FOR FROM SOME-
ONE ELSE.

U-FREE-A *could* be a swap
shop - but the idea is that you
don't necessarily have to col-
lect anything from the person
you are giving your item to. **A**
gives a thing to **B**, who gives
his thing to **C**, who passes her
thing to **D**, who has just the
thing **A** wants !

SEND US DETAILS OF ALL YOUR ITEMS FOR
SALE, WANTED OR GIVEAWAY TO
pands_thorpe@hotmail.com. DEADLINE IS 6TH OF
THE CALENDAR MONTH.

KNOW YOUR COMMITTEE ! *Continuing our monthly delve behind the scenes, my arm-twisting techniques are obviously getting very puny - this month I haven't been able to squeeze any write-ups from my fellow committee members, - so here we go with me (doesn't feel at all right - doing this !)*

JAZZ WASPE - EDITOR

I like nothing better than to sit at my computer, tapping and clicking away the hours with fingers clean, desk in an organised clutter and no intoxicating smell of fish glue in my nostrils. 'Twas not always so! When I first started compiling newsletters, I drowned in seas of manually typewritten text, knives, scissors, scalpels, Snopake, Cow Gum, Letraset, pens with changeable nibs and India ink. There were stencil-cutters and Roneos, Varitypers and duplicators. Can you remember the first photocopiers? I can, and used them and their pesky flimsy sheets that you had to peel off each printed sheet like you do with a Polaroid camera's emissions.

Those were NOT "the days". It's just great **now**, especially when you all send me such interesting copy. Keep it a-coming!

(Bother! That's not a biography is it? This is :

Been here 10 years. Have 3 children and 5 little grandchildren. Qualification in Human Resources. Come from the Midlands. Worked in own business in UK forever before that with Rod. Day and night. Relentlessly. Am still using lieu-days up, here in the sun.)





Our Travel and Culture People always have a whole variety of events organised for us - check the website for the latest news. Click on Groups, then on Travel.

VALL DEL POP U3A EVENTS

Friday 14th October. The cruise to Madeira and the Canaries. Fully booked, but look forward to a full report and list of all those lost at sea or captured by pirates at the January meeting.

Wednesday 26th October - Paul Rodwell, the British Consul will be visiting Alcalali, where you will have an opportunity to talk individually with him and to ask questions. More details nearer the date.

Friday 28th October. Another ten-pin bowling challenge ! Only two places left so book now.

Tuesday 22nd November. FIDDLER ON THE ROOF - presented by the Footlights Theatre Group in Calpe. 12€ Ring Sharlotte and Brian on 965 058 136

Thursday 24th November. A day trip to Orihuela. A chance for you Christmas shopping.

Saturday 26th November BLITHE SPIRIT. At the Rafol Theatre. Monte Pego Theatre Co. Present the evergreen favourite by Noel Coward. Smoking jackets optional! 12€(with possible discount if enough tickets are sold). Ring Anne and Derek after 5pm - 966 481 106

Thursday 1st December. A delightful evening at the Union Musical Theatre, Gata to see The Wyrd Sisters. This is a comedy. The times and prices are still to be decided. Watch this space.

Friday 9th December. Shake out those cobwebs and come along for another quiz at the Bar Nou, Senija. Starting at 7:30 pm.

FUTURE U3A GENERAL MEETINGS

3RD NOVEMBER	- Candy Wright from Careline talks about the history of pantomime. Also demonstration by the card-making group
1ST DECEMBER	- Usual Christmas fun and panto!!
12th JANUARY	- Note the date! Unusually, this is NOT the first Thursday of the month.

“HELP” ACTIVITIES NEED YOUR SUPPORT !

On Friday 28th October there is to be an auction at El Cid, this has been arranged by Jalon Valley Help, in memory of Sylvia Anderson who started the charity in 1992 with a small group of volunteers.

The proceeds will be used to set up a fund in her memory and her family will decide where the money will go.

Also, on Friday 28 October El Cid are holding a charity auction for JalonValley Help. If anybody wants to donate items they can deliver to either shop at any time.

Many of us have at one time or another used their services, I am sure that lots of our members will be attending to make this event special.

Are you a budding Fred Astaire or Ginger Rogers?

Come and join us at the Anniversary **TEA DANCE**
on

Tuesday 8th November at El Cid.
Starting at 3.00 until 6.00

Cost : 6 euros.

to include Selection of Sandwiches,
Victoria Sponge, Chocolate Swiss Roll
Gourmet biscuits
and

ENGLISH TEA or Coffee.

TELEPHONE SANDRA 965581353.