

NEWS4U ! - THE SMALL ONE FOR DIAL-UPPERS.

- all the news from the newsletter , without file-consuming graphics. 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

“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.

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.

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 tittle !! 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".
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 you are interested in attending you reserve your place by on :
<http://ukinspain.fco.gov.uk/en/help-for-british-nationals/living-in-spain/pensions-benefits/open-day/>

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

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, Jaime 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.

Jaime 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.

Jaime 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 Valencianan.

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 Jaume 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 questions 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 **FRI - DAY 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.

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 !

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 6 euros. to include Selection of Sandwiches,

Victoria Sponge, Chocolate Swiss Roll Gourmet biscuits and ENGLISH TEA or Coffee.

TELEPHONE SANDRA 965581353.

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

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 exercise bike (dust optional)
Jean Watson 96 558 1496

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

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 (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 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 Cordoniu 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, 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).

Letters to the Editor :

“A little feedback on our U3A discounts. Last month I used the airport car parking service (Coastline or Alicanteairportparking.com) featured in the last edition of the newsletter, after loyally sticking with another similar company for 10 years. Not only was this new parking company much cheaper (30€ for 7 nights) , we were pleasantly surprised to find how friendly and efficient they were. Nothing was too much trouble - I will be using them again !
Rod Waspe”

PS - By chance, here's another one from Michael Bulleid :

“We paid 40 € for 15 days at Coastline - the equivalent at Claus would have been 45€.

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.)

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 SOMEONE ELSE.

U-FREE-A *could* be a swap shop - but the idea is that you don't necessarily have to collect 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 details of your unwanted items to swap to us at the newsletter.

What's on ?

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.