

NEWS4U! – THE SMALL ONE FOR DIAL-UPPERS.

– all the news from the newsletter , without file-consuming graphics. Feb 2012

WEDNESDAY WANDERERS TACKLE GUADALEST.

By Jazz Waspe

The 1st of February was a wonderful day ! At last, the sun smiled upon the Guadalest trip (which had been postponed so many times due to bad weather). Walking around the beautiful blue embalse was no mean feat (or feet), - TEN KILOMETRES (- well, almost!) !

Most of the way the path was smooth Tarmac, but on a couple of occasions, the group had to tackle swirling torrents crossing the path. Intrepidly , yet delicately, they balanced on jagged rocks forming stepping stones, sometimes a whole CENTIMETRE under the white water. For a long metre-and-a-half this went on, the picture shows just how stressed and enfeebled the group became, gamely struggling on to the Menu del Dia at the motor museum.

A huge thanks to Gail Stewart for organising a wonderful Wednesday once again.

PAINTING GROUP NEWS

BY Roager Davis

"Thursday 19th January saw the Vall del Pop Painting Group assembled for the first time this year, in Alcalá, under the watchful eye of Agnes Hall. Amid glorious sunshine we strove to outdo the David Hockneys of this world. Who cares when we are indulging in such a therapeutic pastime . All that counts is that we were quietly enjoying ourselves with watercolours and acrylics to the best of our abilities with a quiet chat along the way, Why don't you join us ? Who is David Hockney anyway ?-----Don't you start !!!"

FEBRUARY GENERAL MEETING HOSTS A SPEAKER WITH A THOUSAND TALES TO TELL ...

According to Wikipedia, the Tour d'Afrique is one of the longest and toughest bicycle races and expeditions in the world, and our speaker at the General Meeting in February told a packed hall about the trials and tribulations he endured when experiencing it first-hand in May 2010. Eric Olverson, a member of Morrira U3A., joined a 50-strong group to cover 12,000 kilometres in six months travelling from Cairo to Cape Town through some of the most dangerous territory in Africa.

From the Great Pyramid at Giza, down through Egypt into the Sudan was a fairly easy introduction to the challenges to come.

In Sudan he experienced cycling off-road and getting lost in temperatures as high as 46degrees. Then came Ethiopia for three weeks of regular bombardments of stones from the uncomprehending children en route. Then Kenya and Tanzania, notable for its beauty and bounty, with avocados the size of coconuts and fermented bamboo juice to drink. Malawi next, where the group discovered they had been innocently drinking away at contaminated water. Then Botswana and Namibia and South Africa were conquered. The whole group, having only “lost” 3 riders along the way, rode together into Cape Town, all feeling they had experienced a life-changing trial, after a rugged cycle ride averaging 120K per day, often on dirt tracks, and weeks on end without having water to wash in!!

Eric raised over €13,000 for an orphanage and continues to raise funds to this day. A percentage of money raised from sales of his book, which was published from his daily blogs go to the orphanage.

A FEW WORDS FROM THE PRESIDENT -

Dear Members,

After listening to Eric Olverson's presentation at our last general meeting about his cycling adventures across Africa, it got me thinking about how many experiences we actually have during our very short life time.

Some of these experiences leave deep marks on our lives and others just appear to pass us by, but all of these experiences help to make us what we are today. They help to develop our determination and our desire to find even more adventures and things to stimulate us.

One of my biggest adventures, was moving to Jalon and becoming the President of the U3A. What a great group of people we have in our membership, many giving freely of their time to lead groups, organise trips and of course be your committee. Maybe you could help by joining your committee or starting a new group.

We would welcome your experiences and adventures!

Bob Welham.

Monday Nights at the Movies!

Have you ever fancied being able to go to the cinema without having to drive into Javea or up to Ondara? Well as a U3A member, in fact, you only need to go to Parcent for a real live movie experience! The U3A Cinema restarted on Monday 30th January at a terrific new venue in Parcent with a showing of 'Ray', the award-winning story of the life of musician Ray Charles, and we are now planning regular movie nights roughly every alternate Monday throughout the year, except for July and August.

Our new venue has a big screen, great sound, it's warm and has reasonably comfy seats. The room has been fully refurbished in the last year, and is in the Centro La Musical, adjacent to the Town Hall in the centre of Parcent. We aim to show a wide range of quality movies, including many that have won awards at the Oscars, BAFTAs etc, so why not give it a try?

We do not charge entry as such, however we do ask for a contribution of 2 euros per person per visit, to cover our costs - mainly the cost of the licence which we need in order to be legal (over 400 euros per year.) We have been able to buy this year's licence using existing Cinema Group funds, which the U3A Committee kindly topped up with money from the Group Development Fund to enable us to get started, but we need to collect money for next year's licence. Our next screenings will be:

Monday 20th February 7pm 'FARGO' - a wonderful film which succeeds on many levels - as a thriller, as an off-beat comedy, as a drama, and as a piece of splendid visual cinema. It won Best Original Screenplay and Best Actress at the Oscars, and had several other nominations. Francis McDormand stars as a heavily pregnant rural police chief working on a murder case in the snowy wilderness of wintry Minnesota.

Monday 5th March 7pm 'AN EDUCATION' - a gentle, British movie set in 1961, about a bright 16-year-old school girl who falls in love with an older man. The cars, the fashions and the hair-styles are guaranteed to bring back memories! Had several Oscar nominations. Screenplay by Nick Hornby based on the memoirs of Lynn Barber.

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Monday 12th March 7pm 'APOCALYPTO' - a fabulous historical epic full of stunning cinematography, about rival clans of Maya in pre-conquest Mexico. Dramatic, intense and action-packed, the film transports you back in time, for a glimpse of a vanished civilisation.

For more information about screenings

- Our page on the U3A website is more up-to-date and contains further information including links to reviews of the films and a map showing the location of the venue. Go to:
 - u3avalldelpop.com/test-groups/cinema-news(or navigate there from the Home page by clicking on 'Groups' and then 'Cinema News').
 - Screenings will also be listed under Events on the website's Home page.
 - Get on our mailing list by emailing us at: u3avalldelpopcinema@gmail.com

The Cinema is open to all U3A members, so do come and give it a try! And if you have any great movies you think we should show, please let us know!

Our thanks go to all who have helped us get the group going again, especially David and Madeline Garside, Sheila Skinner, Bob and Sandra Welham and Parcent Town Council.

Heidi Morgan and Mike Burke - u3avalldelpopcinema@gmail.com

GRAND CHESS CHALLENGE – DENIA V VALL DEL POP

On the morning of Friday 20th January, six intrepid chess players from Vall del Pop set out to experience the first chess tournament of the young chess group's life. Against the older and more seasoned might of Denia U3A, and under strange match rules, how would they cope? Group Leader Rod put together his strongest team, consisting of himself, Maurice Hood, Barry Acton, and in a shrewd manoeuvre, three female players, Karrie Gerard, Heidi Morgan and Chris Acton.

Meeting in Denia for tactic discussions, the team was rated in order of playing ability, so that opponents from the all-male home team could be selected. So the 2-hour battle commenced, in Denia's normal venue, tucked away inside the town hall.

Unfortunately, victory plans were scuppered. Defeat was snatched from the jaws of success for all but our wonderful HEIDI! The return bout will be held in March on our own turf, where we hope to get our own back.

GROUP NEWS FROM THE MINUTES OF THE LAST GENERAL MEETING :

GUITAR - NEW GROUP! Wednesday afternoons

BADMINTON and RECORDERS - We have leaders - opportunities for keen sportspersons and musicians!

TENNIS - New group is off to a good start. Thursday mornings in Rafol with car-share organised from Alcala.

SHORT MAT BOWLS - This enthusiastic group need somewhere to store their mat. It rolls up, but really needs something like a garage for storage. They meet in Jalon.

VERY SAD NEWS FROM THE MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEETING

“The President opened the meeting with the sad news regarding the loss of two members. Julia Hughes who was a member of the photographic group and Jean Louis. Jean was a very active member of the U3A, belonging to many of the groups including Open Forum, Short Mat Bowls, but more importantly Jean will be remembered for her quick wit which she demonstrated in her writing of the last two pantomimes. Both will be sadly missed.”

2012!

Many Chinese Restaurants in our area celebrated the Chinese New Year on January 23rd, and we all had a marvellous time. But did you know that 2012 is the Water Dragon year, which is the 4709th Chinese Year ?

The dragon is a legendary animal and it is the symbol of the emperor in China. Since the Dragon is coated with mysterious colour, Chinese consider that the dragon is unpredictable, untouchable and people cannot see its head and tail at the same time. Therefore, we might see something unexpected happening in 2012.

The Mayan calendar, of course, ends in December this year, and this means we must expect huge changes going on in our planet- NOT THE END OF THE WORLD ! It all tallies ! Have YOU Googled "2012 prophesies" and seen just how many there are, all agreeing on the importance of December this year.?

FOR SALE

JUICING JACK - Electric Juicer This juicer cost €240 and has only been used about a dozen times. It is in immaculate condition but just not being used. It needs a good home with someone who will use it to its full potential. It comes with a juicing book, an apron and in its original box. Price €95 ono. Contact Carol or Jim on 96 573 2607

YAMAHA PORTATONE KEYBOARD.

Model No PSR-303, Model No PSR-303, YPT-300.

Comes with folding stand, Owner's manual, Original Box. Hardly used and in immaculate condition. Genuine reason for sale. €75 ono.

Call Carol or Jim on 96 573 2607 Mob 616 103 167. Near Benissa

WHEELCHAIR - LITTLE USED

LARGE, DETACHABLE WHEELS, FOLDS EASILY. WIDE, COMFORTABLE SEAT WITH REMOVABLE CUSHION. LIGHT EASY MOVEMENT FOR THE USER OR CARER. ATTACHMENT FOR CRUTCHES. EXCELLENT, CLEAN CONDITION. CAN DELIVER. 150 EUROS ono. 96 648 1069 or 669 585 248. Jalon

New single mattress to fit 80 cm bed, very good quality bought from JYSK and never been used (was wrong size!!!) Can be seen at ORBA ... price negotiable!

Phone 96 557 7499 (evenings best) or 650 904 688 mobil
E-mail: marierosedermott@yahoo.co.uk

WANTED

LIGHT-WEIGHT TENNIS RACQUET wanted by beginner in the tennis group.

Phone Susi Muller 965 97 32 86

If you have any items you want to sell, anything that you would like to buy, or things that you simply want to give away - contact the Editor, jazzwaspe@hotmail.com before the 6th of the calendar month.

CARITAS

Our U3A has just begun to collect items for Caritas at each General Meeting. You can bring along anything non-perishable, food or clothing, and volunteers will make sure it goes where it will do most good. But what IS Caritas ? Peter Ryan has answered this question for us, and Sandra Welham has added a post-script

Caritas is a National charity run by members of the Catholic Church. There are 3 divisions. Clothing, Food and International aid.

The clothing division.

In this area clothing is collected in all the parishes. It is then all sent to a central point. In the case of Jalon it goes to Bar Vinyater run by Celia, the Spanish teacher who many of you will know. From there it is taken to Alcalalí which acts as a store for the Vall del Pop.

This is then collected weekly and taken to Valencia to a large central store. Here the clothing is sorted and allocated. The allocation is done through a system of application to local social workers, in the case of Jalon, Anna Martin. Anna grades the request and a voucher is issued which is sent to Valencia and the clothing issued.

Food Distribution.

This is for families who have no money. There are currently 30 families in Jalon receiving aid. I do not know the demand in the rest of the area but I am assured all the villages have families in a position of receiving no money. Food collected remains local and is distributed by Caritas according to need again decided by Anna Martin.

International Division.

Each village has an allocated project. Jalon has a village in Africa where 2 nuns from the area work. Caritas respond to requests from the nuns and send money. They have recently supplied a large water tank, chickens and school equipment. With the current crisis this side of things is reducing.

The first collection for Caritas took place at the February General Meeting. We know that sometimes it is difficult to attend these meetings, and have been kindly offered a place in **Grantys' Store** for a Caritas box to be available for you to put in your donations.

We are very grateful to **Grantys'** for this very kind gesture.

You do not have to buy anything from *Grantys'*, but can just pop- in to give your donation.

Arrangement have been made for one of our members to collect this box before the general meeting each month.

Thank you for your support .

Regards, Sandra.

U3A VALL DEL POP POETRY AND RHYME COMPETITION

FOR THE FIRST TIME EVER, OUR U3A OFFERS YOU THE OPPORTUNITY TO WIN VAST PRIZES IN A COMPETITION TO TEST YOUR CREATIVITY!

SEND US YOUR RHYMING VERSES BEFORE THE END OF MARCH AND YOUR POEM MAY BE PRINTED IN THE NEWSLETTER. YOU WILL ACHIEVE FAME AND (A LITTLE BIT OF) FORTUNE!

WHAT TO DO - DEADLINE MARCH 31ST:

1. WRITE AN ORIGINAL RHYMING POEM OF 20 LINES OR LESS. MAKING IT ENTERTAINING FOR ALL U3A MEMBERS TO READ. (AND REMEMBER , WE ARE NOT ALL ACADEMICS !!)
2. MAKE SURE YOUR POEM CAN FIT INTO ONE OF THE THREE CATEGORIES BELOW ;
A) LIMERICK B) STORYLINE C) LOCAL INSPIRATION
3. **EXTRA MARKS** WILL BE AWARDED IN ALL CATEGORIES FOR:
References to U3A Vall del Pop. References to anniversaries or "five years"
For the "Feel-good factor" (*Absolutely no gloom allowed!*)
4. **IMPORTANT!** HOW TO SEND IT IN :
SET IT OUT ON *ONE* SHEET OF A4 WITH DOUBLE SPACING AND MARGINS AS WIDE AS POSSIBLE. (DON'T PUT YOUR NAME ON THIS SHEET).
USE TIMES NEW ROMAN FONT, 12PT. BLACK.
ON A *SECOND* SHEET, PUT ;
TITLE OF POEM: CATEGORY : YOUR NAME & MEMBERSHIP NUMBER :
EMAIL ADDRESS : TELEPHONE NUMBER.
SEND THIS 2-SHEET ATTACHMENT TO THE ADMINISTRATOR, KEN GRANT -
kenjgrant@gmail.com
5. NO MORE THAN 2 ENTRIES PER MEMBER PLEASE. IF YOU SEND IN MORE THAN 2 - WE SHALL RANDOMLY PICK TWO FROM YOUR PRODUCTIONS AND BIN THE OTHERS.

PRIZES :

One prize per category of 15€, PLUS 5€ to the overall winner. To be announced at the General Meeting on 3rd May 2012. If there are insufficient entries in any single category, then a 1st, 2nd and 3rd prize will be awarded to the entries as a whole as below:

FIRST PRIZE - 25€. SECOND PRIZE - 15€ THIRD PRIZE - 10€

JUDGES:

The newsletter team will judge your entries. These three judges and the administrator will not be eligible to enter - but all other members are very welcome to do so!