

UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE: JAVEA

(www.u3ajavea.org)

NEWSLETTER February 2009

Committee:

President: Rosi Evans

Vice-President: Shirley King

Membership Secretary: Wilma Stevenson

Treasurer: Marie Smith

Secretary: Jeni Oldfield

Groups Coordinator: Elizabeth Collins

Deputy Groups Coordinator: Jean Miller

Deputy Treasurer: Mick Cox

Deputy Membership Secretary: Karen White

Deputy Secretary: Sue Bentley

Webmaster: Sam Wells

Our Guest Speaker on Wednesday 25th February is Peter Atkinson.

We are delighted to welcome Peter back and his subject is "The Pilgrim Routes to Santiago de Compostela – Across Spain on a Bike".

A FEW WORDS FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Wednesday 25th March is our Annual General Meeting and with it we give notice of two elections on that day. John Price is standing as Vice President and Shirley King as President. I will be stepping down having completed more than my three years. We will also be saying goodbye to Lin Jones who has been our Treasurer and guided our finances so well since the start of Javea U3A. Lin set up her systems & columns & woe betide us if something didn't balance!! However, any reprimand was always said in such a pleasant way that no offence could be taken & we do owe Lin a very big vote of thanks for her great contribution to Javea U3A. Lin will also be on hand for any queries relating to the past year's audited accounts which will be sent out with your Newsletter. Also included, will be my report on the year's happenings.

Rosi Evans

President

CONGRATULATIONS!

We are delighted to announce our first U3A wedding!

Pat Wykes and Eric Johnson are now Mr. & Mrs. Johnson.

We wish them lots of love and happiness

MEMBERSHIP

IMPORTANT NOTICE: As advised in previous newsletters the new arrangement for the payment of subscriptions means that subscriptions for 2009 are now due and must be paid in full before the end of this month. ALL RENEWAL SUBSCRIPTIONS SHOULD BE PAID IN FULL BEFORE THE END OF THIS MONTH. MEMBERS WHO HAVE MADE NO CONTACT, AND WHO'S SUBSCRIPTIONS REMAIN

OUTSTANDING, SHALL HAVE THEIR MEMBERSHIP WITHDRAWN WITHOUT FURTHER NOTICE. We had an extremely good turnout at the January meeting when 75% of members either came to pay their subscriptions, or arranged to have a friend pay on their behalf. This has been much appreciated by the Committee. Unfortunately, a few members have felt the need to cancel their membership either through illness, having to spend more time in the UK, or simply because they have joined another branch of the U3A nearer to home. As a result we have transferred a total of 14 Associate members to full Membership. The total number of members now stands at 907, with 629 full Members and 278 Associate Members. If you have still not renewed your membership, then please make sure either yourself, or a friend, can attend the General Meeting at the Parador on Wednesday 25th between 9.30 – 10.30am. Please have the exact cash ready as having to give change makes the process longer for everyone.

A REMINDER TO ALL MEMBERS: Husbands and wives both need to be members if you wish to undertake activities/trips together. Please note that only Spanish telephone/mobile numbers are recorded. Only members who have full Membership can attend the monthly General Meeting and, regrettably, lack of space does not permit the attendance of friends or guests. Names for Associate Membership can be given to any Committee Member. Changes to e-mail addresses, telephone numbers, etc should be notified direct to the Membership Secretary at:

javeau3amembership@gmail.com **Wilma Stevenson**

PARADOR MEETINGS

Over the last few months we have been experiencing problems accommodating requests for tables at the Parador monthly meetings. With new groups and activities requiring tables we have run out of space. To ease this situation as of this month and subject to availability the **TRAVEL GROUP Advisors** will now be located in the Salon Azahar which is located just behind the shop situated opposite the Reception Desk. We do hope this action will alleviate some of the problems members have been experiencing when trying to book travel trips. Due to the lack of space we would advise that should you require a table for an event you are organising please contact the Vice President at least 10 days before the Parador meeting. It will not be possible to make a table available unless prior notification is given. Thank you for your co-operation. **Shirley King**

HELP – Denia & District

Members will recall this was our chosen charity for our Garden Party last year. We continued to sell DVDs and books up until Christmas and I was delighted to present HELP with a further cheque for €682,44. This means we have all raised a figure in excess of €5000 for this very worth while charity. I received a very nice letter of thanks and I think a pat on the back for all the members is well deserved.

WALKING TREASURE HUNT

The first **Walking Treasure Hunt** of 2009 will be held on Tuesday 3rd March. This time we will be exploring some of the more interesting parts of **Denia**. The start time will be **10:30am** and the cost of **€15** will include lunch, bread & wine. As usual, prizes will be awarded to the winners. The meeting point in Denia will be advised at this month's Parador meeting.

Organiser: Paul Pruden

SHORT STORY COMPETITION

There were 8 excellent short stories this year and a booklet has been created which will be on sale for €5 at the Parador on Wed the 25th Feb. The winner of the competition, Gordon Atkinson, will choose a charity to which the proceeds of the sale will go.

GROUPS INFORMATION

Elizabeth Collins, Groups Co-Coordinator

Walking Groups - Karen White will be taking over as leader of the Monday Health Walk from Shirley King, who introduced this well attended group. Karen will also be leading an Intermediate walking group and Jean Miller and Karen will lead a Gentle Walking Group. These, together with Al Knight's original monthly group gives us 4 separate options and Karen will be explaining the different types of walk on offer at the Parador meeting. In addition, there will be a Walk table, manned by Jean, where members can find out more and sign up for walking.

Discussion Group (New) - Gill Birch has offered to lead the Discussion group. This group will restart on Friday 20th March at the Social Centre in Javea. Please telephone Gill for a list of the subjects to be discussed, such as Always Tell the Truth/Moderation in All Things/That We Never Learn from History/Pacifism is the Only Way to World Peace. I am sure Gill would also welcome other suggestions.

Snooker - Please note that we now have two Snooker groups running.

Consum Food Demonstration and Talk - In May/June I hope to be able to arrange 2 sessions (in English) at the Consum store in Javea. These should consist of a cookery demonstration of 2/3 recipes followed by a talk about healthy living and nutrition. You will be given the recipes to take home (could be Spanish or foreign) plus a little gift. Duration 1 hour each. Probably 9.30 – 10.30am and 11 – 12 noon. If you would be interested in attending, please email or phone Elizabeth Collins, as I have a specified number of places available. (I shall be away for a month mid March to mid April, so would like an idea of numbers before I return to Spain). elizabethgroupscoordinator@gmail.com

Remember – If you are not sure if a group will be right for you, contact the Group Leader and ask for more information. Their contact details are on the website and on the list which accompanies this Newsletter.

Although we now have 54 groups, if you would like to start something new and different, we would be delighted to talk to you.

Badminton - We need to find a U3A Badminton Leader, as the non-U3A group in Javea is now full.

Spanish Intercambio - This is now under way and many of the U3A members have teamed up with Spanish speakers to improve their language skills. If you would like to join in, please contact: hablemos@ajxabia.org
Elizabeth Collins, GC and Jean Miller DepGC

ONGOING GROUPS

ART GROUP (NEW): A new course has just begun, meeting weekly on a Friday from 2 – 4.30pm in the Group Leader's home. Various forms of art are available, Watercolour, Acrylic, Stencil etc. To join, please contact **Sherry Houghton** e-mail: art.group@u3ajavea.org.

BACKGAMMON (NEW): The U3A Backgammon Group is now fully up and running. We meet every Monday from 15:00 – 17:30 at Marples Café on the Arenal. All levels are welcome. Do either email Bob at backgammon@u3ajavea.org or call on 96 646 3972 – or face-to-face at the next Parador meeting. The U3A Backgammon Group asks any U3A members that have an old backgammon set picking up dust in their underbuild, to please donate it to the Group to avoid us having to use U3A funds or to levy equipment charges on attendees. If you do have a set and are prepared to donate it, please email Bob at backgammon@u3ajavea.org or call on 96 646 3972 - or bring it along to the next Parador meeting. **Bob Denton**

BIRD WATCHING:

The next field trip will be on Monday, March 2nd to the Santa Pola area. Please put this date in your diary. Further details will be sent out to all members by email towards the end of February. Any new U3A members wishing to join this field trip should contact the group leader, **Nigel Bentley**, preferably by email, supplying a telephone number in addition to their email address.

BOOK CLUB: Books for the next two meetings are as follows:

Monday 16th March - *The Trouble with Africa* by Vic Guhrs

Monday 20th April - *The Road Home* by Rose Tremain

All meetings are from 2.30 - 4.30pm. If you are interested in joining The Book Club or would like more information about these books, please contact **Pru Hughes** at: pru.bookclub@gmail.com

BRIDGE GROUP: Contact Group Leader

CARD GAMES FOR PLEASURE: Contact Group Leader.

COMPUTER SELF-HELP GROUP A: Meetings continue monthly, for information contact Group Leader on javeaU3Acomputers@gmail.com

COMPUTER GROUP B

Now meeting at 11.00am fortnightly on Tuesdays at Artisan Cafe (& helado), next to Cornish Pride on Arenal. There is plenty of parking and this is a large location with good WiFi access. Next meeting 27th January. Contact **Trevor Lott** for details.

CRAFT: Contact Group Leader

CULTURAL ARTS: Please see the March C.A. Newsletter on the website for details of various local events: www.u3ajavea.org.

Saturday 21st March: “The Wireless Years” Starring Barry Britten and Chris Allen, two of the most talented professional performers from Britain’s variety theatre. With a brand new version for 2009, this production promises to deliver a nostalgic look back at the heyday of the wireless, its bygone stars, its comedy and its songs. At the Careline Theatre, Alcalali, doors open at 7.15 p.m. and the show commences at 8 p.m. Our group booking will attract a 3 euros discount per ticket (full price €12) – names and payment of **9 euros pp** to Angela Chantry at the meeting on Wednesday, 25th February.

Thursday 30th April: Vivaldi’s “The Four Seasons”

Chamber Music Concert at the Palau de Les Arts Reina Sofia, Valencia. Concert commences at 20.00 hrs. The coach will leave El Rafalet at 17.15 hrs (5.15 p.m.). Ticket price is €10 plus €10 for the coach.

NB: this event is now full. Names for reserve list in case of cancellations to Organiser: Angela Chantry.

Saturday 13th June: *The Bourbon Street Stompers* will play outdoors at the *Restaurante Micheta*, next to the Ifach Golf Club just off the Moraira-Calpe road, from 1 pm to 4 pm. Price: 18 euros, which includes entry (5€), barbecue with wine, and gratuity (13€). Payment required at the meeting on Wednesday, 25th February, to **Organiser: Angela Chantry**
NB: this event is now full – names for reserve list in case of cancellations.

DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY: At the January meeting Joan and Tom Birch led a session on Adjustment layers using Photoshop Elements. The technique described enables different elements within a photograph to be adjusted for brightness, contrast etc. The February meeting will be led by Nigel Bentley and concerns the subject of Digiscoping. This will take place at the usual venue and time on 24th February. For the programme of activities for the coming year see the web site. **Dodie Hodgkinson**

DINE AND DANCE: Contact Group Leader

DINING OUT: Contact Group Leader

DISCUSSION AND DEBATING GROUP: Contact Group Leader.

FAMILY HISTORY: At our February meeting Pat gave us an illustrated talk about her father, who had a love for cycling and travelled extensively in France, Spain, Morocco and even Lapland. He extensively wrote, photographed and sketched about his travels and adventures in many magazines of the time. We were also able to see some of the unique photographs of the people and scenes taken on his trip across Spain in 1896. We already have a beginner's course underway and the demand is such that another course will be starting in March. Further details available on request. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, 17th March at the new earlier time of **2.15pm** at the usual venue of the Social Centre in Javea, when Bill will talk about his family and how and why he researched his family tree. **James Hodgkinson**

FASHION AND STYLE (NEW): This new group will have its first meeting at 'Artisano', Avenida Del Fontana, Arenal on Tuesday 24th February at 2.30 pm when group members will discuss "The impact of 1960s Fashion". Members will bring their own recollections (and photos!) of fashion to the meeting - it should prove to be a lively session! We will also try, during this meeting to decide on a regular time/venue so that we can try to fit our meetings around busy social lives. Members will also be encouraged to suggest future discussion topics, whether it is fashion, furnishings, designers or architecture when we will try to arrange our programme to include these areas of interest. If you would like more information on this group, please contact **Vivienne Sullivan**.

FOLK MUSIC GROUP: The first meeting of the Folk Group was held on Wednesday, 28th January, and proved to be a great success. A total of 17 budding folkies turned up for what proved to be an enjoyable selection of music, with most of those attending contributing their own input into the events on the night. A full and varied selection of music was performed, and all enjoyed the differing content. Photographs kindly taken by Tom and Jean Miller on the night are on the Javea U3A web site for all to see. The next meeting of the group will again be held at No 144 Les Fonts on Wednesday 25th February gathering at 7.30 for 8.00pm start, and concluding at around 10.00 pm. As we will still undoubtedly require some alcoholic sustenance to oil the vocal chords and improve the

musical content, could I suggest that all wishing to attend bring a bottle/bottles/cans of their favourite tippie!

Please let me know if you wish to come to this session of the group as soon as possible, either on 96-649-3959 or by e-mail to folk.music@u3ajavea.org. Should anyone require directions on where to find No 144 Les Fonts, again let me know, and I will send some details of how best to approach through Benitachell and find us in the Les Fonts Urbanisation below the village.

Looking forward to seeing as many as possible on the 25th February. **Paul Wessendorff**

FOODIES GROUP: The February Foodies meeting topic was moved over to March, to make room for Senora Juana Alvarez our guest speaker. Originally from Soria, she lived forty years in Madrid and now spends a large part of the year in Javea where several of her seven children run businesses. At 81 she is lively and knowledgeable, not only about traditional Spanish Cooking, especially that of Central Spain, but knows the health and curative properties of many foods. We picked up so much information about Spanish foods and customs and touched on aspects of life during the Civil War. As well as tasting light as a feather croquetas (still warm) made by Juana, the final 'dish' using up the last morsels of the famous Cocido Madrilenò we had a 'language lesson'. Elizabeth Collins simultaneously translated the Castilian, although as Juana was so clear I think we all picked up most of what was said. Not only was the session interesting from a food lovers viewpoint, but was a wonderful example of 'inter-cultural' exchange. We shared many jokes and ideas and immediately felt as if we had known her for ages. Everyone contributed 1 euro which paid for a lovely bouquet of flowers and her ingredients. We hope to invite Juana again later in the year. The 19th March meeting will be at 10.30 in "Marples", the topic "Healthy Eating on an Unhealthy Budget". If anyone in the group is not receiving minutes or information please check that you gave me your current e-mail and let me know. **Barbara Craven.**

GARDEN CLUB: Contact Group Leader.

GENTLE AEROBICS: If you are interested in getting fitter for the summer join the Gentle Aerobic group, which is a Low impact aerobics/stretch and tone. The group meets every Monday from 10.30am until 11.30am at the Grand Cafe Toscomar. You will need to bring an exercise mat and a bottle of water. (Rubber matting can be bought from any ferreteria by the metre or already cut to size from the Chinese supermarkets). **Bobby Ogden**

HISTORY GROUP: The next history group will be at the Javea player's studio on Monday the 9th of March at 2.30pm. The subject is "The Indian Mutiny" and will be presented by Fred Crowson. If you are interested attending this talk, and/or in joining the history group, please contact group leader **Sally Wells.**

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (IT) PARTNERS GROUP: A number of people have put forward their names offering support to others for software applications. Thank you to all those who have given their names as contacts. We are now able to offer support with Microsoft Office applications, genealogy, setting up of email accounts, web site creation, design and construction of databases and Internet searches. If you would like support in these areas of software or if you would like to offer help in any other areas please contact **Dodie Hodgkinson** on IT.Partners@u3ajavea.org See the web site for a proforma for submitting information.

NB Computer repairs and hardware issues do not come within the scope of this group.

LET'S TALK JAVEA! : Contact Group Leader u3aletstalkjavea@u3ajavea.org or 96 579 3847.

MAHJONG: The Mahjong group meets at the Grand Café, Toscamar, Javea on Tuesdays at 3.00 pm. **Kay Thomas**.

MEDITATION AND MENTAL WELLBEING: Meditation is now on **Wednesday** at **10:45am**, same place. On the day of the monthly meeting there is no meditation. **Piera King**.

MP3 and IPOD Use: The group will start on Thursday, March 12th at 10-12am and will run for 7-8 weeks. Anyone else interested in attending should contact **Alan Ewins** at 966 468 304 or mp3.ipod@u3ajavea.org.

MUSIC 4 U - POPULAR CLASSICAL MUSIC:

NEWS FLASH – I am pleased to tell you that we are able to open the membership list now rather than April as previously announced. If you want to, you can book to attend the next session on March 22nd. Please contact me and I will supply all information and directions. All members of U3A and Associate members will be most welcome.

The April session will be Sunday April 12th at 5 – 7 pm and dates for May and June will be announced soon.

The Music 4 U (Popular Classical Music) group started in April of last year, meeting on Sundays in the leader's garden for summer months and inside the villa for the winter months. For May and June we adjust the time to 6 – 8 pm to take account of the warm weather and later sunshine.

We enjoy programmes of 'Popular Classical Music' chosen in conjunction with members willing to work with me on a particular theme. More details will be sent to you if you email me indicating your interest.

Pat Robinson - Tel: 96-579-4509 or email: music4u@u3ajavea.org.

PATCHWORK GROUP (NEW): Contact Group Leader, **Yvonne Sinclair** email: patchwork@u3ajavea.org.

PETANQUE: We are now back playing at the much improved courts at Café L'Echalote, Costa Nova (formally Charlie's Bar). Same time as usual, 2.45pm for a 3pm start. The charge for hire of the courts has changed it is now 3€ each, which includes a drink, beer, wine, water, coffee or soft drink. New members very welcome. **Lin and Terry Jones**

POETRY FOR PLEASURE: We had another good session at our February meeting, when it was a great pleasure to welcome new members. We heard and discussed several poems on the theme of love and romance. We next meet on St Patrick's Day when we will naturally be having a look at poetry by Irish writers. PFP is a very informal group which always welcomes new members and new ideas. If you are at all interested, please get in touch with **John Othick**, or just come along to our next meeting, which will be at 11am in the Parador on 17th March.

QUIZ NIGHT: There will be no quiz in March. The next one will be on Wednesday April 8th in Teulada as usual, in Bar Mediterraneo, 7.30 for 8pm. 15€ pp to include meal & wine & prizes. Choose menu from lamb, chicken, emperador or veggie. **Jeni and Stan Oldfield**

RUMMIKUB GROUP: Every Wednesday from 3.00pm at Marples Cafe and Tea Rooms, Avda Del Fontana 70, Arenal. Everyone welcome. For more details please contact **Krystyna** at social.rummikubs@u3ajavea.org.

SAILING (NEW): At the last meeting at the Parador nine people showed interest in being involved in some sort of sailing. I decided not to have a formal meeting but to speak to each person individually to see what they would prefer to do on the water. Six of them I was able

to contact, the other three I have been unable to contact, but I have tried, Diana Jarvis I have e-mailed, no reply, Bill Mansell must be away as he does not answer the phone, and also Patrick Lynch. If they read this they can contact me on 96 577 0558 but I will keep trying. Six members want large boat experience and the other three, plus myself are happy on dinghy's. I have a mad machine, a Hobie 16 catamaran and will be taking to the water as the weather improves and will let the other members know when I am going out to see if we can sail as buddies in and around the bay. Safety in numbers and all that. For the past 8-9years I have been "billy no mates" and rarely encounter other sailors on the water. I often need a crew and will try to recruit from those who have expressed interested, otherwise I will be afloat alone.

Michael Ballantyne has generously offered us the use of his Lazer dinghy for the season. It has been unused for 10 years, so let's hope it still floats. I am going to check it out with Michael and can trail it to the port, so any members who want to use it let me know as it will probably be securely chained on the hard standing and the sails/rudder etc. taken away after use and stored.

Richard Jones (Moraira and Javea member) has offered to take a group (4-6 people) on his large cruising boat in the near future. Interested, let me know.

Initially I intend to just keep in contact with sailing members by e.mail and phone rather than try to meet in a group and as, and when we get sailing, then make arrangements for more formal meetings if we have the need and desire.

Just a quick bit about me, I have been sailing for some 45 years mainly on racing catamarans and was 2nd in nation championships three times in the UK and West Africa, a bit of a 2nd class sailor really. I also imported and sold/taught cat sailing for beginners and advanced racing techniques. I went up market for 10 years on a cruising, folding trimaran and have now returned to my first love, a Hobie 16 twin trapeze catamaran, although at 68 I am getting a little slow on the trapeze it still beats an exercise machine any day. **Gordon Edwards.**

SCRABBLE: Contact Group Leader.

SNOOKER: Snooker Group 1 - This group meets at Jaspa's in Cabo de la Nao on Fridays, but is now full. **Snooker Group 2** - Because the first snooker group is full, a new group has been formed and it held its first meeting this week. Again play is at Jaspa's, at 11.00am each Wednesday. If any new members, who have some playing experience, are interested in joining, please refer to Group Leader **Steve Collins**

SOLO ON A SUNDAY: Come along and join us for a Sunday Lunch in a nice restaurant and meet new people. Everyone is welcome, singles and couples. We shall be going to La Cumbre at Cumbre del Sol, which is a splendid venue with spectacular views. Just email me or call 966463389. Look forward to seeing you! **Marion Monsell.**

SPANISH FOR BEGINNERS: The current two classes will run up until 14th May and are held weekly on a Thursday from 10-11am and 11.15-12.15pm in the Conference Room at the Social Centre, Javea. Both classes are now full. If you are interested in future classes, please contact **Heidi Hancock** at beginners.spanish@u3ajavea.org or the Groups Coordinator.

TRAVELLERS' TALES GROUP: Our next meeting will be on Tuesday 3rd March, when Angela Chantry will give a presentation on her recent *Tour of Vietnam & Cambodia*, and on Tuesday 14th April, Felicity Arnot will be telling us about her travels in *Morocco*. The venue for both will be The Javea Players' Studio, behind Book World Espana. Meet at 11.30 a.m. for 12.00 p.m. start. **Angela Chantry**

WALKING GROUPS

ORIGINAL WALKING GROUP: All walks start at the Tourist Office car park opposite Mas y Mas in Benitachell and meet at 9.30am. Bring ample water, refreshments, appropriate clothing and comfortable walking shoes/boots. Telephone **Al Knight**, the Group Leader if you have any queries. Please note the change of walk for April (Bernia instead of Benimaurell):

5th March at Castells, 4 hours, 10 kms, 400m ascent
2nd April at Bernia, 4 hours, 10 kms, 300m ascent
7th May at Castells, 4 hours, 12 kms, 300m ascent
4th June at Tarbena, 3 hours, 8 kms, 300m ascent

INTERMEDIATE WALKING: The first session of the Intermediate Walking group took place on Thurs 19th Feb. Fifteen U3A members turned out at the Monasterio on la Plana to walk along the country paths to the “bottle tower” (Torre del Gerro, overlooking Les Rotes, Denia). The walk returned to the Monasterio via the Javea windmills and took approx 2 hrs 10 mins., including stops. Despite being a little misty, there were great views of Montgo, Denia and the coastline northwards, as well as the Javea plain and the mountains towards Calpe and Benissa.

The next Intermediate Walk is on Thurs 19th March, meeting at Casitas Ibericas on the Jesus Pobre road. The walk will start prompt at 9:30 am and will cross the campo through the vineyards and orchards to and around Jesus Pobre (approx 2hrs). All are welcome, no prior notice required, just turn up. **Karen White**.

HEALTH WALKING: Contact Group Leader

GENTLE WALKS (NEW): Wednesdays, starting at 10 am. (*No walk will take place on the last Wednesday of the month*) These walks are for those who like to walk at a slower pace or have mobility problems. The walk will be 30 to 45 minutes over flat ground and will alternate (monthly) between the Arenal or Port areas of Javea. Marples cafe in the Arenal will be the meeting place for the March walks (4th, 11th & 18th). If you need to know more about walks or how to get to Marples Cafe please contact Jean Miller at: jeandepgroupcoord@yahoo.co.uk phone - 966 074 021, or **Karen White** at: karen.l.boddy@gmail.com

WINE APPRECIATION:

Lunchtime Wine Appreciation Group:- This group met last Wednesday at a new venue, La Cocina, and everyone enjoyed both the venue and the food. 7 wines from La Mancha were sampled, some of which were very acceptable and reasonably priced. The next meeting will be at La Cocina on Wednesday 18th March where Matthew Kaine of Casa del Vino will be giving the group a talk on a new bodega he has found in Ribera del Duero, and he will be bringing a number of wines from it for the members to sample.

Evening Wine Appreciation Group:- The group met earlier this month at Marples to listen to a talk about the wines of La Mancha and to sample a number of wines from the DO. This was our biggest turnout yet, and whilst members do not wish to leave Marples, for a larger venue, it will be necessary from now on to organise the monthly meetings on a first come/first served basis. Next meeting Wednesday 4th March at 6.00pm at Marples.

There is only one rule, and this applies to both Wine Appreciation Groups, and it is that if you book a place for a meeting, and do not turn up for it, then you will still be required to pay the meeting fee of €15 per person. **Steve Collins**

TRAVEL 2009.

Thursday 26th February - Sunday 1st March: *Walking in the Sierra Espuna Regional Park*

Would participants please give me their **balance of payment** of €115 p.p. IN CASH PLEASE, together with form containing your emergency contact number, at the February meeting. **Organiser: Angela Chantry**

Friday 6th March: *Nuclear Power Station at Cofrentes*

Price 15 Euros for the coach, which departs Rafalet 8.30 am. This trip is now closed. Those joining this excursion please note that there is often a 5 degree difference in the climate between Javea and Cofrentes. **Organiser: Mike Frost.**

Saturday 7th March: *Villajoyosa Casino*

Unfortunately the format at the Casino has just changed, and is more cabaret based than dancing, and in the gaming room. Not enough people were interested for it to be cost effective to book a coach, but the stalwart few were happy to car share. One suggestion is to change the venue to El Andaluz, on the way to Moraira, which is very reasonably priced, good food etc. Please contact **Pat Johnson (Wykes)** if you are interested

Friday 13th March: *Day trip to Villena & Novelda*

This trip has been cancelled due to insufficient numbers – please collect refund from **Angela Chantry**.

Wednesday 15th – Friday 17th April: *Walking in La Vall de Laguar*

La Vall de Laguar has a remarkable landscape, with the mountain peak "Cavall Verd" on one side, and on the other, the imposing sight of "Barranco del Infierno" (Hells Gorge). Al Knight (our U3A Walking Group Leader) will be showing us some interesting trails during our 3 days of walking in this lovely area. The price includes 2 nights half-board at the 3* Hotel Alahaur, just above the village of Benimaurell, with either en-suite twin/double bedroom, or junior suite. Full day guided walks on Wednesday and Thursday, with a morning walk on the Friday; (max. group size 26). Price p.p. in a twin/double: **€80**; in junior suite: **€87** p.p. Cheque or cash for full amount today please, to **Organiser: Angela Chantry**

Monday 20th April : *Extremadura*

Monday, 20th April, Extremadura – 5 days, 4 nights half board, price €300. This trip is now closed, with a short waiting list. To add your name, please contact the organiser- **Mike Frost**.

Tuesday 5th May: *Cuenca*

An overnight trip to see the Hanging Houses of Cuenca and visit the Ciudad Encantada (Enchanted City). Some walking on rough ground at the Ciudad Encantada. Price includes coach, b&b, 4* hotel, €95 plus €30 single supplement. Deposits required today, €50pp. Cash or cheques payable to Gandia Travel. Balance payable at the April meeting. Places still available. Organiser: **Diane Ord**.

Friday 8th May: *River Jucar boat trip* –A two-hour, 16 km boat ride through the canyons and mountains between Cofrentes and Cortes de Pallas. This is a national park and therefore cameras and binoculars are a must. After the boat trip we will go to the nearby Balneario (health spa) for lunch, followed by a tour of the spa. Price including coach, boat and lunch €35. Coach departs Rafalet 8.30 am, returning Rafalet 6.30 pm. Names today, with payment at the March meeting. NB Boat departs from Cofrentes – see Power Station entry above about climate. **Organiser: Mike Frost**

September: City Centre - Prague –4 days 3 nights bed and breakfast, price €450, single supplement €52, includes flights and hotel and Prague transfer. This trip is now closed. To go on the reserve list please contact the organiser - **Mike Frost**.

September:(date and times TBA)-A day trip to Xativa, an extraordinary town inland from Valencia - Visit the Cathedral and Museum, followed by the train journey up the hill to the castle. Details to be included in May newsletter but approx. cost will be €20 per person, depending on numbers.
Please give **John Price** an expression of interest before May meeting, to gauge interest.

September:(dates and times TBA)-A 4 days, 3 nights (2 in Seville, 1 in Granada) excursion to Seville, Cordoba and Granada - John Price.

Trip will include a guided tour of the city of Seville, plus free time and then on to Cordoba, with a guided tour of the Mezquita (mosque/cathedral) and lastly to Granada, with a guided tour of the Alhambra and the gardens, returning to Javea in the afternoon.
Accommodation will be in 3 and 4 star hotels, on a half board basis.
Details including cost (depending on numbers) in April/ May newsletters.
Please give **John Price** an expression of interest before April meeting, to gauge interest.

DISCLAIMER

Please note that, at times, it is necessary for the U3A to make deposits with travel agents for future trips, and whilst we do not anticipate any such problems, in the event of a travel agent or hotelier becoming bankrupt, Javea U3A would not be in a position to refund any losses that might occur. We strongly recommend that you ensure that your own personal travel insurance provides cover for any such losses.

PAYMENT - You will be advised in the Newsletter of when and how much to pay for each trip. Amounts of €50 or over can only be paid by cheque made payable to:

ASSOC SOCIAL DE LA TERCERA EDAD DE JAVEA or by bank transfer, which must include your name and the trip destination. This should be paid into the following account:

ASSOC SOCIAL DE LA TERCERA EDAD DE JAVEA

Transfer code: - 2100 4451 98 0200091125 La Caixa Bank

Mike Frost: Travel Co-ordinator

PLEASE NOTE - Travel organisers will be at the Parador on the days of the meeting from 10.00 am to collect any monies for the trips in an effort to reduce queuing after the meeting. If you are unable to use a trip which you have already paid for you should inform the organizer, and where possible, you will be given contact details of the next person on the waiting list for you to make contact and collect your refund from them. We have a clearly defined policy whereby guests are only permitted after all else has been exhausted and then the guest will pay 50% premium on the trip price. We do not allow non members substitutions as it is unfair to our members. **Mike Frost**

In the interests of reducing the size of the Newsletter the Registration of Interest Form and Emergency Contact Form will not be printed but will be available on the travel desks at the meeting.

DID YOU KNOW?

If you can speak 3 languages you are trilingual.

If you can speak 2 languages you are bilingual.

If you can speak 1 language you are probably English.

Mike Frost

GENERAL INFORMATION AND REMINDERS:

DISCOUNTS

Discounts are available to U3A members on production of membership cards. The discounts include Car Hire, Car servicing and repairs, Insurance and Medical, plus several good shops and businesses in and around Javea. Please see the discounts page on our web site for more information. www.u3ajavea.org/Discounts.htm

DISCOUNTS / DEALS FOR MEMBERS for February

MONEYCORP is proving a great success with our members & we have a further offer from them.

For those of you wishing to transfer money on a monthly basis e.g. pensions, the normal £4 fee for this transaction will be halved to £2. This is a lifetime offer, not for a limited period. For one off or occasional money movements the normal fee of £15 is waived completely, again this is a lifetime offer, not for a limited period. U3A members will also receive an enhanced exchange rate and Moneycorp's rate is right there at the top .

Please contact: **Kevin Wright our Account Manager on 637 791 983 or 902 887 243** who will be delighted to help you.

CLUB DE GOLF OLIVA NOVA – a great offer for our Golfing members.

50% off Green Fee.

€82 reduced to €41 – only for tee times after 12 noon any day.

Call 96 285 7666 to book & please take your membership card.

MARY LEASON – CHIROPODIST MSSCh MBChA

Mary is a mobile chiropodist with 19 years experience. She is British trained & registered and will call on members in their own homes at the special rate of €23 per treatment.

For a booking or more information please contact Mary on 626 967 367 or email:

mjleason@gmail.com

FASTRACK REMOVALS

Fastrack Removals offer members a 5% discount. Their package includes in transit insurance up to £10,000. Free cartons & wrapping paper. Free storage for one month.

Contact www.fastrackremovals.com

STEVE TAYLOR LOCKSMITH

Sadly a recession invariably results in a crime increase. Steve offers a free survey to all our members with no obligation whatsoever.

To contact Steve telephone 619 131 700 for further information.

Discounts - Buyer Beware

Discounts are offered by Suppliers to Javea U3A members. This is not a recommendation by the Committee and in all circumstances the phrase "Buyer Beware" should apply. For full details on this policy and how to obtain discounts please see the Discount section on Javea U3A website or October 2008 Newsletter. A printed copy of the policy can be requested from the Vice President. A list of suppliers offering discounts is available on the website.

FOR SALE, RECYCLE OR WANTED: At every Parador meeting we will have a board for you to advertise items you wish to SELL, RECYCLE (give away) or WANTED. To advertise your item please contact Jean at urecyclesale@yahoo.co.uk. Please make sure you put all the details about the item, and your contact number or email address. We will presume you have sold, recycled or found the item before the next meeting, so if you wish the same advert to go on the board again make sure you contact Jean and ask for the advert to be resubmitted.

BOOK SWAP & AUDIO BOOK SWAP at the Parador meeting - Please REMEMBER to bring your Books and Audio Books for the Book Swap table, Brenda will be pleased to see you in the meeting hall.

DVD SWAP at the Parador meeting - This only works if you remember to bring your DVD's along, so don't forget Pat will be pleased to see you at the DVD Swap table in the meeting hall.

FINALLY, will members please note the following:

Telephone calls: So as to avoid extra costs to the U3A for phone calls, we have chosen to adopt a policy whereby it is the responsibility of the individual members to contact group leaders and committee members. You are requested to call again instead of leaving a message asking for someone to call you back.

Newsletter: Every effort is made to have the latest Newsletter on the website and emailed two days before the general meeting. This way you can obtain advance notice of any excursions and would be able to bring sufficient funds for deposits etc.

Membership: For your information each month we send an up-to-date list to group leaders for them to confirm membership details at their meetings. N.B. Husbands and wives both need to be members!

Refunds: We have a policy of no refunds for the travel bookings. We keep our prices as low as possible and sometimes giving a refund could result in a loss. We do try to resell the place if possible, and would then of course refund the money.

Insurance: Members are reminded that as has been announced on previous occasions, they are responsible for their own insurance. U3A Javea is not liable in any respect for any loss or injury that may be suffered by Members whilst participating in the Association's activities.

Attendance: If you cannot attend a Group meeting that you have previously indicated you would attend, can you please let the Group Leader know.