

# UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE: JAVEA

(www.u3ajavea.org)

## NEWSLETTER January 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

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### A VERY HAPPY & HEALTHY NEW YEAR TO ALL OUR MEMBERS

**And a prosperous one would also be very welcome!!!**

I do hope that you all had a really enjoyable Christmas period, whether here or away and managed to avoid most of the wretched colds, flu & lurgies that seem to abound at present. Having gone to England in late November, I have definitely come to the conclusion that Easyjet offers a free cold with every flight!!! I leave Spain healthy, get a cold from the plane & just get over it before flying back & blow me getting another one!!! I know many of you have had similar experiences so the **HEALTHY** part of the 2009 greeting is very relevant to us all. Indeed, as I write this, our Vice President Shirley is languishing in bed with bronchitis, so get well soon Shirley, hope you're soon back with us.

We are all conscious of the bad exchange rate & your committee is trying to help with various discounts which may suit you. We now have the details of Moneycorp at the back of the newsletter & I tried them out last week which I'm glad to say went very smoothly – helpful staff & good exchange rate. They are also waiving the usual £15 transfer fee for all members for occasional transactions, but there will be a £4 charge for transferring on a monthly basis e.g. regular pension payments. However this will be waived for the first three transfers, but still the good exchange rate & no additional charges anywhere. Even CAM hasn't managed to slap a charge on my account, there's a first, and after Lloyds' charge of £35 a great improvement!! So if you are considering moving money this may appeal to you.

In order to keep up the excellent travel offers from Mike & his team, they will work closely with other local U3As who are also finding that due to reduced income members can't attend all the trips that they'd like to, so you may find members from Denia U3A or Moraira on our coaches and it makes sense that we all work together to save ourselves money. They're all very friendly so it's a good opportunity to meet new people.

Do remember to come along to the Parador on Wednesday January 28<sup>th</sup> & renew your subscriptions. Because we are not having our usual meeting we can welcome our Associate Members on this occasion & it's a chance for some social chat we don't usually have time for at our meetings. So I look forward to seeing many of you then, our Group Leaders will be there & we can all get together. Please come & say hello, I'll be in the main hall selling

tickets (€10 each) for the Health Seminar in February & do look forward to meeting you then. Have a wonderful 2009 and please let us know if there is something you would like to see at your U3A. We'll try & include it if we can.

Rosi

President, Javea U3A

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### **VICTORIA STEPHENSON**

It is with much sadness that I record the death of Victoria, one of our Associate Members. She was a personal friend of mine & those of you who met her will know her passion for food & her excellent cooking skills. Victoria died from a very brief illness just before Christmas but maintained her humour to the very end, a very brave lady. We send our deepest sympathy to her husband Michael & will miss her very much.

### **RODNEY BUTCHER**

I know you will recall the very sad death of Rodney in November. I have had a charming letter from his wife Ineke & she asks me to please say a very big thank you to Javea U3A for her flowers and for all the friendship & support she has received through Rodney's illness & since his death. We all look forward to welcoming you back with us as soon as you feel you wish to return Ineke.

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### **MEMBERSHIP**

***** <b>ALL Memberships are due in January</b> *****
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We have a total of **360 Members whose membership is due for renewal this Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup>** at the Parador between 10.00am and 12.30pm. If you are one of these members, please make sure **either yourself, or someone else on your behalf, can be there to pay your subscription.** If you are not sure when your renewal is due, our helpers on the renewals desks will have a note of your joining date and the amount payable. Over 50 members have their subscriptions overdue from last October and November. If these are not paid this month, and I have received no contact regarding payment, then these names will be deleted from our database. Please have the exact cash ready as having to give change makes the process longer for everyone.

There will be no General Meeting on Wednesday but will take the form of a "Groups & Activities" morning – with no speaker. You can drop in at any time between 10.00am to 12.30pm to meet the various Group Leaders and to pay your subscriptions. There will be five tables set up for subscription renewals. These tables will be set out as follows:

<b>New Associate Members Only</b>	<b>Members A - E</b>	<b>Members F - K</b>	<b>Members L - R</b>	<b>Members S - Z</b>
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**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. Names for Associate Membership can be given to any Committee Member. Changes of e-mail addresses, telephone numbers, etc should be notified direct to the Membership Secretary at [javeau3amembership@gmail.com](mailto:javeau3amembership@gmail.com) *Wilma Stevenson*

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### ***“HEALTHY LIVING IN SPAIN”***

A one-day Seminar has been planned for Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> February, with the aim of providing an interesting and informative programme of talks on various topics relating to *healthy living in Spain*. Venue: the Parador Hotel. Cost: €10 pp to include coffee/tea during the morning and afternoon breaks (own arrangements for lunch). **Organiser: Angela Chantry**. See programme in last month's newsletter. **Tickets are available from Rosi at the general meeting.**

### **WALKING TREASURE HUNT**

The first **Walking Treasure Hunt** of 2009 will be held on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 in the next newsletter. We will be at the Parador on Wednesday morning to collect the names and cash of those who wish to take part. **Organiser: Paul Pruden**

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### **SHORT STORY COMPETITION**

We had eight entries this year on the subject 'Castle'. They were all very interesting and different. The First prize of a €50 book token was awarded to Gordon Atkinson for his story *The Castle* and the second prize of a €30 book token was awarded to Sue Bentley for her story *Weddings and Anniversaries*.

We will produce a booklet including all the stories submitted and will sell these for €5 each at the February meeting. Proceeds from the sale will be donated to a charity of the winner's choice.

**Taking the fear out of FIRST AID:** Dr Bob Granger will be running this three 1 hour course starting the 2<sup>nd</sup> February and there are a few places left. If you wish to register, see Dr Bob, who will in the meeting hall at the Parador. Alternatively, contact Dr Bob at [first.aid@u3ajavea.org](mailto:first.aid@u3ajavea.org) .. For those who will be attending the course with Dr Bob, the course will take place in the first floor Conference room at the Social Centre in the old town on the 2<sup>nd</sup>/9<sup>th</sup>/16<sup>th</sup> February, starting promptly at 10am for 1 hour.

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### **GROUPS INFORMATION**

*Elizabeth Collins, Groups Co-Coordinator*

### ***JANUARY MEETING***

***ALL ASSOCIATE AND FULL MEMBERS ARE INVITED TO VISIT THE GROUP LEADERS IN THE MAIN HALL AT THE PARADOR MEETING IN JANUARY***

**Remember that we do not have a normal Parador meeting in January, but you will have the chance to meet most of the Group Leaders and will be able to sign up to new groups, find out about existing groups and sign up if they have vacancies or tell us which subjects you would like to see on the list. This will also be an ideal opportunity to talk to either Elizabeth Collins or Jean Miller about becoming a Group Leader in 2009.**

***ElizabethGroupsCoordinator@gmail.com* *Jeandepgroupcoord@yahoo.co.uk***

If you need information about a particular group, go to the website and see the Activity Calendar, contact the individual Group Leader or Elizabeth Collins or Jean Miller.

## **NEW GROUPS STARTING**

### **COMPUTERS FOR BEGINNERS (NEW COURSE)**

Tom Stevenson plans to organise a computer course for absolute beginners. This will run over 6 or 8 consecutive weeks, each session lasting one hour or so. Numbers will be restricted to 12 attendees, but if there is sufficient interest Tom will repeat it later in the year. The course will commence at 10:30am on Friday 27<sup>th</sup> February in the Social Centre Javea and on subsequent Fridays. Notes of interest to, and further information from, Tom Stevenson ([javeaU3Acomputers@gmail.com](mailto:javeaU3Acomputers@gmail.com)).

### **PAINTING FLOWERS IN WATERCOLOUR (NEW)**

Group started on 8<sup>th</sup> January. It meets fortnightly at Group Leader's house and will run until June. Group currently full, but contact Carol Whitehead (see Group Leader list) to go on waiting list.

### **U3A CAMERA GROUP (NEW)**

This new Group is for everyone who wants to improve their skills with a camera. Do you want to find out what your camera will do, how to avoid those picture disasters, correct mistakes, improve the quality of your pictures? If you do, this is the Group for you. We will start from the beginning so no one will feel out of place. Why not give it a try! Contact Bill Bewley (see Group Leader list or meet Bill on 28<sup>th</sup> January at the Parador)

### **WALKING GROUP B (NEW)**

Karen White will lead the first walk of this proposed new group on Thursday, 19<sup>th</sup> February, meeting at the monastery on La Plana at 9.30am and walking to the bottle tower in Denia. Walk should take about 2 hours. Frequency and dates of walks will depend on numbers wishing to attend. Contact Karen White [Karen\\_1\\_boddy@hotmail.com](mailto:Karen_1_boddy@hotmail.com) or at Parador.

### **GETTING THE BEST FROM YOUR IPOD OR MP3 PLAYER (NEW)**

Alan Ewins has offered to run short courses on MP3 players and systems in the home and on the move, getting mp3 music on to your computer and into iTunes, listening to music and downloading it on the internet, loading and playing music on an mp3 player etc. If there are enough separate IPOD owners, he will also do a separate course on the same for IPODS. Please contact Alan at [alanewins@gmail.com](mailto:alanewins@gmail.com) or [Elizabethgroupscoordinator@gmail.com](mailto:Elizabethgroupscoordinator@gmail.com) to register your interest in either MP3 or IPOD and we will arrange dates and times.

### **THE SCIENCE OF THE EARTH Lecture Course (NEW)**

A series of 5 lectures of approximately 2 hours each describing theories on the origin of the Earth and Solar System, structure of the Earth and origin and types of rocks. Studies of continental drift and how continents might have fitted together; origins and effects of volcanic eruptions on Earth and atmosphere; survey of evolution of life and Creationism, Darwinism and Genetic Engineering; concluding with evidence for climate change and effects, what to do about it and a discussion of "sceptics" versus "warmists" arguments.

Alan Oliver hopes to fit in 2 lectures between February and March, with another 3 between April and June. If you would like to participate in this course and receive more information, please contact by email either Jean Miller or Elizabeth Collins to register your interest. (Or see us at Parador on 28<sup>th</sup> January). These Lectures will also be delivered at Marlborough College, England in July. **Please do not delay in contacting us.**

**BADMINTON** – Some members have asked about playing Badminton and although we do not currently have a U3A group, if you contact member Tina Geluk or Elizabeth Collins, we

will give you details of an existing Javea group looking for new members. If you would like to lead a new U3A Badminton group, please contact Jean Miller, Dep. Groups Coordinator.

**WATERCOLOUR FOR BEGINNERS GROUP** – Don Freeman has hung up his brushes after helping many members to learn to paint. Our thanks to Don for his commitment and time. We are now looking for a new person to lead this group, so if you would like to discuss this, please contact Jean Miller, Dep. Groups Coordinator. [Jeandepgroupcoord@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:Jeandepgroupcoord@yahoo.co.uk)

**DISCUSSION AND DEBATING GROUP** – Tony Hortopp has returned to the UK, so we are now seeking a new group leader. Contact Jean Miller if you would like to take over.

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**INTERCAMBIO - Spanish Conversation Exchange:** Please note that conversation groups have now been sorted according to the times people are available. The first meeting will take place on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> February at 19.00 hours at the IES (High School in the Via Augusta). You will be given a dossier containing information, contact details, your group members and group number, your group coordinator details and your Intercambio ID card and will meet with members of your group. You will be receiving further information by email from the Town Hall organisers if you have registered by sending me your forms. There will be a chance to join if you have not already registered, later in the year. *Elizabeth Collins*

**BASURA TAX RELIEF** – I met with the Mayor and his assistant recently and he would have liked to explain in person at our January meeting that no “injustice” had been meant in this matter. It has proved complicated, both for foreigners and for many Spanish. The Comision de Hacienda have agreed to cancel the need for the Consulate Certificate. If you are on the Padron list, officially retired and living in the property which corresponds to the Basura receipt, you will receive the tax cut. Take proof that you are a pensioner (over 65) such as SIP with “PN” on it, passport, birth certificate and Basura bill to the Tax Office in Calle Mayor. Following our email, some people have already done this with success. *Elizabeth Collins*

**The Website will be changing, with individual Groups having their own page, so please make sure you check our U3A website regularly. Place a shortcut on your PC desktop.**

### 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 this group, please contact Sherry Houghton Email: [art.group@u3ajavea.org](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:backgammon@u3ajavea.org) or call on 96 646 3972 - or bring it along to the next Parador meeting. Thanks in advance for any assistance.

### **BIRD WATCHING:**

The next field trip will be on Monday, March 2<sup>nd</sup> 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, preferably by email, supplying a telephone number in addition to their email address.

**BOOK CLUB (NEW):** Books for the next two meetings are as follows:

Monday 16th February - *A Thousand Splendid Suns* by Khaled Hosseini

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

If you are interested in joining The Book Club or would like more information about these books, please contact me at Pru Hughes – [book.group@u3ajavea.org](mailto:book.group@u3ajavea.org).

**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](mailto: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 27<sup>th</sup> January. Contact Trevor Lott for details. (see Group Leader list).

**CRAFT:** Contact Group Leader

**CULTURAL ARTS:** Please see the February C.A. Newsletter on the website for details of various local events: [www.u3ajavea.org](http://www.u3ajavea.org)

**Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> April: Vivaldi's "The Four Seasons"**

Chamber Music Concert at the Palau de Les Arts Reina Sofia, Valencia, in the Aula Magistral, which has a seating capacity for 400 and is specially designed for live performances for small musical groups.

Susanna Gregorian & Eri Takeya: violins; Julia Hu & Anatoli Melnichuk: violas; Olga Kochenkova & Yana Levin: violoncellos. (programme details in the February C.A. Newsletter on the website) 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 €10-15 for the coach (depending on nos.) - initial payment required will be €20. Best seats available at the time of booking will be bought and allocated according to order of when payment received! **Organiser: Angela Chantry – John Price will be collecting payments on my behalf at the general meeting.**

**Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> June: The Bourbon Street Stompers**

A date for all lovers of classic jazz, when one of the world's best New Orleans jazz bands makes its debut on the Costa Blanca. From 1 pm to 4 pm they will play outdoors at the **Restaurante Micheta**, next to the Ifach Golf Club just off the Moraira-Calpe road. *Come and join the fun on the Javea U3A table!* Price: €18, which includes entry (€5), barbecue with wine, and gratuity (€13). Payment required in April but as space is limited and places are selling fast, please email **confirmed bookings now** to:- [angelachantry@gmail.com](mailto:angelachantry@gmail.com)

**DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY:** At the last meeting Arthur Cockburn led a session on photographing moving objects and the group had the Christmas and New Year break to experiment with photographs on this theme.

The first meeting of 2009 will focus on techniques for photographing flowers in preparation for a wild flower photographic walk in March. The session will be led by Joan and Tom Birch and will take place at 2.15pm at the Centro Social, Javea pueblo.

For the programme of activities for the coming year, see the web site.  
There is now a second digital photography group, focusing on photo editing led by Bill Bewlay. See the web site for further details.

**DINE AND DANCE:** Contact Group Leader

**DINING OUT:** Contact Group Leader

**DISCUSSION AND DEBATING GROUP:** Contact Group Leader.

**FAMILY HISTORY:** Since the last Newsletter we have had two meetings of the group. Firstly Sue gave us a fascinating talk on searching for clues so that we could attempt to date all those old photographs that we have collected of our ancestors. Secondly Helen showed us how to incorporate photographs, certificates and data into our family tree programme.

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, 17<sup>th</sup> February at the slightly earlier time of **2.15pm** at the usual venue of the Social Centre in Javea when Pat will give an illustrated talk entitled "Voyage around my father (with apologies to John Mortimer)" Pat will talk about the life of her father, including his cycle ride across Spain in 1896 (with photos).

The group is also running a basic course on one Tuesday afternoon a month for those beginning to research their family history.

With the recent publication of the 1911 census for most of England, which gives a wealth of information on the social history of our families, the website of the month has to be; [www.1911census.co.uk](http://www.1911census.co.uk)

**FOLK MUSIC GROUP:** The first meeting of the Folk Group is scheduled for Wednesday evening, 28<sup>th</sup> January. The first meeting will be held at No 144 Les Fonts, gathering at 7.30pm for 8.00pm start. As we will undoubtedly require some alcoholic sustenance to oil the vocal chords and increase the general volume of things, could I suggest that all wishing to attend bring a bottle/bottles/cans of their favourite tipple!

I am hoping that the music will be varied and interesting, the main aim being for all to enjoy whatever is produced on the night. The evening will be very informal, and as it is the first session with no-one knowing what individual tastes or talents there are, this will result a little in a 'suck it and see' programme for the evening. Personally I am very flexible in the choice of music to be produced on the night, but will kick things off with a few songs from my own era of the folk music scene in the 1970's, and others can follow on with whatever they wish to do.

Please let me know if you wish to come to the first session of the group as soon as possible, either on 96-649-3959 or by E Mail to [folk.music@u3ajavea.org](mailto: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 at our first meeting on the 28<sup>th</sup> January.

**FOODIES GROUP:** The Foodies New Year meeting got off to an appropriate start with the topic of "Cooking with Alcohol. We tasted syllabub, rum cake, drank Pimm's winter warmer, shared details of a wide array of dishes, touched upon the medicinal properties of various foods. More details in the Group's minutes. Next meeting on 19<sup>th</sup> February when we hope to have a special guest speaker. 10.30am at Marples, Arenal. Contact Barbara Craven for details.

**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 Toscamar. 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).

**HEALTH WALKING:** Contact Group Leader

**HISTORY GROUP:** The next history group meeting will be on Mon the 9th Feb at 2.30 in the Javea players' studio. The talk will be given by John Reynolds on "Victorian Tourists in Spain". This is the story of two young artists who cycled through Spain in 1896. The two characters are extremely interesting and the talk includes a lot of fascinating insights into Spain and its people more than a century ago. It is illustrated with extracts from the cyclists' notes, their own photographs, and sketches that they made along the way.

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 [timdladd@gmail.com](mailto:timdladd@gmail.com) or 96 579 3847

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

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

**MUSIC 4 U GROUP: (Popular Classics)** Contact Group Leader

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

**POETRY FOR PLEASURE:** We held very successful meetings in December, when we heard some seasonal poems, and in January, when we looked at some poems by, for, or about children. We have meetings scheduled for February 17<sup>th</sup> and March 17<sup>th</sup>, both of them in the Parador at 11am. St.Valentine's Day will of course be next month, so our theme is poetry about love and romance. As the March session falls on St. Patrick's Day, we are asking members to bring along their favourite poem by an Irish writer. If you are interested in joining PFP, please contact me. I will be at the January U3A meeting at the Parador to talk to anyone who is interested. John Othick



**QUIZ NIGHT:** Our next quiz is on Wednesday February 11th at Bar Mediterraneo, Avenida Mediterraneo at the bottom of Teulada. 7.30pm for 8.00 start. Choice of menu when booking please, from lamb, chicken, fish or vegetarian, also includes half bottle of wine. All this & fun too for €15. Book at the January meeting or by e-mail on: stanjenioldfield@gmail.com.

**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):** If you have a sailing boat or a dingy, especially if you never take it off the moorings or out of the drive!! Or, you are interested in sailing, come to the Parador meeting and speak to Gordon Edwards. Gordon has had many years of sailing experience in all types of sailing and he has the RYA Offshore Skippers qualification. Or for further information contact Jean at [jeandepgroupcoord@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:jeandepgroupcoord@yahoo.co.uk)

**SCRABBLE:** Contact Group Leader.

**SNOOKER:** Please Contact Group Leader.

**SOLO ON A SUNDAY:** Welcome back after the festivities, hope you had a great time! As some of you know, this group is meant for folk on their own to come out and enjoy a nice Sunday lunch together, and make new friends. However, if couples would like to join us, we would make you very welcome! The next venue will be at La Cumbre del Sol on February 15<sup>th</sup> at 1.30pm ..... Look forward to seeing you!

**SPANISH FOR BEGINNERS (NEW):** The current two classes will run up until 14<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:beginners.spanish@u3ajavea.org) or the Groups Coordinator.

**TRAVELLERS' TALES GROUP:** Over 50 members came to our Christmas get-together in the *Restaurante Alabrasa*, to listen to Elke & Manfred's talk on *Alaska...the last frontier*, with the majority staying on for a very enjoyable lunch. Our first meeting for 2009 will be on Tuesday, 10<sup>th</sup> February, when Diane Ord will be telling us about *The wild-life of India and Nepal*. Then on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> March, Angela Chantry will give a presentation on her recent *Tour of Vietnam & Cambodia*. The venue for both will be The Javea Players' Studio, behind Book World Espana. Meet at 11.30am for 12.00pm start.

**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 keep this schedule of walks:

5<sup>th</sup> February at Pinos, 4 hours, 12 kms, 300m ascent  
5<sup>th</sup> March at Castells, 4 hours, 10 kms, 400m ascent  
2<sup>nd</sup> April at Benimaurell, 4.5 hours, 10 kms, 400m ascent  
7<sup>th</sup> May at Castells, 4 hours, 12 kms, 300m ascent  
4<sup>th</sup> June at Tarbena, 3 hours, 8 kms, 300m ascent

#### **WINE APPRECIATION:**

Lunchtime Wine Appreciation Group:- the next meeting will be on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> February at 12.00, at a venue to be decided upon, and where the wines for tasting will be from La Mancha.

Evening Wine Appreciation Group:- the next meeting will be at 6.00pm at Marples on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> February where the wines will be from La Mancha.

### **TRAVEL 2009.**

We are providing a facility to book trips by e-mail. Hopefully this will reduce queuing and save people from attending at the Parador simply to book trips. If you do not have e-mail facility, perhaps you can ask a friend to do it for you. As you will appreciate, it is necessary to quote approximate costs until we know definite numbers for the trips.

#### ***Caravaca 2008***

The refunds for this failed trip at the end of last year can be collected today from Mike Frost.

**Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> February**-A day trip to Oceanografic and IMAX cinema (but not the Science museum) in Valencia - John Price.

Depart Rafalet 09.00 am, arrive back at approx. 18.30 pm.

Cost €30 per person, to include coach and entrances (but not lunch), payable at January meeting (exact money, please)-only a few places left.

**Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> February–Sunday 1st March: *Walking in the Sierra Espuna Regional Park***

A return visit has been planned, staying once again in the La Mariposa Hotel, in the village of Gebas (inland of Murcia). Programme includes full board from lunch on arrival day to breakfast on last day, guided walks: 2 full day and 1 half day; quiz first night, live entertainment Saturday night (50/60s music) and en-suite accommodation in twin/double room. **Price:** €165 per person with the services of our guide, Mick; own transport (car share arranged if required). Solo members welcome (sharing arranged). **Cash Deposit** of €50 p.p. today please. Full details, directions, etc. will be given to participants. **Organiser: Angela Chantry – Pat Wykes will be collecting deposits on my behalf at the general meeting.**

**Friday 6<sup>th</sup> March: *Nuclear Power Station, Cofrentes***

The visit includes a tour of the power station and the control room, a film and an insight into future plans (all with a translator). Price €15 for coach. Depart Rafalet 8.30am. Lunch in Cofrentes pueblo at 1.00pm, menu available. Depart Cofrentes 3.30pm, arriving Rafalet circa 6.00pm. Payment in full at today's meeting. **Organiser: Mike Frost.**

**Saturday 7th March: *Villajoyosa Casino***

If there is sufficient interest, we will have an evening at the Casino – not gambling, but enjoying an excellent buffet meal, live music and dancing, with a coach to take us there and back. We need a minimum of 30 people; cost around €32 per head. Names to **Pat Wykes** at today's meeting.

**Friday 13<sup>th</sup> March: *Day trip to Villena & Novelda***

As it is once again possible to visit the Casa Museo Modernista in the afternoon, this will now be a 1 day trip (not overnight as previously advertised). Depart from El Rafalet at 8.00am, refreshment stop, and visits to the Archpriest's Church of Santiago, the Archaeological Museum to see the Villena gold, and the Castle of the Atalaya; then on to Mola Castle and St. Mary Magdalene's Sanctuary, Novelda. Included lunch at the Alenda Golf Club, then visit to the Casa Museo Modernista, one of Spain's best examples of art nouveau. Arrive back in Rafalet at approx. 6.45pm. Full payment of €35 p.p. at today's meeting. **Organiser: Angela Chantry – Pat Wykes will be collecting payment on my behalf at the general meeting.**

**Monday 20<sup>th</sup> April : Extremadura**

5 days, 4 nights, half board, 4\* hotel, price €300 plus €100 single supplement. At present nearly all the places on this trip are allocated subject to payment of €100 deposit by cheque or bank transfer at today's meeting. (See payment instructions in the Newsletter.) If you wish to join the waiting list, please contact the **Organiser: Mike Frost**

**Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> May: Cuenca**

An overnight trip to see the Hanging Houses of Cuenca and visit the Ciudad Encantada (Enchanted City). Price includes coach, b&b, 3\* hotel, €95 plus €30 single supplement. Names today to **Diane Ord**, and deposits required at the February meeting. NB If there is insufficient interest today.

**May (date TBA): Cofrentes River Trip**

This trip was previously announced for 5<sup>th</sup> March, but has been rescheduled on the advice of Cofrentes Tourist Office, and the new arrangements will be confirmed in the February Newsletter. **Organiser: Mike Frost.**

**May: Mediterranean Cruise**

Unfortunately due to the current economic problems, there have not been sufficient participants, and with regret the cruise will not go ahead.

**September:(date and times TBA)-A day trip to Xativa**, an extraordinary town inland from Valencia - John Price

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.

**THANK YOU**

The travel organisers would like to thank Bob and June Grainger for putting together the new First Aid kits for us to carry on trips.

**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**

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**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**

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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.

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#### **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](http://www.u3ajavea.org/Discounts.htm)

##### **NEW DISCOUNTS / DEALS FOR January**

##### **MONEYCORP**

##### **Moneycorp will offer special rates to U3A members.**

They hold a triple AAA credit rating from Dunn & Bradstreet and all funds are held in a Client's Account, payments are straight in & out.

They offer us a no transfer fee on one off money charges (usually £15) regardless of the sum involved and for regular monthly users the fee of £4 will be waived for the first three transfers. There will always be a 15% improvement on their normal exchange rate this is a permanent offer, i.e., the usual margin of 2.5% - 3% below the commercial rate will be enhanced for us. You can buy forward for up to two years.

**FOR ALL INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT KEVIN WRIGHT – ACCOUNT MANAGER - Tel. 637 791 983 and of course say you are U3A.**

##### **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 (NEW):*** At every Parador meeting we will have a board of 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](mailto:urecyclesale@yahoo.co.uk) Please make sure you put all 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:**

- 1. 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.
- 2. 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.
- 3. 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!
- 4. 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.
- 5. 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.
- 6. Attendance:** If you cannot attend a Group meeting that you have previously indicated you would attend, can you please let the Group Leader know.