

# UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE: JAVEA

(www.u3ajavea.org)

## NEWSLETTER March 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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Today's speaker is our Travel Leader, **Mike Frost**.

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### A MESSAGE FROM ROSI

On Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> March my spell as Javea U3A President will have run its term. There has been no time off for good behaviour and I go to join my former committee colleagues who have left over the past eight months or so. On the whole, it has been a very enjoyable period, meeting and working with some truly delightful people.

The Association has changed and grown so much in the past few years, our membership has increased from some 300 members to 900 members and our groups from 30 plus to 50 plus which would have seemed impossible a short while back.

Discounts and Deals which seemed such a novelty when the first one was discussed have become an accepted part of U3A and have saved our members thousands of euros. In fact, I am delighted to have a Farewell Gift for you all which is an additional 5% discount on a car insurance policy with Liberty Seguros purchased through Pieter Verbeek in Benitachell or Mark Petrie in his Javea or Denia offices. We are the only Association to have a 20% discount with Liberty and it is worth checking out the policy and the price to see if it's right for you, hopefully we can save you even more money now.

An annual charity event has been introduced and you have raised some €9000 for the two local charities MABS & HELP whilst hopefully having some fun & winning some lovely prizes yourselves.

May 2008 saw our first ever ball and 400 people danced the night away at El Canor. There have been a lot of requests for an Action Replay of this evening but it would have clashed with a MABS fund raising ball and as we run a non profit making event could have impacted seriously on money raised for MABS, such a good charity, so unfortunately the time was not right this year. Maybe in the future.

Travel & Cultural Events run by our Travel Leaders, Mike Frost, Angela Chantry, Pat Wykes, Diane Ord & John Price continue to produce some lovely trips at very low prices & our thanks go very much to this excellent group for all their ideas & hard work. Indeed, my thanks to every one of our Group Leaders for all they do for all of us. It is always hard to single out any committee member for special praise but Elizabeth Collins our Groups Coordinator has made a quite exceptional contribution to our U3A. Elizabeth has nagged, cajoled, charmed maybe even bribed our members to start more groups and this is our life blood. Not content with that, she has worked closely with Javea Council and, by arranging

Spanish lessons & persuading some members to help with Christmas decorations in Javea & cookery classes at Consum, has done a lot of excellent work aimed at integrating us with local Spanish people. A big thank you to her for all her hard work, well over & beyond the call of duty!!!

To those who take over, I wish you success & happiness in your roles & I'm sure that Javea U3A will continue to thrive under your leadership and you will produce many new ideas and events for us to enjoy.

None of these things have happened without a lot of work and input from all involved and I would like to take this opportunity to thank again the committee, that I had the pleasure of both working with and socialising with, for all their efforts, support & friendship and especially to you the members, it really would have been pretty pointless without you!!

Look after yourselves & keep having fun.

**Rosi Evans**

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### **MEMBERSHIP**

**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](mailto:javeau3amembership@gmail.com) **Wilma Stevenson**

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### **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**

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### **1car1 CAR HIRE**

For the past year we have enjoyed a very good relationship with this U.K based company and I know many of you have used them and saved a lot of money. Very sadly, I heard on Sunday night that they have gone into Receivership, yet another victim of the Credit Crunch. Ironically, 1car1 had just recorded their best ever year in 12 year's trading, but this did not stop their bank from withdrawing their overdraft facility & with it their working capital, no doubt resulting in some four or five hundred employees being out of work, so very sad. We have withdrawn our link on our web site to them as though the group may be sold it is too risky to book at present. For those of you have a booking with them, no payment is taken from your credit card prior to hiring but if they are not sold I do suggest for your peace of mind, that you rebook your car hire. **Rosi Evans**

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## **EASTER RAFFLE**

Owing to the success of our Christmas Raffle (held at the November meeting) we decided to run an **Easter Raffle** with the winners' names being announced at our AGM this Wednesday. There are six prizes and Sam, our Web Master, was once again given the task of using his PC to randomly select six names from our database. Hopefully our winners will be with us on the day!

## **WALKING TREASURE HUNT**

**Walking Treasure Hunt around Denia:** This was postponed due to bad weather. It will now take place on Monday April 27th, starting at 10:30. All other details are as before. There are a few places still available, price € 15 including lunch. Contact **Paul Pruden** if you would like to join us at [treasure.hunt@u3ajavea.org](mailto:treasure.hunt@u3ajavea.org) to find out if there are still spare places.

## **SHORT STORY COMPETITION**

All eight of the excellent entries to the competition have been collected in a booklet and will be on sale again at the April meeting at a cost of €5. The stories are a great read and all profit from the sale of the booklets will be donated to charity.

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## **GROUPS INFORMATION**

**Getting the Best from your iPod and iTunes** starts this month on 12<sup>th</sup> March and the **Gentle Walks** started on 4<sup>th</sup> March.

I hope that Shirley and Ivan will be able to resume **Cards for Pleasure** this month.

The **Multi Media Art Group** is temporarily suspended as the Leader is away in the UK until November. Would all members of this Group please contact the Groups Co-ordinator. If there is anyone who would be willing to lead this group until Sherry's return, please contact **Elizabeth Collins** to discuss.

A Group Leaders' Meeting will be held on 25<sup>th</sup> May, so that the Group Leaders, including our many new Leaders in the past few months, will be able to meet the new Committee, exchange views and suggestions and receive information regarding the running of groups.

Please let your Group Leader know if there is any matter you would like them to discuss on behalf of your group.

The Consum Supermarket Food Demonstration and Talk will take place on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> June and I have contacted those who have expressed an interest with times. If you have not yet contacted me, but would like to attend, please call me, or preferably email me, at [groups.coordinator@u3ajavea.org](mailto:groups.coordinator@u3ajavea.org).

I would be interested to know if any of the members would like to attend a short refresher course about English Grammar. This would be *English Grammar for Confused Learners of Spanish*. Some people find it difficult to learn a foreign language, as they are not as familiar as they might like to be with the grammar terms employed. If there is sufficient interest, we shall try to form a group. Please contact me and let me know if you would find this of benefit. If you are a former EFL teacher, your help with this would be most appreciated.

**Elizabeth Collins**

**Individual Web Pages** are now starting to appear for the different Groups, so I hope that you regularly look at the website. Sam's instructions on how to place an icon on your desktop to enable you to go straight to the U3A site will make this a very easy and quick daily habit!

**Please** do contact me if you feel you might be able to teach Bridge for Beginners, Watercolour Painting for Beginners, give lectures on Art or Philosophy or lead a Craft group of any sort. You do not have to commit to long term servitude - as you may have seen, we now have more short courses running, which enable those who do not live in Spain on a permanent basis, to offer their expertise to other members. Your willingness to share your knowledge with others is what the U3A is all about.

I apologise for not attending the AGM, but I wish everyone a very Happy Easter.

**Elizabeth Collins – Groups Co-ordinator**

### **ONGOING GROUPS**

**BACKGAMMON:** The Backgammon Group is growing steadily and now has sixteen members. We regularly run six tables on a Monday afternoon. All standards of players have joined us and with regular play are all now realising a good standard. New players are still very welcome as you can get up to speed very quickly.

Our thanks to several members who have donated boards to the Group. As we grow of course our need for boards continues apace – if you should have one lurking in a cupboard we would be very grateful for any further donations.

We meet every Monday afternoon at Marples Cafe at the rear of the Arenal on Avda Fontana – just turn up, nothing to pay, but you are expected to buy one drink during the afternoon for our free use of their facilities. The session runs from 3pm to 5:30pm – hope to see you there!

More? Contact **Bob Denton** on [backgammon@u3ajavea.org](mailto:backgammon@u3ajavea.org)

**BIRD WATCHING:** A total of 58 species was seen by the group on our recent trip to the Santa Pola area. The next field trip will be on Monday, March 30th to Pego marshes. Please put this date in your diary. Further details will be sent out to all members by email after this month's Parador meeting. 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:** It is gratifying to report that we have already exceeded our original membership numbers for the Book Club. We have set up a waiting list for anyone interested in joining us in the near future. If you would like any more information, please contact **Pru Hughes** at [book.group@u3ajavea.org](mailto:book.group@u3ajavea.org).

#### **Books for the next two meetings are as follows:**

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

Monday 18<sup>th</sup> May – *The Return* by Victoria Hislop

All meetings are from 2.30 - 4.30pm.

**BRIDGE GROUP:** The group meets every Tuesday at the Parador, Javea (2.45pm for a 3.00pm start). If you are familiar with the game, please join us for an afternoon of friendly Bridge. It is not necessary to have a regular Bridge partner. For further details contact Sybille 965749682 or Wendy 965795088.

**CARD GAMES FOR PLEASURE:** We are delighted to advise our Card Games will resume from Tuesday 24 March, at Marples in the Arenal: 3-5 p.m. Existing and new members welcome. Look forward to seeing everyone. **Organisers: Ivan and Shirley Humphrey** [card.games@u3ajavea.org](mailto:card.games@u3ajavea.org) or 96 57 969 43.

**COMPUTERS FOR BEGINNERS:** The final session of the current course will take place on 3rd April. To help me understand the potential attendance for a repeat of this course, I would welcome expressions of interest by the end of March. Note that this is not a commitment, I just want to understand possible numbers. Thanks. **Organiser: Tom Stevenson** [computer.beginners@u3ajavea.org](mailto:computer.beginners@u3ajavea.org)

**COMPUTER SELF HELP GROUP A:** Contact the Group Leader for further information. **Organiser: Tom Stevenson** [computer.self.help@u3ajavea.org](mailto:computer.self.help@u3ajavea.org).

**COMPUTER GROUP B:** The next two meetings of this group will be on 10th March and 24th March at 11.00am at Artisan Cafe, Arenal. Good WiFi access available. Contact **Trevor Lott** for details.

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

**Monday 20<sup>th</sup> - Friday 24<sup>th</sup> April:** *“Table Manners”* – The Javea Players’ next production to be staged at the Union Musical in Gata de Gorgos is *“Table Manners”* by Alan Ayckbourn, from his enormously successful Norman Conquests trilogy. Directed by Norman Dunnington. Tickets are priced at 10 euros but you can join the **U3A trip on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> April and pay 8 euros!** Payment at the meeting on Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> March to John Price who is collecting on behalf of the C.A. Group Leader, Angela Chantry. Collect your ticket/s on the night at the theatre foyer. Curtain up at 8 p.m.

**Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> 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 euros plus 10 euros for the coach.

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

**Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> May:** *“Musical walk through Alcalali”*

Benissa and Vall de Pop tourism have initiated a novel way to promote their local villages, by a series of *walking themed routes with actors*. Two actors will take us on a guided *“Musical route in Alcalali”*, beginning at 18.30 hrs in the Town Hall Square, and lasting for 1 h. 30 mins. This will be a private tour for U3A members only, conducted in English, and will be a joint venture with members of the Vall de Pop U3A. After the tour we will have dinner in a local restaurant, *La Solana*. Please note that either your passport or NIE number will be required and I will email participants separately for this information. Numbers are limited. Price: 20 euros for guided tour, 3-course dinner with water, beer, half a bottle of wine pp., & gratuities. Please make your payment at the forthcoming meeting to John Price, who is collecting on my behalf.

**Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> 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€).

**Organiser: Angela Chantry**

**NB: this event is now full – names for reserve list in case of cancellations.**

**DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY:** At the February meeting Nigel Bentley gave a very interesting talk on digi-scoping or photographing through a telescope, covering the equipment to use and how to overcome common pitfalls.

The March meeting will take the form of a wildflower walk to take photographs led by Joan and Tom Birch. Details to be circulated to members by email

For the programme of activities for the coming year see the web site. **Dodie Hodgkinson**

**DINE AND DANCE GROUP:** Following a most enjoyable evening at Andaluz on 7th March, the next event will be Saturday 25th April, 8.30 p.m. start at Venta de Posa, on the road to Denia. This is a large, typically Spanish restaurant, with a live band playing popular music with a Latin twist. Price to include a 3-course meal plus wine will be around €22, payable on the night. To reserve a place contact Pat Wykes Johnson.

**DINING OUT:** So far this year we have been very lucky with the venues chosen. In January we visited the Plaza 6 restaurant at Javea Park. Because the restaurant was small we had to

arrange two separate evenings and everybody complimented the owners for their good food and service.

In February 42 members had a great evening at Restaurant L'echalote in Costa Nova. We had excellent food, service and music and will definitely be returning to both of these restaurants. This month 48 members will be visiting the new Italian Restaurant Basilico on Avenida del Pla, We have arranged a varied menu and we are looking forward to a good evening.

For further details please contact the group leader. **Organiser: Peter Speer**

**FAMILY HISTORY:** At our March meeting, Bill talked about his family and how and why he had done the research. He gave us a sketch of the various members of his ancestry and illustrated how varied family backgrounds were in the 19<sup>th</sup> century with ancestors who were skilled engineers to canal boat people.

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, 21<sup>st</sup> April at the new earlier time of **2.15pm** at the usual venue of the Social Centre in Javea . The topic will be "Skeletons in the Cupboard!" Bring along and tell us about those items of research that your ancestors tried to hide from everyone. Perhaps it was some criminal act, deportation to Australia, a bed-hopping activity, bigamy or insanity; we all want to know! **Organiser: James Hodgkinson**

**FOLK MUSIC GROUP:** Meetings of the Folk Music Group continue to be held on the last Wednesday of the month, the last being held on 25<sup>th</sup> February as planned. Once again, the evening proved to be a great success with members giving renditions of music from a variety of musical backgrounds and content, and the evening was much enjoyed by all attending.

The next meeting of the group will again be held at No 144 Les Fonts on Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> March 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 tipple!

Please let me know if you wish to come to this session of the group as soon as possible either by phone to 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 on the 25th March. **Organiser: Paul Wessendorff**

**FOODIES GROUP:** At the March Meeting of Foodies we discussed the topic of Healthy Eating on an Unhealthy Budget. It proved extremely interesting looking at ways of avoiding ill health, correcting health problems through certain foods and knowing and listening to your body. The main conclusions were, a little of what you fancy does you good and as the Ancient Greeks knew, all things in moderation. More details in the group minutes. The next meeting is in Marples at 10.30 on April 16th, the topic is Gadgets. **Organiser: Barbara Craven**

**GARDEN CLUB:** Contact Group Leader for details of Garden Visits to be held in April/May. **Organiser: Paul Pruden**

**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). **Organiser: Bobby Ogden**

**HISTORY GROUP:** The next history group meeting will be on Mon the 6<sup>th</sup> April at 2.30 in the Javea Players Studio. Please note that the meeting is on the first Monday of April, rather than the second Monday, because of Easter holidays. The talk will be given by Sue Bentley on Katharine of Aragon - "The Queen of earthly Queens". This is proving to be a popular talk so if you are interested attending please contact group leader **Sally Wells** as soon as possible as space is limited.

**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](mailto: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.

**MAHJONG:** Change of venue - Please note that the group now meets at 15.00 hours every Tuesday afternoon at the following café: **ARTISANO, Avda La Fontana, 5, Playa Arenal, Jávea. Organiser: 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 12<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:mp3.ipod@u3ajavea.org).

**MULTI MEDIA ART GROUP:** Group Leader Sherry Houghton will be in UK until November, therefore this group is temporarily suspended. Would members of the Group please contact the **Groups Co-ordinator**.

**MUSIC 4 U - POPULAR CLASSICAL MUSIC:** All U3A MEMBERS AND ASSOCIATE MEMBERS are most welcome to join this group.

I will have the opportunity to talk to members at the next Parador meeting about two particular opportunities in May and June. For those who will not be at the Parador I give a brief outline below and if you contact me I will send you full details.

Forward session dates are:

Sunday April 12<sup>th</sup> 5 – 7 pm – a programme continuing Spanish Music

Sunday May 24<sup>th</sup> 4 – 6 pm – A special event when Lutz Kowalenwsky the promoter of Palma Concerts will illustrate the musical life of Puccini. If members wish, this can be followed by attending the Puccini Gala Concert, which Lutz has arranged at the Hotel Diamante Beach, Calpe, at a special U3A rate of E15. Members taking this additional opportunity are welcome to bring a picnic to enjoy in our garden from 6 pm after which we can all proceed to Calpe for the evening.

Sunday June 28<sup>th</sup> 6 – 8 pm – An opportunity to explore guitar music live with the Jalon based guitarist John Anthony. Wonderful music in a Spanish garden on a summer evening. We will have some wine and food to celebrate the end of our successful season before breaking up for the summer months.

The Music 4 U group started in April 2008 and meets monthly on Sundays at our villa on Montgo, inside for the winter months and in the garden for the summer evenings. We enjoy programmes of 'Popular Classical Music' chosen in conjunction with members willing to

work with me on a particular theme and, as will be seen above, additional special opportunities. More details will be sent to you if you email or telephone me.

**Organiser: Pat Robinson** - Tel: 96-579-4509 – email: [music4u@u3ajavea.org](mailto:music4u@u3ajavea.org).

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

**PETANQUE:** At Café L'Echalote, Costa Nova (formally Charlie's Bar) 2.45pm for a 3pm start. 3€ each, which includes a drink, beer, wine, water, coffee or soft drink. **Organisers Lin and Terry Jones**

**QUIZ NIGHT:** The next one will be on Wednesday April 8<sup>th</sup> 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. **Organisers: 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](mailto:social.rummikubs@u3ajavea.org).

**SCRABBLE:** We would like some new scrabble players to join us at the Artisan Café, close to the Arenal beach. We play on a Friday afternoon at 2 pm. All levels welcome. Please contact me, **Anne Roberts** on 965791480 or mobile 657162734 for more information.

**SNOOKER: Snooker Group 1** - This group meets at Jaspas 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. Again play is at Jaspas, at 11.00am each Wednesday. There is no need to book - simply turn up and you will be welcome, PROVIDED that you have played before. I am afraid that at present we cannot accommodate complete beginners. **Organiser: Steve Collins**

**SPANISH FOR BEGINNERS:** 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:**

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> April, when Felicity Arnot will be telling us about her travels in *Morocco*. On Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> May, Tom Stevenson will give a presentation on his and Wilma's trip to *Dubai, Sydney, cruise to Auckland via South Island, and New Zealand*". 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. **Organiser: Angela Chantry**

#### **WALKING GROUPS**

**GENTLE WALKS :** The General Walks activity got off to a slow start but then that was the objective! There have now been 2 walks which were much enjoyed by its participants. After the walking and talking was over we all retired to a nearby bar for a well earned coffee! These walks were around the Arenal and there is now a new programme for April with walks around Javea Port area starting at the Fish Market. Anybody who would like to participate in a gentle stroll with good company followed by an optional coffee is very welcome. Just turn up at the Meeting Place at the right time to join in.

The walks are every Wednesday, 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, are just recovering from an operation or illness 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. If you need to know more about the walks please contact Jean Miller at: [depgroupcoord@u3ajavea.org](mailto:depgroupcoord@u3ajavea.org) phone - 966 074 021, or **Karen White** at: [karen.l.boddy@gmail.com](mailto:karen.l.boddy@gmail.com)

**HEALTH WALKS:** Please see website for details of programme. **Organiser: Karen White**

**INTERMEDIATE WALK (April):** The next intermediate walk will be on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> April (one week earlier than the expected schedule due to Easter). The walk will start at 9:30 am from the Asia WOK at the port (just down from the fishing boat roundabout). The walk is to la Ermita Ste Lluçia (the chapel on the hill). For more detailed information on the terrain and ascent for this walk and other walks please consult the U3A web site. **Organiser: Karen White**

**MOUNTAIN 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.

2<sup>nd</sup> April at Bernia, 4 hours, 10 kms, 300m 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 is on Wednesday 18th March at La Cocina - please see last newsletter for details. The April meeting when we shall be looking at Vinos de la Tierra de Castilla will again be at La Cocina at 12.00 on Wednesday 22nd April.

Evening Wine Appreciation Group:- This group had a good tasting recently of some excellent Vinos de la Tierra de Castilla. There will be no meeting in April the next one being on Wednesday 6th May at 6.00 pm at Marples.

For both groups there is an away day visit to Bodegas Pinoso on Friday 22nd May. Cost about €35 per head including lunch. Full details please e-mail Geoff Woodward via: [webmaster@u3ajavea.org](mailto:webmaster@u3ajavea.org).

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. **Organiser: Steve Collins**

#### **TRAVEL 2009.**

**April 1<sup>st</sup>:** A mystery tour to the inland area of Libido. This is an area renowned for giving a lot of people enjoyment. Contact any travel organiser for more information.

#### **Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> – Friday 17<sup>th</sup> 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 the "Barranco del Inferno" (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. Price p.p. in a twin/double: **80 euros**; in junior suite: **87 euros** p.p. Cheque or cash for full amount today please, to **John Price**, who is collecting on behalf of the

**Organiser: Angela Chantry.**

**Monday 20<sup>th</sup>-Friday 24<sup>th</sup> April: Extremadura**

5 days, 4 nights in 4\* hotels, half board, visiting the towns of Merida, Caceres, Trujillo and Guadalupe. Price 300 Euros. Balance of payment at today's meeting by cheque, with your name and the name of the trip written on the back. Trip is fully booked but if you wish to join the waiting list contact the organiser. Coach will depart 8.30 am. **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). Some walking on rough ground at the Ciudad Encantada. A lunchtime stop at Alarcon on the way home. Price includes coach, b&b, 4\* hotel, €95 plus €30 single supplement. Balance of €45 payable at the April meeting. Places available. Please see Mike Frost. **Organiser: Diane Ord.**

**Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> May – Day trip to Guardamar del Segura**

We will depart from El Rafalet at 9 a.m. and travel direct to Guardamar, meeting our English-speaking guide at 11 a.m. for an introductory talk at the Tourist Office/Museum, followed by *“The Path of History”* – a trip on Guardamar's tourist train which involves an initial dvd presentation, then we board the train (booked solely for our group) and visit the Castle (remains of Guardamar del Segura fortress), Els Vivers (the forest nursery and inspiration behind the Dunas de Guardamar del Segura), the Dunes, and the Rabita Califal (remains of an Islamic Monastery dating back to the 9<sup>th</sup> c.), before returning to the Tourist Office at approx. 2 p.m. Suitable footwear required as it is necessary to walk to the actual ruins themselves. Free time for lunch (or take a picnic), and for visiting the Park Reina Sofia (waterfalls, nature trails, ponds complete with ducks & swans), and the fishermen's cottages on the seafront. Depart at 5 p.m. for return to Javea. Price: 16 euros to be paid at the March meeting to **Pat Johnson** who is collecting on behalf of the **Organiser: Angela Chantry**

**Fridays 8<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> May: Boat trip on River Jucar**

A 2-hour 18 kilometre boat ride through the canyons and mountains on the River Jucar, passing through a nature reserve. At the last meeting over 100 people registered an interest in this trip (coach holds 55 and the boat 60), and therefore we hope to make two trips with dates as shown. Priority will be given to those who have already registered an interest, and additional people will go on the waiting list. If you have registered an interest and can definitely only make one of the dates, please e-mail [travel@u3ajavea.org](mailto:travel@u3ajavea.org) before the meeting. I will TRY to accommodate where possible. At the time of writing I already have 25 definites for 8<sup>th</sup> May and 8 definites for 22<sup>nd</sup> May. Coach departs Rafalet 8.30 am, boat departs 11.30 am (toilets on board!), lunch at about 2.00 pm at the Balneario (health spa), arriving back at Rafalet circa 6.30 pm, price 35 euros, includes coach, boat and lunch, payment in full at today's meeting. **Organiser for both trips: 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.** 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.

### **Late September: Prague**

4 days, 3 nights, city centre hotel, bed and breakfast, price 450 euros, plus single supplement of 52 euros per night. Trip fully booked, names for the waiting list to the organiser.

**Organiser: Mike Frost**

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### **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.

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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 MARCH**

**LIBERTY SEGUROS**- an **additional 5%** off car insurance. See earlier details in "A message from Rosi" at the beginning of the newsletter.

### **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.

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**FOR SALE, RECYCLE OR WANTED** Sorry there will be no For Sale, Recycle or Wanted board at the March Parador meeting. If you have any items you wish to advertise on this board at the April Parador meeting please contact **Jean Miller** 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.

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### **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.

## **PRESIDENT'S REPORT – JAVEA U3A – 2008**

2008 has been a good year for Javea U3A seeing both consolidation and growth. Our finances are secure and with the introduction of Associate Membership in October there is no reason why we should not continue to grow. As members will recall, our difficulty has always been the restriction of space at any venue for our monthly meeting. By offering Associate Membership we have been able to include these new members in all our groups and events, but have unfortunately had to exclude them from attending the monthly Parador meeting. Hopefully, a way may be found around this at some stage in the future, but regrettably, at present, no such venue exists.

### **GROUP ACTIVITIES**

Our membership stands at 900 plus, making us the largest local U3A. With the influx of new members in October, we have seen an increase in our Group Activities and Elizabeth Collins, Groups Co-ordinator, has done a wonderful job helping Group Leaders get started and finding suitable premises for them. The Group Leaders & their activities are the centre of any U3A and I would like to thank them all for their tremendous efforts. With so many new groups it is easy to overlook the most popular one which has been with us from the start – Travel. Our members continue to enjoy outings ranging from one day to a week and these are well run and excellent value. The past year has seen a difficult financial situation for us all, but by opening up our trips to local U3As Mike Frost & his team have continued to provide very good entertainment for us. Theatre & Cultural outings have increased and the whole programme has produced something for everyone.

### **STATUTE AMENDMENTS**

It was agreed with members that our statutes would be altered to ensure new members served on the committee and thereby produced new ideas. The change allows for a member to serve for a maximum of three years on the committee, re-election would be permitted after an absence of two years. This was a difficult decision for us all, but after three years of no one coming forward to stand against any of the committee, the committee agreed that we should make this introduction. Members were concerned that a total replacement could produce problems, but a programme of shadowing was introduced and people who had expressed an interest in serving on the committee in the future were elected and phased in over a period of months. There may be other amendments required and as this always results in a cost and inevitably bureaucracy (!!!) it was agreed that the statutes would be altered after the AGM in 2009 when the new President is in place and all other officers elected. The committee was also increased to reflect the workload of the additional members and currently stands at eleven.

### **MORAIRA- TEULADA U3A**

For a long time there had been thoughts of another local U3A and Moraira – Teulada seemed the natural place for this. Angela Chantry, Pat Ainsley & Mike Frost together with myself worked with a steering group from Moraira and in May saw their Association commence. It has been a success story from the start as clearly the local population had wanted this. They now have their elected committee in place, are fortunate to have a very good inexpensive venue at Teulada for their meetings and I don't doubt will go from strength to strength. At year end their membership was in the 800s and they have a good selection of group activities, a gratifying success story.

### **DISCOUNTS**

With the increasing financial pressures of a bad exchange rate, we have seen more discounts agreed and these have proved very popular with our members. The key ones in 2008 continued to be Liberty Seguros who through three brokers offer a 15% discount on household & car insurance. (This has now been increased to 20% discount on car insurance from March 2009) and the introduction of a car hire company in the U.K. 1car1 who provided

inexpensive cars for members and other discounts. A similar arrangement for local car hire for visiting friends & relatives of members was not so successful and we have currently closed our relationship with Sol Mar whilst trying to arrange a replacement company or renegotiate with Sol Mar. Tiffany's, jewellers on the sea front at Javea, caused a worrying time for some of our male members by offering a 20% discount on purchases of their jewellery and at Christmas this was increased to 30% for one day only. However, it was very well received and with a discount on repairs as well, this has become a very popular offer. Whilst the concept of discounts is fairly new to U3A, as the largest association in Javea, we do have a tremendous buying power and it makes sense to save money if we can. The offers are there for our members to take or not as they wish, however, literally thousands of euros have been saved by these arrangements.

### **SOCIAL EVENTS**

Our first ever ball in May was a great success, with 400 members and friends from local U3As attending. We had an excellent evening at El Canor and as the event was strictly non profit making we were able to keep costs to the minimum. A Charity Garden Party in September raised some €5,000 for the local charity HELP which they greatly appreciated and those who attended had a lovely afternoon at the home of Sean & Marie Smith, a perfect venue for this event.

I stand down as President at this AGM, but would like to take this opportunity to thank you all so much for your help and support over the past three years.

I wish the new President and the current committee both success and happiness in their running of our U3A. A toast to fun & friendship !!

**Rosi Evans**

**President – Javea U3A**