

Chairman's Report March 2007

This is our second newsletter, produced after completing our first six months of operation, produced not only in hard copy form for those who do not have access to a computer but also for those who wish to view it on the website.

Our membership has grown from 46 in October 2006 to 86 to date. We can now say **Torre vieja U3A** is well and truly part of the social calendar of Torre vieja and the Orihuela Costa area. We now have seventeen activity groups, 15 operational and two in the pipeline.

The group timetable in this newsletter gives full details of Venue/Leader and Frequency of these activities and how to contact our group Co-ordinator Laurie Winstanley. A reminder - if you are a regular member of an activity group, it is courteous to inform the Leader if you do not plan to attend a particular meeting. Arrangements are often made within a group, to invite an expert to contribute to the subject of interest; it is disappointing and embarrassing when only two or three members arrive for that occasion!

Because of the nature of most members' residency in Spain, trips back to the UK and entertaining family/visitors etc. are factors that have to be accommodated when participating in social activities. This does not need to be a problem, just remember to let your group know about your plans.

The Committee feel that we are now ready to take the necessary steps to officially register our U3A with the Spanish Authorities and we hope to have all the formalities completed by June.

It was agreed that the subscription of €12 (euros) would be valid from September 2006 until December 2007. Thereafter, it will be a €10 (euros) subscription for the 10 months which make up our U3A Season (September - June).

A date will be fixed for our first Annual General Meeting and nominations for officers will be sought and an election held.

We have had a busy first 6 months with several changes of venue for our monthly meeting. We hope our move to the Asturias Restaurant will be successful and after the June monthly meeting we may celebrate the end of our First Season with a Barbecue.

The most exciting report for this newsletter is the construction of our website. Our Web-Master, Andy Voaden has done a brilliant job for us - we will be pleased to receive your comments and input. He has suggested we have a "Blog" page where members can interact with ideas and suggestions - Watch this Space!

Creative Writing - Leader: Celia Bently

This is a small group at present with varied writing skills and interests, meeting once a month - Leader, Celia Bently.

A basic principle is that one piece of work is produced every month. Members suggest titles and work so far has included:- A short story in no more than 50 words, a piece centred around a character called Annabel Lee and at present efforts are concentrated on producing short stories for the Torre vieja Short Story competition.

Joy Lennick, one of our members, was the winner of the First Torre vieja Short Story Competition in 2005. Joy has had two factual books published - "Running your own small hotel" and "Jobs in Bakery and Confectionery" she has also written a collection of poems including "Celtic Cameos". At the moment Joy is attempting her first novel. See her profile on the Profiles page.

The group is also working on developing characters, building a profile of them and their lives.

A "Characterization" Piece - The heroine is describing her father to a friend:-

"Let's see.... Well, he has a humorous look about him, as if he is silently appreciating a joke - you know the sort of face: upturned lips corners and deeply indented crow's feet at each brown eye corner. He is quite tall - has to watch his waistline. Catherine's not a bad cook Oh, and he gets many envious glances because of his pure silver thatch. But my favourite feature is his nose. It's what I think of as "Common Dickensian"

"What" ?... Myra looked bemused.

You really have to see it. It's rather large and looks as if it was stuck on as an after thought - you know: "Whoops.. nearly forgot the centre-piece!"

Like a bulbous exclamation mark, if you can imagine such a thing... I can picture him dressed as a gardener in a Dicken's drama. His mother, Gran Mason, used to say with a shake of her head: "Wherever did he get such a proboscis? Your granddad had a Roman nose and mine is retrousse". Quite young at the time, I did not realise that there were different names for noses. A nose, surely was either small or large, fat or thin!

On the 21st of February a publisher was engaged to speak to the Torre vieja Writers Circle and they kindly invited the U3A Creative Writing Group to this meeting and to join them for lunch at the Lo Monte Hotel, Torre de la Horadada.

Painting - Tutor: Maria Moreschi A.B.A.F., F.P.S.

A very exciting new activity group. We are very fortunate to have as our tutor Maria Moreschi. Maria has retired to Spain having taught art in England for 35 years.

She was born and educated in Florence, where she attended the Florence Academy of Fine Arts, studying under both Annigoni and Nardini.

Exhibitions of her works have been held at regular intervals in England, Europe and the United States. A number of her paintings and studies are held in public and private collections throughout the world.

Needlecraft - Tutor: Peta Neale

One of our current activities is a group of six ladies that have been working on a patchwork project - A quilt incorporating within the design, the "Breast Cancer Ribbon" motif. It is hoped to complete the quilt by the end of this month so that it is

ready to enter our raffle in order to raise funds for the AECC.

Raffle Tickets will be on sale at the April U3A meeting.

On the 20th February a trip was made by train to Alicante to purchase materials for future projects.



New members are always welcome and any needlecraft skill/s can be shared/learned within the group.

Music & Theatre - Leader: David Evans

Murcia

Friday 23rd March, Concert being presented by the Extremadura Orchestra, conducted by Jesus Amigo.

Tchaikovsky's Violin Concerto in D, soloist Alexander da Costa, Performance starts at 8:30 pm.

Ticket Prices are: €14 euros, €10 euros or €7 euros.

Lunch Group

In January, 12 members enjoyed pre-prandial drinks in the sunshine by the pool and then lunch at the Olympia Restaurant, Mil Palmeras - organised by Rita Broadhead.

The February lunch on wednesday the 14th was less well supported, only six ladies lunched together but low numbers was probably because it was Valentines Day (perhaps people were being wined and dined in the evening!) and it also followed our coach outing to Lorca on the Tuesday. Maggie Oldfield organised this lunch and we will be needing recommendations for restaurants to patronize in future months and volunteers to make the necessary arrangements.

Trip to Lorca 13th Feb 2007



A bright sunny morning greeted us as the coach arrived at the visitors centre on time at 11:00 am.

Most of us were to visit the Embroidery Museum, so Rita went into the centre to buy the tickets for us. There she was told that for some reason the Castle was Closed and that the Tourist Train which goes round town was only taking groups of 20 Plus! What a shame.

We, who were not for the museum had to just stroll around town in the beautiful sunshine, admire the superb old buildings with their wonderful architecture, have a coffee, have a chat and generally chill out till lunch-time, when we were re-united with the rest of the party.

The Museum visit had been a great success, with lovely examples of different designs and works on display.

Whilst there, several ladies were at work on items for the Easter Week Parades. Time for Lunch.! ...Some 16 or so of us found ourselves in The Plaza De San Vicente where we had a very nice Tapas. Lunch outside the Restaurante Hornero. We had to ask for the Sun Shades to be wound out to give us shade.! ...Surely, this wasn't February.?

Another stroll... A last look at the architecture and back to the coach for our return journey home. "A Grand Day Out"...!

Monthly Meetings

From March 2007 onwards, the monthly meetings will be held at The Asturias Restaurante on the N332 at Playa Flamenca (adjacent to the new Carrefour).

Meetings will be on the 1st Monday of the month at 10:30 am, except in July & August, when there are no meetings.

There will be a Guest Speaker at each meeting and general info on Group Activities etc. Attendance fee for Members and Non-Members is €1 euro and everyone is welcome.

Those wishing to join the U3A can pick-up an application form at the meetings or download one from our new website.

Dates & Speakers for the following Monthly Meetings

May 7th: "Arthur Longdon" - Subject:- "Spain before Roundabouts"

June 4th: An English Partner in a Spanish Law Firm - Subject:- Money, Matrimony & Mortality