

CHAIRMANS REPORT

Most animals hibernate in the winter – we do the opposite – except, of course, for the group activities that are continuing and the Coffee Mornings at Los Arcos on the last Thursday morning of each month until meetings start in September. (Slogan: U3A members do it in the summer!)

Since we have to pay for the room anyway, we have decided to use the three summer dates at Los Arcos for Coffee Mornings. 10.30 am. as usual. For details see opposite. Entrance is free, and members' friends are welcome.

We end the season in good condition. Thanks to your efforts money is coming in to enable us to regularise the legal situation and to buy the equipment necessary for future activities. By the time we resume in September we should have the new data projector for speakers and be almost ready to proceed with our application for legal status.

I say 'almost' because we have to submit with our application to Valencia the minutes of a General Meeting of all members who approve the application. That will be in October, as you can see from the notice in this Newsletter.

Members have complained that some of the speakers have been too commercial – selling things as part of their talk. Please don't blame Jean Cook for that. I gave permission to some that I thought deserved it without consulting her, but I've been told off by members and I won't do it again.

Jean and Mike Law have done a superb job in organising quizzes and lunch parties and have been invaluable in providing entertainment. So, let's build on that. I am concerned that we need to expand the social side – more parties, more fun. Ideas welcome – disco?, BBQ?, Day or Evening excursions? I think that we can combine the serious side with the fun, don't you?.

Help! Stocks are running down, so please let us have any unwanted books, DVDs, CDs, etc for the bookstall, and any unwanted gifts for raffle prizes. All are welcome, particularly with the Season of Unwanted Gifts coming up.

You may have noticed an upsurge in publicity about U3A Torre Vieja in the local freebies. That is thanks to the efforts of our publicity team of Pat Swales (despite her temporary indisposition) and Bob Hill. Good on ya!

U3A SUMMER ACTIVITIES

The U3A are continuing to meet for a social/ coffee morning throughout the summer.

We will meet at the Los Arcos bar in Avenida Balearics at 10.30am on June 25th, July 30th and August 27th.

This will be a chance for everyone to meet and socialise. The meeting is open to all; there will be no entry fee.

We will run a 50/50 stall. Please clear out your cupboards and bring along anything you wish to sell, 50% to you and 50% to U3A funds.

We will also have a bric-a-brac stall for anything else you find lurking at the bottom of your cupboards, a book stall and a cake stall.

Come along and join the fun.

This keeps the name in front of the public during the 'quiet' season, ready for the news stories coming up when the new season starts. And keep your eyes/ears open for items on radio and TV.

There have been complaints that group activities are clashing with each other, and I am wondering if we should try and co-ordinate – agree some kind of timetable between the various groups. There are some days when several activities clash and others when nothing is happening. What's your view?

Personal matter: I apologise for not seeing more of you since we have been back, but on the flight out from UK six weeks ago I picked up a chest infection. It has proved to be antibiotic-resistant, and I am now on my third lot of antibiotics, without effect.. Since I don't want to infect anyone else I have stayed out of your way.

That's all folks! Have a great summer. David Evans, Chairman. Send your comments via e-mail to noelevans@waitrose.com

SPEAKERS SECRETARY

The speakers since March have been well received by our members. At the March meeting Maureen, English-speaking tour guide for Guardamar Tourist Office, gave us a great deal of information about the history and culture of the town, together with an insight into the work of the authorities in assisting the integration of ex-pats into the Spanish life of the community. Following on from this talk, 40 members had a train tour of Guardamar del Segura, followed by lunch for some of us in the Restaurante Jaime. Eleven more members and friends are doing the same trip on the 19th June.

In April, Geoff Crane, a U3A member, gave us an interesting and amusing talk on his journey from PE teacher to Head Teacher of one of the largest comprehensive schools in the country. For many members who have not been involved professionally in education, this was quite an insight into the workings of management within schools.

Our last meeting of this 'season' saw Vice Chairman Bob Hill talking about the history of the Torrevieja International Cofradia and his own experiences in the Easter Parades. With the help of two colleagues in their costumes, and his wife Barbara, disguised in the costume of a penitent, Bob's talk was both informative and amusing, whilst at the same time quite emotional.

I should like at this point to say a special thank you to the U3A members who give talks at our monthly meetings, because this is quite a daunting task, and I am full of admiration for them.

Before closing, I should like to thank all those who continue to give me suggestions for speakers. I really do appreciate your support – please keep the ideas coming! I apologise if I have not yet taken up any particular suggestion, but, with only seven speakers each year, and with a need to ring the changes as much as possible, I cannot get around to each idea very quickly. I hope everyone has a good summer, and look forward to seeing you all in the autumn.

Jean Cook cookonejcook@yahoo.co.uk

CALLIGRAPHY GROUP

Last meeting before the summer was 15 June. We begin again in the autumn and have set the first three meetings for 28 September, 19 October, 9 November.

This is every three weeks, meetings to take place, as usual, at the Florantillas Camping/caravan site on Monday evenings from 19.15 till 21.30.

There will not be a new beginners group starting but anyone interested in taking up calligraphy should contact me. As long as the numbers are not too many, Mike can incorporate new members into the present group.

MONTHLY MEETINGS

The Monthly Meetings are held at Los Arcos Restaurante, Avda. Baleares 34, Torrevieja at 10.30 am on the last Thursday of the month.

Entry is 1 euro to members and 2 euros to non members

Speakers for the new 'term' are as follows:

September Simon Baldock, past presenter for BBC Radio Essex, now working for VivaTV.

At the end of his talk, he will give us a short quiz on celebrity voices, so please bring pens or pencils with you.

October Andy Ormiston, local author and historian, will talk about the history of Torrevieja. He will also sign copies of his new book for sale.

November Member Penny Hyde will give a talk and powerpoint presentation (using our new projector which we anticipate having by then!) entitled 'The Clown'. Penny gives this talk fairly frequently in aid of the charity 'Mission Aviation Fellowship', and the U3A will be making a donation to this cause.

I am responsible for the spear-carrying side of the group but the teacher is Mike Law. If anyone needs info about calligraphy itself, Mike is your man. Registering interest to join the group, please contact me.

If there is anyone who is interested in joining and is going to be in the UK in the summer, it would be a good idea to get hold of some basic calligraphy stuff there. It is not readily available in Spain. Contact Mike to find out what to get.

Mike Law: law_mk@yahoo.com

Chris Johansson: chrisjohan43@yahoo.se

TREASURERS REPORT

The new financial year started on 1st January 2009 and subs were due from that date but the renewed subs level is not as high as hoped. Also while we have a good turnout at each meeting and subs are being collected, we have not had as many new members as expected to apply to join. Late arrivals from the UK can pay as and when they arrive back in Spain!

A reminder to all group leaders that any member who attends a Group Activity can only do so if fully paid up. If a group leader is not sure, please mail me a list of attendees and I will supply, on return, who has paid, not yet paid or not a member. Two groups already use this facility and it works well.

The monthly raffle, book and DVD sales are providing a good "extra" income. If you have something to put in the raffle or a book/DVD that you have finished with, please think of our U3A. We are this summer using our last Thursday of the month bookings at Los Arcos to run various fund raising and social activities to help pay for June, July and August room hire that has to be paid for. So if you stay in Spain for these months, why not pop along and join in.

We will purchase the Data Projector this summer, it will be used with a computer for presentations and shows by guest or member speakers. The funds for the forming of the legal Constitution are building for the final application to be made. It is going to cost in excess of €1,000.00, more than the original "budget". We hope to have it in place by the end of the year but, if it has not been finalised, we shall start 2010 in the legally required manner.

Robert C Cook, Hon Treasurer,
cook2cookies@yahoo.co.uk

ARMCHAIR TRAVEL

Our April meeting was a very small one, with husband Bob showing his DVD of the last cruise of the QE2 from her home port of Southampton to Dubai, where she is due to be turned into a top-class hotel and conference centre.

May saw our largest gathering yet, with fourteen members crammed into our little 'casita' on the Florantilles caravan site. It was fortunate that the weather was fine, and we could spill out onto the verandah; fortunate, too, that Lillian Pownall didn't need the use of the TV when she gave her excellent talk on Singapore. She showed us some of the most beautiful and interesting photographs I have ever seen. Thank you Lillian.



The new 'term' begins on the second Tuesday of October, when Maggie Aiston will show us a DVD and talk about her trip down the Amazon. The following month U3A member Douglas Sidwell, who has not joined us before, will tell us about a Gurkha reunion in Nepal – very topical at the moment!

Our pre-Christmas meeting will consist of a short DVD on Maori culture and art (lent by Keith and Gill Jones), followed by mince-pies and wine.

As I have already said to Armchair Travel members in an e-mail, when or if the weather is bad in the autumn, I will have to limit the group to 10 on a first booking-in basis, either by phone or e-mail. It doesn't happen very often that we have more than this, but it seems to me to be the fairest option for all concerned.

Look forward to seeing you all soon.

Jean Cook cookonejcook@yahoo.co.uk

LITERATURE 2 GROUP

We have chosen the books for the first part of the year.

In October we will discuss The Autograph Man by Zadie Smith; in November, The Age of Kali by William Dalrymple; in December, The Poisonwood Bible by Barbara Kingsolver; in January, Engleby by Sebastian Faulks; and in February, Brave New World by Aldous Huxley. Plenty of variety there, then. Books for the remainder of the season will be chosen later.

All books chosen are in print and available in Torrevieja, either new or second-hand, at local English bookshops (where they can be ordered) or from Amazon on the net.

We meet on the first Friday of each month at 10.30am, either at the home of Les and Ros Ellis in Dream Hills, on the outskirts of Torrevieja, or my home in San Miguel. Come and join us.

David Evans 966 723 909 noeelevans@waitrose.com

MUSIC & THEATRE NOTICEBOARD

Graham Evans writes:

Websites covering professional music and theatre topics include the following:

Torreveja	www.torrevejacultural.com
Murcia	www.auditoriomurcia.org
Orihuela	www.aytoorihuela.es
Elche	www.elx.es
Cartagena	www.ayto-cartagena.es
Alicante	www.teatroprincipaldealicante.com

Music

Following the success of a recent trip to Sevilla, organised by U3A's Penny Godfrey, plans are now afoot to arrange one to Valencia during the next season. Given the plethora of cultural activities available in Valencia, it is hoped to include an opportunity during that trip for members to take advantage of an opera and/or orchestral concert.

However, until the Valencia website (www.lesarts.com) reveals details of its 2009/10 music programme no further thoughts can be given to such a proposal.

Theatre

We have now established a Shakespeare Group to help slake our thirst for theatre. These meetings have taken place in San Miguel de Salinas and the first play to be viewed and discussed was *Macbeth*. The Group has now moved on to *Much Ado About Nothing* and the second meeting for viewing/discussing this delightful comedy will be on 15th July.

At present we have about nine interested members and we plan to start the 2009/10 season with one of the more exciting history plays.

Members who would like to be put on the Music & Theatre Group and/or Shakespeare Group emailing lists may contact me at: noelevans@waitrose.net.

SUNDAY LUNCH CLUB

Mostly we have tried Spanish 'del dias', as the places that provide these often have a good atmosphere. I think we all would agree that one of the best Sundays would be when we went to Kookaburra's. Forty of us sat next to a table of about fifty Spanish family members celebrating a child's communion. We somehow managed to include ourselves in their festivities by taking wine with our Spanish neighbours - I feel sure we added to their enjoyment.

From October we will meet the first Sunday of each month. I will e-mail those interested as soon as I decide where we will be going. I need recommendations please.

Maureen Moffatt maureen.moffatt@hotmail.co.uk

SPANISH FOR BEGINNERS

New classes to commence in September 2009

Ten students successfully completed the first year of classes and my congratulations go to them for their tenacity and hard work – well done.

This autumn further classes for beginners will be held, this time in two locations as Ann-Marie Clement has kindly offered to host classes in Entre Naranjos. Ann-Marie has taught Spanish before and will augment the Michel Thomas course with her knowledge and expertise. The second class will be with me in Pilar de la Horadada.

I will be contacting the dozen or so people who have their names on the waiting list, but there is room for more students so please get in contact if you would like to try Spanish for Beginners.

Penny Godfrey pennygodfrey0502@hotmail.com

SPANISH HISTORY

Sue Kenyon writes:

Since our first meeting we have realised what a huge topic Spanish history is!! But nothing daunted we have galloped our way through the huge topics of Spanish pre-history, the Romans, the Visigoths and the Moorish periods, before deciding it was time to take a more leisurely look at the Reconquista and finally Carlos I who died in 1565, which is where we leave Spain's history until September.

Along the way we have met some larger-than-life characters, like El Cid; fascinating people – the Bell Beaker People being my personal favourite and heard legends and stories linked to mythology and the Bible. The talks have also led us on some interesting side journeys and discovering unexpected links between famous Spaniards and their role in the world outside the Peninsula and the impact decisions taken in Spain in the past have influenced world events later on.

We usually meet on the first Friday of the month but our next meeting will be 18th September at 12 noon at The Cavalier in San Luis. My thanks to everyone for their enthusiasm and on going encouragement as I continue to delve deeper into the depths of Spanish history. See you all again in September.

Telephone 966 78 55 67 iansuekenyon@gmail.com

PSYCHOLOGY GROUP

The Psychology Group will take place at the International Marina, The Moby Dick Restaurant at 10.30a.m. on the second Monday of every month (hopefully to start in September. Those interested can call 966 798 196 after about the 5th Sept.

Many thanks Jean Wilson [.paj781@hotmail.com](mailto:paj781@hotmail.com)

CREATIVE WRITING

HOMEWORK FOR JUNE

Justin Hillier was brought up in an orphanage in England and knows very little about his family. He is 24 years old, is a junior lawyer, and lately his curiosity about his family has increased.

On the other side of the Channel in Normandy, Robert Hillier-Chocqueel, (19 years old) having been adopted when very young, by a French couple - has recently been told about his adoption and is also growing curious. Visiting Honfleur one day, he meets a green-tinted, punk-haired, young woman named Brittany, on holiday from England. She mentions knowing a Justin Hillier and the seed is watered.....

Please knit into the story an elderly lady named Geraldine McTavish, an eccentric artist (painter), and a middle-aged woman called Audrey Tasker who works as a Carer.

OR

Finish the following:-

How dare you go against my wishes... The colonel's face reddened as his fury mounted.
Jasper studied the dull green fern motif on the study carpet and gave a deep sigh.

OR

Write a short poem containing the line: Andy the aardvark

.....

HOMEWORK FOR THE SUMMER PERIOD

Would you break off a romantic relationship by phone, email or letter? Or rather by a face to face talk? Please write a few paragraphs or a page.

OR

A poem containing the words: "Flighty" "book" and "chicken tikka"

Joy Lennick joylennick@hotmail.co.uk

HOLISTIC HEALTH

Jeremy Meyrick-Jones will be taking over this group in the autumn.

The next meeting will take place at Los Arcos restaurant on Thursday 8th October.

We are still mulling over who the speaker or subject will be. As soon as this has been confirmed I will let you know.

Jeremy Meyrick-Jones 966775409 mobile is 645230181. jerang@hotmail.co.uk

PLAY READING GROUP.

The group started in November, 2008 and meets twice a month in San Miguel.

We generally read and discuss a play each month. We started with J.M.Barrie's *The Admiral Crichton* and, in June, will complete *The Reluctant Debutant*, by William Douglas Hume. The farces generate a lot of hilarity and Harold Pinter's play *The Birthday Party*, produced some discussion for being rather unorthodox. Sometimes we have to read parts in the opposite gender, but generally we enjoy the afternoon enormously.

I give my thanks to David and Graeme for providing a venue and for the tea and biscuits.

The next 'season' will start in October and I am in the process of collecting plays together and producing a programme for the year. Under review are plays by Neil Simon, Sue Townsend, Chekhov, Alan Cubitt, Alan Ackbourn, Moliere, Dylan Thomas, Terence Rattigan and Arther Miller.

Anne Stebbings

ART APPRECIATION GROUP

In April ten U3A members met to discuss and plan the formation of this new group. We agreed to meet the third Monday from 2.00-4.00 p.m. at the Sophia Wellness Centre at Cabo Roig. So far we have had a brief discussion on Picasso's commission for the Paris International Exposition of 1937, his painting '*Guernica*'.



In May we discovered that L.S. Lowry was not a 'primitive' artist' as most people think.

We also looked at the work of Gustav Klimt, and at our June meeting Sue Keyon introduced us to the French painter Georges Seurat and we experimented with paints in a 'pointillist' style! Plans were made for our return

after the summer break and we look forward to learning about the work of Charles Rennie MacKintosh and his wife Margaret McDonald, El Greco and Salvador Dali.

If you have a favourite artist, architect or sculptor come and share your knowledge with us or be introduced to an art form unknown to you.

Lynda Kiss annrossster@gmail.com

U3A TORREVIEJA VISIT TO SEVILLE FERIA

A sunny Monday morning, 27 April saw 36 members and friends of the U3A Torrevieja set off on the journey to Seville to visit the famous Feria.



Our route skirted both Murcia and Granada, passed through some beautiful scenery, acres of almond trees (which unfortunately were not in blossom),

passed through low hills full of troglodite caves and for the last 150 kilometres we seemed to be almost continuously driving past olive trees.

The outskirts of Seville were like most cities, but the centre was very historical with some beautiful buildings.

On the first evening some of the more intrepid members of the group found their way on local buses to the fair ground to watch the ceremonial switching on of the lights at midnight. After that the place seemed to come alive with Sevillanas being danced in nearly all of the tents or casitas.



The following day we returned to the fair to watch all of the action. Ladies promenading in their colourful flamenco dresses,



Gentlemen riding wonderful horses and carriages of all shapes and sizes being pulled by a variety of donkeys, mules and horses which had been bedecked with bells and tassels. The people in the carriages were either dressed flamenco style or just in their Sunday best, but all seemed to be enjoying the experience.

That evening some of us opted to go to a flamenco show where the music and the passion filled the auditorium and left us all asking for more.

On our last day in Seville we had an organised tour of the city which included the cool and quiet Park of Maria Luisa, the impressive Plaza de España, a walk through the old quarter of Santa Cruz terminating in the awe inspiring Cathedral.

Some of the group opted to take a boat trip on the Guadalquivir river, it was interesting to see the city from this viewpoint and to pass under the most modern suspension bridge, which is suspended from just one side.



Having shown interest in the troglodite caves we had seen on the journey down, our driver Pepe organised an impromptu stop to visit a cave house on our way back to Torrevieja. The house was three stories high, had terraces front and back which overlooked the Sierra Nevada and was being extended – no planning permission needed, just start digging into the hillside!

Join us for the next trip, maybe Valencia for the opera, maybe Alcoy for the Moors and Christians.

Penny Godfrey

FORTHCOMING TRIPS

Following our very enjoyable trip to Seville I have received a few suggestions for other trips that we might make.

In the early part of next year we are hoping to go to Valencia for three days. The highlight of the trip will be to attend an opera at the architecturally amazing Palau de les Arts. This building is located in the dry river bed very close to the Science Museum and Aquarium, all of which are very futuristic in design. At the moment Graham Evans is in contact with his Music Appreciation group and they will decide which, of the operas being performed next season, would be the best to see. Once this decision is made we can advise dates and start planning. Please note that we will try to avoid the Fallas Fiesta time, as Valencia is very busy and extremely noisy at that time.

Another request was to go to Alcoy to enjoy the spectacle of the Moors and Christians fiesta. This is always held during the week of St Georges Day (23rd April). Contact has already been made with a travel agent to assist us with hotel accommodation as the town gets very full during fiestas. More information will be given when known. Alcoy is located northwest of Torrevieja, towards Benidorm but inland amongst the mountains.

The big one for next year could be to Asturias and/or Galicia in September when it is still hot on the Costa Brava, but has not become too autumnal in the north west. It has been suggested we do the major part of the journey by train and only use a coach on arrival in the area. Enquiries are being made, but if anyone has any knowledge of the area or of the journey options then please get in touch.

Happy travelling!

Penny Godfrey

pennygodfrey0502@hotmail.com

**NOTICE OF
EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL
MEETING
OF
TORREVIEJA U3A
AT
LOS ARCOS RESTAURANT,
TORREVIEJA
ON
THURSDAY 29 OCTOBER, 10.30 AM**

The following proposal will be put to the meeting:

The members of Torrevieja U3A wish to become a legally-registered Organisation, and the Committee is authorised to appoint a Spanish lawyer to make the appropriate application to the authorities in Valencia.

WALKING GROUP

The Walking Group continues to make great strides (excuse the pun) with numbers of members participating averaging 24 on each of the walks over the last three months.

The April walk followed the flat path from Rojales along the banks of the River Segura towards Guardamar, then detouring through the orange and lemon groves on the return journey.

Following requests from some members for a more



challenging walk, in mid-May we climbed to the top of La Cruz de la Muela behind Orihuela. Led by John Hartley this was a very challenging walk



indeed with spectacular views from the top.

At the end of May we walked through the wild Rio Seco from Pinar de Campoverde. At times feeling as if we were in a tropical jungle, walkers

were amazed by the stunning sandstone cliffs and varied vegetation.



Our last walk of the season was a flat seaside stroll from Lo Pagan to the ferry departure point at Santiago de la Ribera. Members were then free to stroll back at leisure, stopping for a drink or lunch (or

both)!!

The new season starts with a walk on Saturday 26th September. Members have been informed that from this date, going forward, there will be a nominal charge of 1€ per person per walk. Members will be provided with the details of the walks by email, and in the usual way, hard copies of the information will be available at the monthly meetings prior to the actual walk.

We look forward to meeting all Walking Group members again after the summer break and we believe we have another programme of interesting walks planned for the Autumn and Winter.

Bob and Barbara Hill

bobhill2002@hotmail.com