

# U3A Moraira-Teulada

www.u3amoraira-teulada.org

## ***NEWSLETTER no.7, January 2009***

### ***Message from the President***

Dear Members,

Thanks to those of you who came to the January General Meeting, I'm sure you agree that the Costa Barber Singers were a great start to the New Year!

As you all know, we have a suggestion box at the meetings, and I was pleased to find nine suggestions/questions after Monday's meeting. Here they are, exactly as they were written, with my replies:

Question "Could a written notice be placed somewhere informing U3A members what's on and the dates for those who are computer illiterate"?

Answer We are hoping to be able to do this shortly by putting the Newsletter on the Board at Espai la Senieta. We are also still trying to work out a way we can run the computer "Buddy system", although at the moment this seems a very difficult task.

Suggestion "Cookery lessons! Spanish"

Answer There are already Spanish classes, and as the group Co-ordinator announced, and hopefully another one will shortly be available. This is the first request we have had for straightforward cookery lessons, and the request has been passed to Groups Coordinator Shirley Baehr.

Suggestion "Summer lunch (June)"

Answer An excellent idea, but if it is to happen what format should it take, and where? We would need to start organising it very soon - what does everyone else think please? Replies and opinions would be welcomed through my Website email address at: [president@u3amoraira-teulada.org](mailto:president@u3amoraira-teulada.org).

Suggestion "Allow a comfort break between announcements and guests".

Answer We did this at two meetings and more than half of the members left the room. This was very embarrassing to the Committee as it happened in front of the guest speakers, but see below please!

Suggestion "Put the guest on before the meeting so that people stay for the whole meeting. It is disrespectful to the guest when so many people leave"

Answer This is a good idea, and one that I will take forward to the Committee.

Suggestion “Archaeology”

Answer Passed to the Group Co-ordinator

Comment “Change to the first Monday not very convenient. Means missing next two meetings!”

Answer The change will not happen until the meeting in March; the February meeting is still on the second Monday. Many members were committed to other meetings on the second Monday of the month.

Question “Would love to join the choir – Wednesday the one day I cannot attend. Any possibility of say 5pm meeting on same day or other day? Two friends also in same walking group which meets in Tollos every Wed. are also keen would-be choir members”

Answer Passed to Ann Johnson, Director of the Choir.

Suggestion “Lladro visit, May time”.

Answer Passed to the Travel Group.

As you know, all of the Group Leaders are volunteers. In almost every case leading a Group requires a great deal of background work in order to make the Group successful.

The Groups are available when the Group Leader can hold them, and we as a U3A Committee have no say in this, nor would we want to have. We are very grateful that so many people have come forward to volunteer their time and energies to leading so many diverse Groups for the benefit of our members.

To the two people who complained to me that “everything I want to do is on a Wednesday, can’t some of the Groups be changed”, I’m afraid the answer is no. Groups are held when the Group Leaders say they can hold them. I do sympathise very much, as it seems everything I want to do is on a Wednesday as well!

Thank you all again for your support and the rousing reception you gave to the Costa Barber Singers. We hope very much to be able to bring you more entertainment of this nature.

See you all next month.

*Ann Colclough*

***Next general U3A meeting***

This will be on 9 February 2009, at the Salon de Banquettes, Avda. Mediterraneo, Teulada, at 10.30 am. Doors open 09.45.

## **TRAVEL/OUTINGS**

**Teulada Treasure Hunt, 12 March.** This will be a walking treasure hunt with clues taking you round the historic town centre of Teulada, where you will hopefully learn more about the town and its interesting history. Meet in the “rough” car park between the Town Hall and the Avda del Mediterraneo, Teulada Between 10:30 and 11:00. Participants will be divided into teams of four. The whole treasure hunt should take no more than two hours and is intended to give you a brief glimpse of parts of the town that may not be familiar to you, whilst explaining a little about Teulada’s history. This is not a race. Take time to enjoy the visit. Then finish with a lunch at a local restaurant. 15€ a head to include wine, and prizes! Give names and payment at the travel desk at the general meeting in February.

There will also be a walking treasure hunt in Moraira at the end of May/beginning of June, watch the website! Leader Paul Pruden.

**Visit to the Donkey Sanctuary at Los Pinos, 28 February.** Walk with donkeys in the hills at Los Pinos, approx 3 kms (or less, as you wish) followed by lunch at Verde Vent restaurant. Meet at the donkey sanctuary at 11am for coffee and a bun (directions will be given). The cost is 25€ to include a 5€ donation to the sanctuary, refreshments on arrival and a 4-course lunch with wine. A nice day and helping a good cause! Given names and payment at the general meetings, please. Leader Yvonne Osborne

**Cazorla, Jaen, Ubeda and Baeza, 20-23 April.** This 4-day trip is being organised by the Calpe U3A, but they have offered us a few spare places. Please check the details on their website and either contact me via the link on our website or go direct to their Travel Co-ordinator, making sure you tell her you are a member of Moraira-Teulada U3A.

**Xativa Tuesday, 13 May.** An overnight trip to see Xativa and visit its famous castle, going up the hill on the little train, also visiting the castle museum. On the Tuesday morning there will be chance to go to the big market. Costs and details to follow, check the website Book at the next general meeting. Leaders Ann Cattle, Mary Heaviland and Yvonne Osborne

**Christmas market in Marseilles in December 2009.** This is a suggestion from Ann Colclough and Pamela Kershaw. Please see them or contact by e-mail to register interest. They would also welcome advice from anybody who has experience of visiting one of these Christmas markets.

**Lyon Festival of light December 2009.** Our scouts who went this year reported that is just not feasible to take a group, although it is well worth going. It is much cheaper to book cheap flights individually, events are very spread out and public transport stops, so there is a lot of walking, and it was very cold. But for anybody interested in going, individually or small groups, please contact any of the scouts, via the travel desk or the website, who will be happy to supply information and help.

**Theatre trips.** We are hoping to run theatre trips to Valencia and Alicante in collaboration with the Javea group. Please watch the website for information.

*Jan Adams Bareham, Travel group co-ordinator*

## **Activity Groups**

Below you will find recent information on active groups and I hope to have some more news over the next couple of months on new ones. Do contact me if you have any ideas or would like to lead a group - we will give you lots of help!

We have a particularly interesting new proposal, which is group on *English Grammar for Confused Spanish Students*.

If you go into a sweat when your Spanish teacher tells you that “The adjective must agree with the noun in gender and case” or “Convert these sentences from the present to the preterit tense” then this is the course for you!

You will do some very basic Spanish, looking at English grammar and how the Spanish construct sentences differently to us. The course will be fun, with no homework, designed to help people who want to learn Spanish but have never formally done a language before and those whose school English is long forgotten.

By the end of the course (6-8 weeks) you will understand most of the terms used to describe the parts of a sentence and know how Spanish sentences are constructed differently to English. You will even understand why the formal ‘you’ changes from the second to the third person in Spanish!

You will also have much more of an idea how to learn things like Spanish verb declension and how to best use dictionaries and textbooks to translate. In order to prepare you for your Spanish lessons we will also cover things like the Spanish alphabet and pronunciation. There will be lots of practice and repetition so you won’t have to study at home. You will be able to think of simple things you want to say in English and rethink how to say them in Spanish so that as your Spanish vocabulary grows you can actually use the words with confidence in correct sentences.

Richard Perry will run the course. He is not a Spanish teacher but is qualified in TEFL (Teaching English as a Foreign Language). He doesn’t even profess to speak very good Spanish himself but he wants to help people who can’t get started because Spanish teachers assume that they understand English grammar.

*Slimming.* Have you over indulged during the festive season? Haven’t we all? Then I have a new group just for you. Janet Westgarth is proposing a U3A slimming group, meeting in her house in El Portet on Tuesday afternoons approx 3pm to 4pm. She has easy access and plenty of parking space. The format of the group is self-help Janet will provide the venue, tea or coffee (no biscuits!) for 1€ per person, plus the scales. How the group is run, and how to motivate the group to lose weight, will be up to the members.

*Meeting places.* Many groups have been meeting at the Lemon Tree but unfortunately this restaurant is no longer open. Group leaders will let you have details of new venues. The committee has been looking into possible alternative locations, so if any group leaders would like some ideas please contact me.

Finally, always remember that for information on active groups the website should always be your main source. If possible, email the group leaders direct from their group page - if

you are not on the internet, ask for the phone number of the group leader. Do respond to the emails from group leaders and where the group leader has no email keep in touch by phone.

*Shirley Baehr*

### **Entertaining at Home**

After a very enjoyable last term, we are all looking forward to meeting again (a little later than expected because I have had the flu!) on Wednesday 28 January at 3pm. You will be offered canapés and appetizers, charge 5€. Do call me if you can come.

*Anne Rodgers*

### **Reading**

The 2nd Wednesday Book Group had its first meeting in December. A much smaller group than usual, seven of us, met at the Cafe Mozart. A cosy, warm side-room had been placed at our disposal and we were made very welcome.

We had a lively discussion about our Book of the Month, "The Uncommon Reader" by Alan Bennett. This is a short novella about the Queen taking up reading as a new hobby and everyone had enjoyed it. The general consensus was that it was very cleverly written and very funny in parts.

We then progressed to discussing favourite books and those that we would never part with. This provided an insight into the varied types of book and the different authors preferred by our readers.

Several of the members had brought along books they were ready to part with, so we ended an enjoyable couple of hours with a book exchange.

The next meeting will be at the same venue on Wednesday, February 11th. The book for discussion is the classic by Scott Fitzgerald, 'The Great Gatsby'.

*Pamela Milburn*

### **Choir**

Forget the diet, forget the economic gloom, and come and cheer yourself up by singing with us every Wednesday from 11 – 1 at the Ermita San Jose (off Calpe/Moraira coast road). Warm clothes, a drink and a pencil are all you need to get started! (At present we each make a 2€ donation to the Church for use of the facilities). Please let me know if you intend to come by contacting me via the Group Page. I look forward to seeing you at our first rehearsal on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> January.

*Ann Johnson*

### **Art appreciation**

This group will start in February. I am happy to co-ordinate this group but would like to have other members contributing to presentations. Please contact me if you feel you could give one of their monthly talks.

*Paul Godwin*

### **Genealogy**

The venue of the Genealogy Group has changed to Los Leones due to the closure of the Lemon Tree. There will now be a charge for the room. The 10€ an hour room charge will

be shared by the people at the meeting. We have a private room, near the bar! The meetings will be at the same time, 10.30 till 12.30pm. The dates for the next 6 months will be: 27 January, 24 February, 24 March, 28 April, 26 May 23 June. The room has been tested for Wi - Fi and it works perfectly.

While I am away (13 Jan. till 22 March) Tessa Deacon will take the group. Please contact her on email: [tessadeacon@gmail.com](mailto:tessadeacon@gmail.com).

*Sue Bradley*

### ***Walking***

We meet on the first Thursday of each month, assembling in the main car park in Moraira at the far side near the fair ground at 9.30am for car sharing and instructions. There is no need to register - just turn up on the day. The programme is on the website. Don't forget a packed lunch unless an optional meal is promised.

The next walk is on Thursday 5 February. We will drive approximately 30km for a walk around Campell and pinewoods to the east of Cabello Verde Ridge passing through the Fontilles wall (a leper colony and hospital). This will be a medium walk taken at a slow pace. 7kms, 300m ascent, duration four hours.

If in doubt about the walk being on because of bad weather, please telephone me between 8am and 9am on the morning of the walk. All walks are taken at own risk. I recommend walking boots or good trainers. Take sufficient water, picnic and simple first aid kit. Dogs are allowed on walks unless otherwise stated.

*Bob Fisher*

### ***Sailing***

Now the Lemon Tree restaurant is not available for meetings I have requested a room at Espai La Senieta in Moraira for the first Tuesday in each month for the next 12 months. The time remains 4-6 pm. The bar area is available for drinks etc. so we could meet there before and after the meeting. I am now organizing my time in preparation for taking sailing group members for sailing days. The TrickyD is Moored in Marina De Denia, hence most sailing days will start from this point. My car can take 4 plus myself. Also we can use trains from Teulada, which run every hour with a 15-minute walk to the Marina at a cost of around 2.40 euros for a return ticket.

This Group is open to competent and non-competent members. Sailing days are subject to the weather of course. I intend to do not only sailing days but also sailing trips down to Moraira and returning the following day, if there is any interest. This is not an overnight stay as we will leave your transport in Moraira and I will organize the transport to and from Denia. What do you need: packed lunch, deck shoes, warm clothing in the winter, shorts and T shirt in summer, Oh happy Days. All safety equipment will be supplied by me , unless you have a favourite lifejacket of your own. I will supply on board tea/coffee/ water. Email me if you are interested or need further information.

*Richard Jones*

### ***Petanque***

The U3A Moraira / Teulada Petanque Group has been a victim of its own success since its initial start up in May 2008. There are 50 members in the current group, which is the maximum for logistical and playing numbers. There are also 22 people on the waiting list

who, for the foreseeable future, will not get the opportunity to join the group and play.

Is there anybody on the waiting list or any other person would come forward to run a second breakaway Petanque group? Who could immediately start with the 22 people on the waiting list? I am happy to offer any help or training in assisting someone to get the second group off the ground. If you think you would be interested in doing this, then please contact me through the web site.

*Andy Keen*

### **Bridge**

From Wednesday 21 January, the courses for the two groups - improvers and beginners - will run from 10.30 to 1.00 at Moonlighters Restaurant, 14 C/Pintor Rembrant, Moraira. This is off the Benitachell road, virtually behind Sol Mar Car Hire (near Global Cars).

*John Hiskey and Anita Dixon*

### **Creative Writing**

We still need some recruits to the Group. At this point we need someone to co-ordinate the meetings and one of our members would be interested in an astronomy group if anyone with knowledge could help lead the group.

*Shirley Baehr*

### **Cribbage**

The new Cribbage group is due to get together for the first time on Wednesday 28 January [at Los Leones] 6.30 for 7pm. This meeting will just agree protocols and rules. Assuming we get sufficient people to sign up then the first playing night will be Wednesday 4 Feb. 6.30 for 7pm until 10pm.

*Colin Turner*

### **Painting - Water Colour Techniques**

I will be contacting the next lot of names on the waiting list to start on a second day possibly Thursday 5 February. The existing group will continue their wonderful progress into next year from Wednesday 4 Feb.

*Lyn Haigh*

**CIRCULATION OF NEWSLETTERS** You can read and/or print off copies of the U3A Teulada/Moraira newsletters in either Adobe Reader PDF format or in Microsoft Word format. And, from December 2008, the newsletters are available in two versions. The small file version is intended for members who have dial-up modems and long download times. This version contains basically just the text content of the newsletters. The other version is for members with a broadband internet connection. It contains photographs, illustrations etc that make the Newsletter more attractive to read.

Contributors please note that all copy must be with the Editor by the end of the first week of each month.

## Groups and leaders as at January 09

**Art Appreciation/Art History** *Leader required*

**At home dining** *Leader required*

**Bowling, 10 Pin** *Michael Wilson*

**Bridge for Beginners** *Anita Dixon*

**Bridge Improvers for all non beginners** *John Hiskey*

**Card Making/Scrapbooking** *Martin and Carole Bentley*

**Chess** *Ed Morley*

**Choir** *Ann Johnson*

**Classical Music Appreciation** *Paul Godwin*

**Computing email and internet for beginners** *Evelyn Adams*

**Cookery/Entertaining at Home** *Anne Rodger*

**Cribbage** *Colin Turner*

**Dining Out** *Peter and Sue Wells*

**Drama** *Pam Ridlington*

**English Grammar for Confused Spanish Students** *Richard Perry*

**Fishing, both freshwater and sea** *Michael Wilson*

**Gardening** *John and Chris Parsons*

**Genealogy** *Sue Bradley*

**Hi Fi & Home Cinema advice** *Ted Adams*

**History** *Brian Nichols and Angela Chantry*

**History of Spain lectures** *Julia Servando*

**Losers** *Janet Westgarth*

**Mah Jong** *Diana Jarvis*

**Modern Jive for Beginners** *Richard Perry*

**Painting - Pastel techniques an introduction** *Linda Gent*

**Painting - Water colour techniques an introduction** *Lynn Haigh*

**Paranormal experiences and investigations** *Steve Devey*

**Petanque** *Andy Keen*

**Photo-digital workshop** *Terry Bradley*

**Reading** *Gaby Mauger/Pam Milburn*

**Sailing** *Richard Jones*

**Singles Dining Out Saturdays** *Norman Peterken*

**Spanish for Beginners** *Sue McNae*

**Spanish Conversation Intermediate** *Sheila Shipsides*

**Sunday Solo Group** *Audrey Germann*

**Travel** *Jan Adams Bareham (Co-ordinator)*

**Travellers Tales** *Gerald & Chris Dobson*

**Walking** *Bob Fisher*

**Wine appreciation on a budget** *Ted Adams*

**Writing** *Leader required*

**Yoga (All levels)** *Sue McNae*

## Moraira-Teulada U3A Committee members

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