

# U3A Denia

Asociación de la  
Tercera Edad de Denia  
www.u3adenia.org



## May 2017 Newsletter

### The Committee:

**President:**           **Gordon Clifford**

Vice President:   Christine Whitelock

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Secretary:        Mike Blower

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Ex Officio:        Audrey Roper

### A Message from the President:

I have thought long and hard about this message but after the horrific event that shocked the United Kingdom and indeed the World on Monday the 22nd of May I feel that what I have to say may be a cathartic exercise.

I heard the news of the murder of children and young adults with a sense of revulsion, horror and deep shock, but not surprise. Recent events in mainland Europe made an attack, for that is what it was, in the United Kingdom almost inevitable. The overriding question that many of you will have asked yourselves is "Why". My answer to this is that this atrocity was committed by someone who harboured within his warped mind a hatred of all the values that we as Britons stand for, a weak and cowardly individual indoctrinated into following a hate filled and deviant version of his own faith, a faith that dictates that anything "Western" was sinful and had to be destroyed

To call him a suicide bomber is to give him a sort distorted of legitimacy and status among his fellows, he was purely and simply a murderer, and worse, murderer of innocents, young adults and children who he did not know but hated with a with a passion for the simple reason that they attended a Pop Concert

I have heard the cries of "We must do more" to combat these murderers, but the ones saying this have no concrete suggestions as to what the "More" should be. We have in the United Kingdom possibly the best security and anti- terrorism services in the world and they admit that 100% protection against this type of outrage is all but impossible. We have also heard the faux outrage of those who consider that the Security Services are spying on us by monitoring telephone calls and e-mails but if this is what it takes to ensure our security I for one have no problem with it.

In truth we do not, and probably never will, know what methods these services use to keep us safe, but we owe them a debt of gratitude for doing so. We would do

well to remember that those who are dedicated to our safety have to get it right every time, those who would harm us only have to get it right once to have succeeded. So maybe some of the burden has to fall on us, by being more vigilant and aware of our surroundings. I have over the past ten or so years certainly done this, rightly or wrongly I mentally profile my fellow passengers on aircraft, and where possible, I tend to avoid large crowds

This of course is that aim of the terrorists, to make us feel insecure and ill at ease, to make what we consider normal, into a situation that we somehow feel uncomfortable with, to be very selective about the countries we wish to visit.

It is an unpleasant fact that many of our public places can now no longer be considered safe

Gordon Clifford  
President

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### News from the Groups:

#### Allotment Group:

An iPad screenshot showing an email advertisement for an allotment group. The email header includes 'iPad', '22:08', and '79%' battery. The email content features a decorative floral border at the top with the word 'Allotment' in a blue cursive font. Below this, the text reads: '1 PLOT LEFT. 8X4 plot already dug ready for you to plant and enjoy growing your own veg or flower's, situated on the outskirts of La Xara Contact Pauline 965780228'. The text is in a dark red, bold font, and is flanked by decorative floral icons at the bottom.

## **Golf Group:**

Hi all

Summer here and our coach at Oliva is having some holiday time so he will be away from 25th May.

He will return on 1st June and away on 8th June then back all summer so let me know if you are going to want a lesson in the hot months of July and August

We finished our little competition on the par 3 course at Oliva last month and below is a photo of winners and runner up well done Greg and Margaret our medal winners.



John Reynolds (group leader)

For further information contact John – [golf@u3adenia.com](mailto:golf@u3adenia.com)

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## **Mahjong Group:**

### **REAL MAHJONG**

**NOT THE COMMON COMPUTER MATCHING GAME**



**Mah-jong** or **Mahjong** is a card **game** that originated in China. Four players play the **game** using numbered tiles. In all, there are 144 tiles, of which 36 tiles are in the Bamboo suit, 36 in the Stones suit, 36 in the Character suit, 16 Wind tiles, 12 Dragon tiles, and 8 bonus tiles (4 Flowers and 4 Seasons).

Similar to the Western card game rummy, **Mahjong** is a game of skill, strategy, and calculation and involves a degree of chance. The game is played with a set of 144 tiles based on Chinese characters and symbols:

### Stage 1 - Some Basic Rules

Mah-Jong is meant to be played by four people. This version works OK with three, but is less satisfactory with two. No scoring is involved.

### The aim of the game

The winner is the first player to declare a **Mah-Jong** hand consisting of 4 sets and a pair. Here's an example:



A set can be a **pung** (3 identical tiles) or a **chow** (a run of 3 tiles in the same suit), though only one of these is allowed.

## TILES



STONES



CHARACTERS



BAMBOOS



FLOWERS





## WINDS, ARROWS OR DRAGONS

There is a legend that the famous philosopher **Confucius** invented the game, but that has not been verified. Part of the reason for this myth is that historians have noted that the three dragon tiles agree exactly with **Confucius'** mentioning of the three noble virtues.

According to this source (**Mahjong**) Confucius and his love for birds seems to be at the origin of the name: also spelled majiang, mah jongg, and numerous other variants, is a game that originated in China. It is commonly played by four players

We meet every Friday 3.00pm for 2 hours play at Café Soles, Las Marinas

For further information please contact [mahjong@u3adenia.com](mailto:mahjong@u3adenia.com)

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### **Petanque Group:**

As the weather improves our members and their visiting family have been enjoying our Tuesday morning games.

There seems to be an international flavour amongst our members with many players coming to the Dénia area from country's far and wide including France, Germany, Holland, America and even as far as Costa Rica (and not forgetting my beloved Wales of course)!



As well as enjoying playing Petanque, we are rounding off the mornings play socially with refreshments and the option of a having a meal from Bassete Cafe Special Tuesday Petanque Menu.

We are also looking forward to our Summer Brunch following our games on Tuesday 6th June.

Ann  
Group Leader

[petanque@u3adenia.com](mailto:petanque@u3adenia.com)

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### **Quiz Group:**



The U3A Dénia quiz night takes place on the 4<sup>th</sup> Friday of the month at the Poligono Restaurant in Dénia. The price for the quiz, meal and including prizes is 13 Euros per person.

If you would like to be added to the mailing list for quiz nights please contact Richard [quiz@u3adenia.com](mailto:quiz@u3adenia.com)

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### **Racketball Group:**

We meet every Tuesday at the Squash Court at the Tennis Club de Dénia, subject to confirmation of attendance the weekend prior by email to the Group. Times differ, dependent upon the numbers playing, but we usually play from 0900 to 1100.

Occasionally, new players could arrange a different day/time to play.

Interested Members can come along to have a look at the game, or play, but should contact the Group Leader to confirm times. All Members are happy and able to help others to learn the game.

It is a more gentle version of Squash, played with larger rackets and balls, and is played on a Squash court with similar, simple rules. Rackets and balls are available to have a go, and those continuing to play will be expected to buy their own racket after a few games.

Players need usual kit, and shoes that will not mark the court. The session costs 4 euros, collected on the day. Changing Rooms and Showers are available subject to a 5 euro charge to the Club to receive a Pass Card. A Passport photo is required for this.

Racketball is an excellent way to maintain fitness and activity levels appropriate to our usual age group.

If you would like to join this group or would like further information please contact Brian Sear

[racketball@u3adenia.com](mailto:racketball@u3adenia.com)

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### **Sunday Walking Group**

Our walk from Tormos started with "a bit of culture"; Tormos Castle. 19 of us waited outside the entrance gate ten minutes after its supposed opening time, a call was made to the posted number which probably aroused the guardian from her bed. However, she eventually arrived to unlock the gate and this well informed young lady (she had graduated in archaeology) told us of the importance of this half Muslim, half Christian fortification. It was one of the line-of-sight castles and towers that gave warning of the approach of Barbary pirate ships on the coast. Its most important feature is the ancient graffiti, inscribed into plaster work in the walls, showing ships, animals and other things. It would be a good place to take grandchildren on a Sunday morning (open from 10.00a.m. to 2.00p.m. as in each room there is a little box which, when opened contains a clue as to the function of the room e.g. the stables had a box containing a carob pod. Children can write down their guesses and have them marked. After an hour at the castle, we left to complete a five hour walk.



The subsequent walk was in the beautiful Val de Galinera, starting from Beniali and instead of going up to the ridge containing the forat, we stayed on the north side of the town, walking up the PVR 43 to join a track on the corner of which is a most impressive well.



We then circled the Costera Dels Baladres (the place of oleanders - not an oleander in sight) along a the track that eventually joined the Villalonga to L'Orxta road with good views across to the forat ridge. A very steep descent to Al Patro passing the Penya d'en Vermeli (the red cliffs - more grey than red) followed, where we joined the well known footpath of the 8 villages circuit to take us, on this very hot day, back to Beniali for a refreshing cold beer.

Our final walk on the 28th May will be along the coast from Calpe to Moraira, no doubt with frequent stops for swimming, ice creams and other refreshments. Our summer recess will then continue until the temperature resumes cooler levels.

Saludos, Crawford  
sundaywalk@u3adenia.com

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### **Travel Group:**

### **Special Sunset Cruise – Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> June**







Some photographs of the event last year

There are just 12 places left now for this fundraising event on Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> June. Just €30 per person which includes goody food bag, ½ bottle of wine per person and entertainment by Rob Sweeney. A donation from each booking goes to raise money towards the summer outing to Aqualandia for the children who are resident at the care home in Dénia.

Please let me know now if you wish to reserve places for this event – [travel@u3adenia.com](mailto:travel@u3adenia.com)

### **Aqualandia 21<sup>st</sup> June:**

This is a special one day trip to Aqualandia by coach from Dénia as a summer treat for the children who are resident at the care home in Dénia which is funded by the generosity of U3A Dénia members who contribute with donations in the 'pink bucket' at the monthly members meetings and also attend the fund raising events which we hold during the year.

Aqualandia have given us a special entrance price for the 23 children and their carers. They have also offered a special price of €24 per person for any of our members who would like to attend. So if you have visitors at that time, especially younger family members, and you would like to treat them to a special day out, (€18 per child) then please let us know. You will be very welcome and the staff at the home have stated that they would love to meet some of the members who support them. It is also an opportunity to meet the children. As you can appreciate the home were understandably reluctant initially to have any details of the children released – and they still insist that no photographs of these vulnerable children are publicised outside of the U3A - which we fully understand and comply with.

Any U3A Dénia members and guests who wish to join the children for this event are very welcome and on arrival at the park can enjoy the day doing their own 'thing'. They will not be asked to pay anything towards the coach – just the special entrance fee. Just let me know as soon as possible if you wish to take advantage of this offer – contact [travel@u3adenia.com](mailto:travel@u3adenia.com) and let me know how many adults and children you wish to reserve places for. The coach will be collecting from the main bus stop on the front in Dénia – at the bottom of the Marquis de campo.

## St Josep Caves, Val D'Uixo – 22<sup>nd</sup> June

Thursday, 22 June. Cost: €50 pp including 3 course lunch with wine/water



The Sant Josep Caves are situated in the Sierra de Espadán Nature Reserve in the Vall d'Uixó, between Sagunto and Castellón. The longest navigable underground river in Europe flows through the caves, where archaeological remains of Palaeolithic sites and cave paintings have been found. During our English-guided 40 minute visit by boat and on foot, we'll see drawings from people who lived there over 15,000 years ago, dinosaur caves and impressive illuminated stalactites and stalagmites. The caves are an amazing natural phenomenon and are extraordinarily beautiful.



Following the trip, we take the coach to the nearby El Guano Bodega Restaurant, which is highly rated by Tripadvisor, for a delicious three course meal with wine.

This is a superb opportunity to visit these caves and enjoy lunch in a beautiful setting.

This trip is going ahead but there are just a few places left

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### **For Sale/Wanted:**



2 TP links with cable 10 Euros    1 Wi Fi TP link 10 Euros



Four Plug extension lead 5 Euros

Phone Maureen 966433487  
I live in Dénia near the old hospital

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Nov. 2005 Ford Focus 2.0 TDCi, 139,000 Km, 3 doors, Metallic black, sunroof, cruise control, alloys, 4 new tyres, FSH, VGC, €4,750 inc. transfer. 966427467 (Dénia) 629690722 Chris Whitehead

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**For Information:**

**Europe Day**

The event took place in the Municipal market on Tuesday 9th May from 11am to around 1.30pm



Gordon and Candy Wright Christine Ord, Candy and Neil Weatherall  
The event was very successful and enjoyed by all who attended

**Costa Blanca Male Voice Choir**



**COSTA BLANCA  
MALE VOICE CHOIR**

**CONCERT AT THE CAVE**

**Cueva de las Calaveras, Benidoleig**

**30th June at 8pm**

**Tickets 10€**

**Tel: 965 744 577**

**Email: [cbmalevoicechoir@gmail.com](mailto:cbmalevoicechoir@gmail.com)**

**Proceeds to local single-parent charity Guardian Angels and Proteccion Civil**



**Ayuntamiento de  
Benidoleig**

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## PRESS RELEASE

### Concert at the Cave

The popular Costa Blanca Male Voice Choir are holding a concert at the Cueva de las Calaveras in Benidoleig on June 30th. The audience will be seated in the cave and it is hoped will be a lovely, warm evening, whilst the choir will sing in the wonderful acoustics of the entrance to this historic cave.

The choir's Marketing and Publicity Officer, Vernon Pearce, who lives in Benidoleig, says "We are very excited about experiencing the acoustics of the cave and bringing our popular songs to a new audience from the Orba valley and surrounding areas."

"We are also dedicating the concert to the memory of one of our choir members, John Setford, who sadly passed away earlier this year. We are very grateful to the Cueva de las Calaveras, and to the Benidoleig ayuntamiento for helping us to put on this unique concert."

Tickets for the concert, which starts at 8pm, are 10€ and proceeds will go to the local based, single-parent charity Guardian Angels and Proteccion Civil. For more information and reservations, please call [965 744 577](tel:965744577) or email [cbmalevoicechoir@gmail.com](mailto:cbmalevoicechoir@gmail.com). The concert is recommended as seating space, which will be in the open air, is limited. The Restaurant, close by the cave, will be open specially between 6pm-10pm. A bar will be available but reservations are essential - tel. [96 640 0000](tel:966400000) or email [elcidspain@gmail.com](mailto:elcidspain@gmail.com)

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### **Guest Speakers**

Monthly meetings are on the third Thursday of each month with a break for July and August

**June** Ruby Philpott the geologist will tell us about the geology of detecting and discovery of oil in various parts of the world and the history of how and why it's there.

**September** we have a retired FIFA professional referee to tell us some interesting stories of his career.

**October** The Dénia Rock Choir will be here to entertain us.

**November** David Rohl the well known archaeologist and historian will give a talk on the real story of the Exodus from Egypt.

Hope you can come along to some or all of these events.

Christine Whitelock  
Vice president

If you have any questions which you would like to propose to any of our guest speakers please can you let Christine know and she will inform the relevant speaker so that they come to the meeting fully prepared. [vice-president@u3adenia.com](mailto:vice-president@u3adenia.com)

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