

# U3A Denia

Asociación de la  
Tercera Edad de Denia  
[www.u3adenia.org](http://www.u3adenia.org)



## January 2019 Newsletter

### Backgammon Group:



Hola my Gammonneers,

A good morning for the monthly BUMA trophy award for December.

Some exciting games with Barbara Priest winning her first ever competition.



Seen receiving her special Christmas superior wine and Christmas candles (and the Trophy)

Well done Barbara.

Last months weekly winners for the highest weekly points were Team leader Dave Thomas and Norman Kerr.

Another tight finish for the BUMA Trophy which was won by newcomer Terry Jeal in his first ever appearance with the group, seen receiving the prestigious Trophy.



Well done to Terry, who from this day forward will be known as 'The Bandit'. A warm welcome to another newcomer Joe who also played well.

Next week we will be back to the points system where I am sure 'Dublin Pete' will be back in the frame.

Hasta Luego, Dave.

We now meet at Andreus bar avda Joan Fuster every Friday at 10.00am.

Dave, Team leader

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

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## Cycling Group:

Some photographs from last Saturdays ride to Jesús Pobre.



We are a small group of riders who ride out at least once a week with mixed abilities and bicycles.

Our trips are easy rides just for fun and enjoyment of the beautiful orange groves and Almond blossom trees just coming into flower. As long or short as we feel able.

A really strange sight we saw Saturday, multi Coloured pigeons/ doves.



Google had reported, they are a hand painted Valencian tradition.

Barbara Doms – [cycling@u3adenia.com](mailto:cycling@u3adenia.com)

## **Petanque Group:**

A VERY HAPPY HEALTHY NEW YEAR to all our U3A members from the Petanque group.

So far this year we have been lucky enough to play petanque under blue skies although the weather has been much cooler.



Our hardy bunch of players have met up to compete against like minded people to win our lovely golden trophies every week despite the fact that we have no facilities available in Bassetes Park for the foreseeable future.



We would like to take this opportunity of thanking Veronica and Juan the past proprietors of the Cafe for their tremendous service and support these past four years and wish them all the best for the future with the hope their licence application will be granted very soon.

A big thank you too to our U3A president Ken Yendal for giving myself and the group his support at the Ajuntamiento in trying to resolve the closure of the Cafe to ensure we have the necessary facilities available to us.

On a happier note please see the smiling faces of our recent winners. Congratulations to them and commiserations to the runners up.

We are all looking forward to more fun and good competitions in the coming months.

Ann, Group Leader  
[petanque@u3adenia.com](mailto:petanque@u3adenia.com)

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## **Quiz Group:**

# QUIZ

The U3A Dénia quiz night takes place on the 4<sup>th</sup> Friday of the month at the Poligono Restaurant in Dénia except in December. 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 night please contact [quiz@u3adenia.com](mailto:quiz@u3adenia.com)

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## **Sunday Walking Group:**

Our Christmas walk had two dogs and two granddaughters for company. Both the girls, aged 5 and 7, and the dogs managed a four hour walk, the girls probably helped by calling into two members houses for sandwiches, mince pies and drinks.



The following walk was more of a challenge, around Segaria, a local mountain made infamous by the number of injuries it had caused to walkers and climbers.





The next amble is a bit of a roller coaster finishing with an "up and over" of the Penyes Blanques accumulating in 650metres of ascent and descent. I've promised the subsequent walk will be a bit easier.

Saludos, Crawford

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**Travel Group:**

**Trips taken:**

**December – Christmas in Nerja**

Over 50 U3A Dénia members enjoyed Christmas in Nerja.







Not only did they enjoy a stay in a lovely hotel with excellent food they got a tour of the Christmas lights



And a visit to local attractions – Frigialana and the caves







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### **January 15<sup>th</sup> 2019 Lion King Musical, Madrid with overnight stay:**

Twenty-one of our members, consisting of an international mix of Icelandic, German, Dutch, Canadian, Scottish, Welsh and English, descended on Madrid for a three day visit recently. With so few of us, it was easy to get to know each other and make new friends.

The weather was perfect, given the time of year, and we had sunshine and 15 degrees on all three days, although the temperature dropped like a stone at night.



Here's a picture taken outside the Palace showing thick frost in the shadow of the cathedral where the sun never reached.

Our hotel was just a ten minute stroll from Plaza Mayor - which was still sporting a giant sparkling silver Christmas tree - and all the tapas bars and restaurants that make Madrid a gourmet's paradise.





Just outside the Plaza is San Miguel, a covered market that now houses a number of bodegas selling delicious wine by the glass and countless stalls offering a mouthwatering selection of unusual tapas and seafood delicacies - not an albondigas or patatas bravas in sight! I could have stayed all evening here but seats were hard to come by, so it was just one tapa and move on elsewhere.

We spent our first free day individually on various pursuits from visiting the house of the famous painter Joaquin Sorolla, a guided walk of lesser known places of historical interest, a hop on hop off bus ride or just strolling around and getting a feel for this wonderful city.

In the evening, half of us were royally entertained with a theatre trip to see The Lion King. Breathless comments afterwards ranged from 'utterly superb,' 'better than fabulous,' 'wonderful costumes and dancing' and 'gorgeous music.'

There was still time next morning for more sightseeing or shopping before we left at 2pm and arrived back in Dénia before eight, having had a really enjoyable experience.

GINNY WHITEHEAD

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### **Trips to come in 2019:**

**7th February 2019 Fallas Factory & Museum – Fully Booked**

**29<sup>th</sup> March 2019 My Fair Lady**



Javea Players are performing the Lerner & Loewes' My Fair Lady at the Union Musical, Gata They have offered to reserve a block of seats for U3A Dénia on Friday 29th March.

We have therefore negotiated a price for coach transport from Dénia/Ondara for those who no longer like driving at night.

The price for return coach and the show is €24 per person

The show starts at 7.30pm - there is a 20 minute interval during which time reasonably priced drinks will be on sale. The show then ends at 22.30 - the coach will be available at 22.40 for the return journey.

We do hope that you will find this of interest - we do need to get at least 35 people travelling by coach to make this viable. The block of seats will be reserved until 3rd February so please book your places before that date.

Cost per person - 24€

**11th May 2019 Prague, Vienna, Budapest - Fully Booked**

**14<sup>th</sup> June - A visit to Guadalest**

In the morning we will visit Guadalest. Situated on a mountain overlooking the valley of the river Guadalest, the town is surrounded by the mountain chains of Sierra d'Aixorta, Sierra de Serella and Sierra de Aitana. The way there leads through pine forests, citrusgroves, nispera and almond trees the sight of which makes for a very pleasant journey.



Then take your own picnic lunch for an afternoon at **Algar Falls** picnic area followed by a walk around the falls -





- April:** Elvis Fiesta at Benidorm Palace with overnight stay in a nearby hotel.
- May:** Caravaca de la Cruz – Running of the horses - Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> May.
- Sept:** Sunset Cruise fundraiser
- October:** Xativa and Gandia – dotty train to do a tour of Xativa passing the Borja house. Then a meal at lunchtime in a local restaurant. Then rejoin the coach and visit Gandia and the Borja Palace.
- Dec:** Christmas – possibly Benalmádena with visits to the White Village, Caves, Malaga lights and Mijas. Other venues are also being considered.

Full details of events listed above will be published on the travel pages of the U3A Dénia website as soon as exact dates and prices have been finalised.

If you have any problems booking for any of these events please contact [travel@u3adenia.com](mailto:travel@u3adenia.com) and we will be happy to assist.

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### **For Information:**

The children who are resident at the care home in Dénia enjoyed their special treats from our own U3A Papa Noel (Mick Nial) at their Christmas party. Masses of food, lots of noise and fun, the children's carers are all so nice, and a very different mix of children this year, no little ones younger than six, and many immigrant children. All were so pleasant, well behaved.



One of our members, Anna McVittie, who has helped with English/Spanish conversation at the home, purchased a large fluffy dog toy for the children to share.

She cut out pieces of paper and staff rounded up all the younger children and they were each given one to write down names for the dog. When Father Christmas had distributed the presents (which the children went wild over, so happy, the winning name was read out: Coco. The choice of names was really interesting. The dear little chap who "won" was able to have Coco to himself for that evening.





You might like to know a few of the other names the children wrote on the papers to draw of out my bag to call the dog! Shimi Shimi, Carlos (this little boy wished the dog to be called after him!!), Simba (a wonderful choice - "Simba" means lion in Swahili - he must have seen the film The Lion King, I imagine!), Chuxi, Llango, Jachi, Platino .... One little boy put in a blank paper as he could not think of a name he liked in time, bless him.

A big thank you to all those members who continue to donate money in the Pink Bucket at the monthly meetings – this money together with generous donations from other organisations and various fund raising events such as the Sunset Cruise is what is used to purchase the Christmas presents.

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### **For Sale/Wanted**



4 black iron wall lights with glass in very good condition 30 euros o n o

Please contact [carleric20@outlook.com](mailto:carleric20@outlook.com)

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Barn door for sale. 105 cms wide and 186 drop.

€85

Contact: [nicolemorley7@gmail.com](mailto:nicolemorley7@gmail.com)



Desk €85

Contact: [nicolemorley7@gmail.com](mailto:nicolemorley7@gmail.com)

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## MONTHLY MEETING GUEST SPEAKERS:

**February** 2019 – AGM. Also a poetry reading

**March** 2019 – A talk by Ray Wilcox a retired prison governor who now lives in La Xara and is an author.



### About a Nurse



*“The doctor doesn’t need to examine your hand. The pain is most likely from hitting the call button over 50 times in the last hour.”*

If you have any articles/contribution to the newsletter please email  
[pamrowlinson@gmail.com](mailto:pamrowlinson@gmail.com)