

U3A Denia

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



February 2019 Newsletter

Backgammon Group:



Hello my Gammoners, another exciting BUMA Trophy morning (Backgammon Unique Monthly Award).

The prestigious award was won by none other than Team Leader, Dave Thomas to rapturous applause from his fellow team members.



Dave seen receiving the Trophy from last months winner and this weeks finalist Terry Jeal.

Back to the points system next Friday, followed by our monthly meal.

See you all next week, Dave.

Dave, Team Leader

backgammon@u3adenia.com

Cycling Group:

Cooler mornings had our intrepid cyclists meeting up in all sorts of places. On route, to suit our more "Leisurely Team", the green lane, a cycle track, and of course Café de cyclist bar, Las Marinas, at a slightly later time.



Our rides have taken us around to all sorts of places, to the nearby Els Poblets, Deveses Camp Site, The Torre Carrals – a medieval tower as picture, and as the picture of Jim shows the view of the Old Bull Ring in Ondara.



We are blessed with fantastic weather. It's great getting out and about doing good for our health.



Anyone know what this um bikey contraption is? Perhaps the next person is bringing one along!!!

Barbara Doms – cycling@u3adenia.com

Fishing Group:

The fishing group continue to enjoy their days out every week with some nice fish being caught. Best this year so far is a 15 pound carp caught last week. We hope things will improve once the water temperature warms up.

If any new members would like to join us now is the best time as the licence to fish starts in January. Pensionista rate is €33 for the year – fantastic value compared to fishing in the UK.

We try to fish on Thursday mainly but have to change the day occasionally due to weather conditions. Obviously our members fish when they can fit a day in during their busy week. We keep our days out as casual as possible and it is not all about competitions etc. More important to enjoy the fishing and the company on the day.

Our members are a friendly bunch and I am sure that they will help any new members with regards to tackle and methods we fish.

Please see below photographs from our annual cup presentation and lunch which took place on 27th January at the Gran Sol Hotel, Calpe. 23 members and wives attended...



If you need any further information please email me: fswordfish@yahoo.co.uk

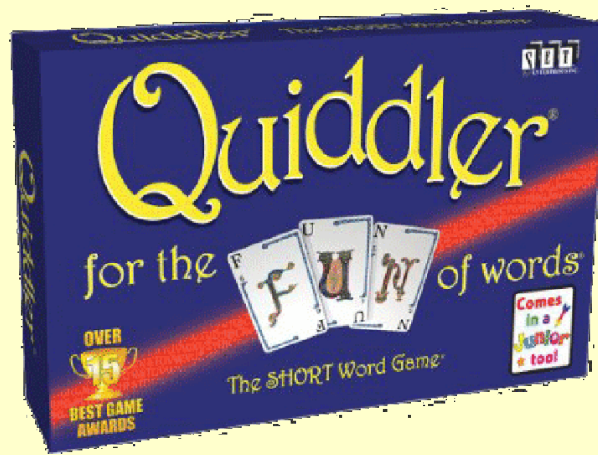
Kind regards

Derek

Every day is Saturday in Spain

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Games Night:



Unfortunately numbers have been very low for this new group that I started last October. Unless there are about 20 people it's not worth carrying on as obviously numbers decrease in the summer in any event.

I will give it one more go in March – so if you want to learn two new games, Skipbo and Quiddler, please come and join us at the Kathmandu Restaurant along the Las Marinas Road on Tuesday 5th March at 6.30pm. Also please let me know if you want any further information.

Norma games@u3adenia.com

Mahjong Group:



Meetings:

Time: 1500 every Friday for 2 hours

Venue: New Café Soles on the street parallel to Las Marinas

Looking for a new hobby for 2019? Why not try Mahjong?!

If you would like to learn this fascinating game with its Windy Chows, Double Knitting, Pongs, Kongs and so much more come along and join us for a couple of hours at Café Soles starting at 3pm every Friday afternoon.

We are a friendly group and happy to help absolute beginners as well as to welcome people who have played before.

For more information please contact Margaret Jenrick on mahjong@u3adenia.com or just come along.

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Petanque Group:

Many of our regular members have been coming to play Petanque in Bassetes Park each Tuesday and thank goodness the weather has been kind to us warming up nicely through the mornings.

Obviously we are all sad at the closure of the Cafe, the toilet facilities and we are missing the warm greetings we were getting from Veronica and Juan each week and the lovely food and drinks they served us as it was a good opportunity to also enjoy each other's company when we had lunch together after our games.

Our best wishes for a successful future are sent to these hard working kids who deserve to prosper and have a brilliant future! The lack of facilities has seen a drop in numbers coming to play but the competition has still given us many close games and the photos below show the teams who have shone to become our weekly winners. Congratulations to them all!



Ann – Group Leader
petanque@u3adenia.com

Quiz Group:



The U3A Dénia quiz night takes place on the 4th Friday of the month at the Poligono restaurant in Dénia except in December.

The price for the quiz, meal and including prizes is €13 per person.

If you would like to be added to the mailing list for quiz night please contact quiz@u3adenia.com

Travel Group:

Trips taken:

A FALLAS TRIP WITH DIFFERENCE

Rather than run the usual day trip to Valencia to see the fallas before they're burned, the Travel Group decided to try a different experience for our members this year.

Fallas in the making. Fifty-one of us filled the coach and our first stop was a factory on a Valencian industrial estate that made the fallas. The one in production cost €240,000 and was depicting art in its oldest form and in its more modern form of graffiti. Conscious of the pollution arising from the burning of polystyrene, it was being constructed with pine wood so that it would burn 'white' and not 'black.'

The size of this fallas was astounding, and it was still only in pieces.



'Elf 'n' Safety would have a heart attack had they seen the working conditions and everyone got high on the smell of glue!

Lunch in the sun - Next stop was in the centre of Valencia, where we spent a delightful couple of hours in the sunshine, shopping or sightseeing and having a lunch. Valencia was surprisingly busy with tourists for this time of year, but far less crowded than it would be during Fallas. Later in the afternoon we boarded our coach again and had a picturesque half hour drive around Valencia to the Fallas Museum, which is just opposite the City of Arts and Sciences. For me, this was the highlight of our day.

Pardoned from fire In 1934, an initiative was put forward called *indult del foc*, which means 'pardoned from fire.' so that every year the best ninot is 'pardoned' and not burnt. What forethought! In a converted convent, the museum houses a collection of these ninots - part of the winning fallas for every year since 1936. Ninots saved from the earliest years are stunningly lifelike as they were made from wax, wood and normal clothing. As the years progressed, new materials like cardboard (50s), polyester (60s and 70s) and now expanded polystyrene is used.

Earliest ninots depicted portraits of craftsmen and family life:



Later ninots showed comical scenes and reflected the social changes of the times:



I can't show you a favourite ninot as they were all fabulous, but here are a couple that particularly caught my eye:



We had a fantastic day out and felt we had learned so much more about the Fallas than we would have done had we just taken the usual day trip to a very crowded and noisy Valencia. My thanks to all our travellers, who were a great crowd and always boarded the coach on time. It made my day so much easier and allowed me to enjoy it too.

GINNY WHITEHEAD

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Trips to come in 2019:

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

14th June – A visit to Guadalest and Algar Falls

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, citrus groves, 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 –





7th April: Elvis Fiesta at Benidorm Palace with overnight stay in a nearby hotel.

Elvis show at Benidorm Palace with dinner and one night in 4* Hotel Deloix Aqua Centre with Breakfast.



Price includes:

Coach transfer
1 night in Hotel with breakfast
Elvis show with dinner (either chicken and chips or fish and chips)
Basic Travel insurance

SORRY - NO MORE SINGLE ROOMS LEFT IN THE HOTEL FOR THIS EVENT

Only 3 double/twin rooms left for this event

Cost for a double room - 196€

Cost for a single room - 119€

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1st May: Caravaca de la Cruz – Running of the horses



Departing on 1 May 2019 and returning on 2 May 2019
1st May depart for Murcia

Guided tour of Murcia
Free time for lunch
Free time in Murcia
1 night in Hotel Zenit

2nd May after breakfast depart for Caravaca de la Cruz

Guided tour and free time to enjoy the fiestas of Caravaca de la Cruz
Reserved seats in Gran Via to watch the parades of Moors and Christians and the decorated wine horses
Lunch in Restaurant Castillo de la Cruz where you can watch the Wine Caval Race on the wide screen
Depart for return to Dénia late afternoon

Basic travel insurance included

Cost for a double room - 220€
Cost for a single room - 130€

Sept: Sunset Cruise fund raiser

October: Xativa and Gandia



4th October

Depart Dénia for Soccorada Micro Brewery, Xativa



Guided tour of brewery in English with an explanation of the process of manufacturing craft beer

Snacks and beer tasting

Depart for Xativa town

Dotty train tour which takes us up to the castle

Lunch in the castle restaurant

In the afternoon a guided tour in English of the Ducal Palace, Gandia



Price includes:

Guided tour of brewery

visit to castle

lunch

Guided tour of Ducal Palace

Basic insurance

Cost per person – 55€

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Dec: CHRISTMAS ON THE COSTA DEL SOL - 5 days, 4 nights

Departing on 23 December 2019 and returning on 27 December 2019

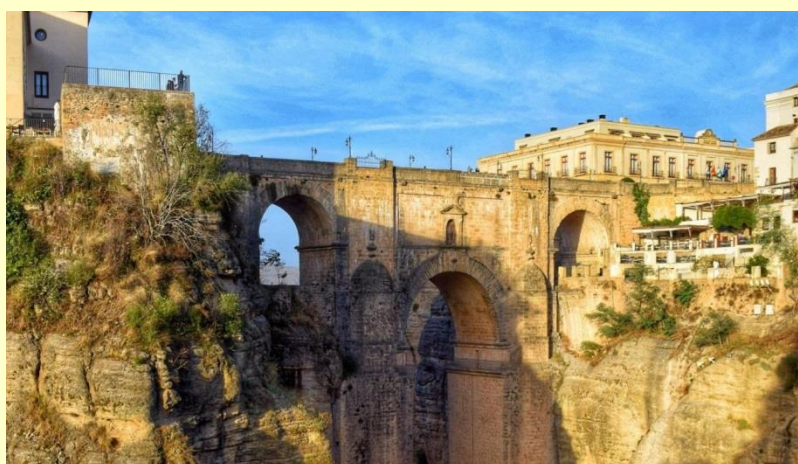
Join us for a fantastic five day, four night Christmas break in the four star Hotel Blue Sea Cervantes in Torremolinos.



The trip includes excursions to:



Gibraltar



Ronda



and Malaga Christmas lights

There will be a special Gala Christmas Day Lunch.

The price - which is all inclusive (full board and all drinks) - includes driver and guide tips, Christmas crackers and mint chocolates on Christmas Day and sweets on the coach. Final price depends on the number of travellers.

To help you budget, we will take staged payments throughout the year with the final payment on 1 November.

We can have 12 single rooms.

Double Room:

Group 30 - 39 €532

Group 40 - 49 €499

Group 50 - 55 €595

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 and we will be happy to assist.

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Ukelele Group:

Burns' Night Celebration

A brilliant evening to celebrate Burns' Night was enjoyed by all at El Comercio.

First up was our Compère for the evening, U3A's very own president, Ken Yendall. Following his introduction, the haggis was piped in by Jim Carnichan, who looked a splendid sight in his full regalia.



Mairead Hurman, also looking great in her tartan, presented the haggis.



Peter Syme then addressed the haggis in the words of the great Robbie Burns, a slightly unsettling sight as he gestured with a very large knife!

Then followed an excellent performance of poems written by Federico Garcia Lorca, and sung by Klàra Sarkada, Master of Musical Education and Director of the Orfeón Choir of Denia. She was accompanied on classical guitar by Àlvar Bertomeu, who also performed an instrumental piece with great skill.



After dinner (haggis of course!), The Immortal Memory was recited by Alf Mossop, who went on to give his 'Toast to the Lassies', and Norma Syme gave her 'Response to the Laddies'. Both speeches were very entertaining and amusing.

We then joined in a singalong with a number of Scottish songs performed by 'The Ukaholics' ukulele band (U3A Ukulele Group) including 'Scotland the Brave' and 'Donald Where's Your Troosers!' In a break from tradition at Burns' Night events, the final song was 'Waltzing Mathilda'. This was a suggestion from Ken, as 26th January is Australia Day, and by this stage it was 26th in Australia!



Cazzie Millington gave us a beautiful solo rendition of 'My Love is Like a Red, Red Rose', with words by Robbie Burns.

After the raffle, we had a go at some Scottish Country Dancing, with varied levels of success! Trying to keep us all in order was Norma Syme, but some of us, myself included, were not the best students. Great fun!

To round off the evening, Compère Ken thanked all those who had worked so hard to organise the event, then led us in Auld Lang Syne.

All in all a very successful event, which raised the sum of €284 towards the Family Day Out for residents of the Children's Care Home in Dénia, organised by U3A Dénia every summer. A most worthwhile cause.



Pam Rowlinson, coordinator for the children's home project U3A Denia received a donation of €300 from James Canichan raised on our Burns' Night celebration at El Comercio, Marques de Campo, Dénia.

This will be put towards a summer 'Family Day Out' for the residents of the Children's Care Home in Dénia.

Looking on are Ginny Whitehead and Gordon Clifford (Trustees of Dénia U3A), Mary Bolger and Mairead Huurman from the Ukelele Group and Mary Carnichan.

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For Sale:



Patio table and reclining wooden chairs with full cushions

Only €130

Contact Mick 660 416 100



Bosch freezer VGC €45

Contact Mick 660 416 100

WANTED:



Wanted – the free services of a computer whiz to wipe clean my computer so that I can donate it and a printer to the children's home.

I live in the centre of Dénia and my boundless gratitude will include home made cake and coffee and a jar of marmalade!

Ginny Whitehead cheftalia47@gmail.com

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For Information:

EXTIENDE TU MANO

Just a reminder that the blue bucket will be at the monthly meeting to enable members to donate towards purchasing meat for the soup kitchen in Dénia. The kitchen provides a nutritious meal for around 48 people a day and breakfast and a packed lunch for children from families who are unable to provide such themselves.

They also welcome none perishable foods such as rice, tinned produce, clean bedding and clothes. Shampoo, soap and toothpaste are also welcomed as they have shower facilities for the homeless.

CASA DE LAS MENORES

The pink bucket is for donations toward a 'family day out' for the 23 children who live at the residential care home in Dénia. Last year they chose Aqualandia



MONTHLY MEETING GUEST SPEAKERS:

March 2019

A talk by Ray Wilcox – a retired prison governor and author who now lives in La Xara.



**If you have any articles/contribution for the newsletter please email
pamrowlinson@gmail.com**