

THE VOICE

January 2020

Issue 47



President's Message

On behalf of myself and your Committee I wish you all a great 2020.

As we enter 2020 I would ask you all to take stock of how our U3A is working for you and how you can take advantage of what we have to offer. Keep an eye on our website for information and announcements during the year from Trips and Events to Groups and Special activities.

Each month on the 4th Thursday we hold our monthly meeting, here you can meet new or existing friends over coffee and biscuits plus you will be given up to date information regarding our organisation. At each of our meetings we have a presenter with an interesting topic from different perspectives. I have recently heard one member say they nearly didn't go to a meeting due to the presenter's subject but pleased she did as it was very interesting. I can assure everyone that we try to book presenters who have a story to tell or valuable information to give.

In each edition you can find an update on Groups, also visit our website and take advantage of what the Groups offer, the majority are free while a small number have a small weekly charge to cover instructor fees etc. If you can not find an item of interest please contact [Angela](#) our Group co-ordinator.

Anja our Travel co-ordinator is in urgent need for members to join the Travel Team, this can be your opportunity to help arrange a trip or a special event. No experience in organizing trips etc is necessary but enthusiasm is, this is your chance to help bring pleasure to our members when they visit areas and places they didn't know existed. As a travel team member you are not required to be a committee member but to work with Anja to help arrange trips and events for the enjoyment of our whole membership. please contact [Anja](#) to join the team.

Please enjoy your U3A year and join in all the activities and different Groups we offer.

President Mick Goy

COME AND JOIN US FOR OUR JANUARY MONTHLY MEETING

This will be on Thursday

23th of January, starting at 11.00am

This will be at our normal venue the Polivalent

**The Presenter for this meeting is a
Representative from :**

The Denia Cancer Charity Amunt Contra

The doors will open at 10.15am with the Meeting starting at 11.00am.

There will be our usual Coffee, Tea and Books with all donations going to our charities

Come and join us for this our first meeting of 2020

Groups Update and News

Happy New Year to you all. I hope you are still enjoying your group activities and maybe with your New Year's resolutions you would like to try a few more. Modern Jive on Friday evening? Astronomy or History to stretch the brain? Or Book Lovers, Knitting, Crafts, Photography or Sing and Play? These are just a few of the free groups you can join if pennies are scarce after Christmas. Please do check through the main groups page to see all groups on offer.

News

Members of the Craft group need to check time and venue, because of room demand at the CPC.

The History of the Spanish Civil War Group will continue at the CPC on Thursday 16th January.

Due to the pending closure of Viva Espania, (23rd January) any groups that meet there are now looking for new venues, so please keep checking the group page.

After a bit of a wobbly start I can now confirm that Dance Latin American starts on Thursday 23rd January, please check the webpage for more details.

And lastly Sewing / Dressmaking. So far we have had a few members responding with interest in learning or supporting each other in a group. I have now learned that there is a Spanish lady, living in the Old Town, who previously has taught sewing, and is willing for us to use her house for the group and help us develop our skills. So, not only can you learn sewing skills, but also

Spanish! This group is still under development, but if you are interested in joining please do contact me.

The Photography Group held it's first outing of 2020 at the port area in Denia. Although the subject matter was a bit scarce, they still managed to take a few photos while catching up on what everyone had been doing over Christmas.

Our next photo shoot will be on Wednesday 5th February and details of the location will be posted on the group page next week.

New members always welcome!

And finally from me on groups, my mind is slowly turning towards the end of year event on June, The Summer Fayre. If any member has any ideas of how it can be improved from last year, or any other suggestions, please email me. I am always happy to listen to others and steal your ideas:) or maybe you would like to join a sub committee to help with the organisation/marketing/setting up or just practical skills on the day. Email me please Angela_town@hotmail.co.uk

The U3A Astronomy for Beginners Group Update

Although we are a new group, we have attracted a considerable amount of interest from U3A Members. We have had very successful group meetings with many interesting topics discussed and group members have been encouraged to view the night sky, locate the planets visible in the evening sky and explore the constellations. Members of the group were encouraged to use a pair of inexpensive binoculars for their observations as these will provide incredible details in the far-off star clusters, nebulae also show a number of distant galaxies.

The Christmas break will soon come to an end and the regular fortnightly meetings will resume, January 9th 4:00 at the CPC in Oliva. The topics for discussion at the next meeting will be the Winter's brightest constellations, Orion, Taurus, Gemini and Canis Major, identifying their stars and objects of interest for observing using naked eye and binoculars.

On the nights of January 3rd and 4th there was an opportunity to view the "Quadrantids meteors", bright shooting stars emanating from a point close to the "tail" of the "Great Bear". Meteor showers take their name from the constellation from which they appear to radiate from, however there is no constellation with that name, it has become obsolete and was known as "Quadrans Muralis", an instrument used by astronomers a few hundred years ago. Meteors are tiny particles of rocky or metal material which were released as a comet passed close to the Sun. This debris forms a long stretched toroidal arc through which the Earth passes at certain times of the year. As we pass through the meteor stream, it can be likened to driving through falling snow. The combined movement of the Earth and meteors can be in excess of 60km/s and the particles burn up as they enter the Earth's atmosphere producing a bright flash.

For the casual observer Venus can be readily seen approximately 30 minutes after sunset and it is the only planet to be seen in the evening sky without optical aid. The bright constellation Orion is now a dominant feature in the evening sky if you look south. The orange coloured star Betelgeuse marking his right shoulder and brilliant blue star Rigel marking his left knee. If you look carefully at Orion it is possible to see the "sword" below his "Belt Stars". If you take a look at the "sword" using

binoculars it is easy to see the fuzzy outline of "The Orion Nebula". The bright star Sirius can be seen rising about 8:00pm, try to view it as rises, twinkling and flashing many colours. Sirius is quite close to us about 9 light years, hotter than our Sun and pure white in colour, however the flashes of pink, green, blue which are caused by starlight being refracted by our unsteady atmosphere.

I hope this inspires you to take a peek at the night sky and if your interest is aroused do consider joining our friendly and informal the Beginners Astronomy Group.

Happy New Year Everyone

James Ince Group Leader.

New Almoner update

Many of you will be familiar with the role of Almoner in U3A Oliva. For the benefit of those who are not, here is a brief description.

The Almoner's role is to assist members who have an emergency due to accident or illness, by putting them in touch with other members who are able to offer assistance such as shopping, dog walking, transport, translating etc, or to lend medical equipment such as crutches, wheelchairs or other useful items.

This is a supplement to the official medical and emergency services, not a replacement, and fills the gap that would be normally be covered by family support if we were in our own countries. Many of us are without families around us here, so it is a useful addition to the U3A resources.

In order for the Almoner to carry out these responsibilities, it is necessary to compile a list of members who can help with any of the above tasks or items. Please get in touch with the Almoner completing the form (Click here) or by emailing almoner@u3a-oliva.org with your full name and telephone number, plus details of the assistance you can offer or the items you can lend.

It is very important to have a good register of helpers and equipment in order to carry out this valuable service. Remember, it could be you who needs it!

Our new Almoner, who is taking over from Joanna Humphries, is Sheila Edwards, and she is looking forward to hearing from many of you with offers of help.

For more information consult the Almoner page of the website under 'members' info'

On your behalf I send Sheila our best wishes in her new role

Report on the Alternative Christmas

The U3A Oliva Alternative Christmas amble is in its eleventh year, and 15 members and five dogs enjoyed a lovely 25th of December amble and festive picnic.

This year we returned to Salem and after coffee set off for our walk to the picnic ground at Font d,Elca. As usual the food was superb and and the weather kind.

Why not join us next year for a change from the usual celebrations?



Travel Update

We have and are arranging trips for you to enjoy over the coming months, these are :

March 4 : a visit to ONTINYENT where we first discover the ins and outs of the "Embroidery" workshop focused on the requirements of the Semana Santa; there after a visit to the Colegio "La Concepcion" where we will admire the treasures of the South American pre-Colombian art pieces; lunch and the finale in Anna to visit the "Pequena Alhambra"

April 16 : a day full of Ceramic History of the Valencian region starting in Manises visiting the Ceramic Museum and the former Ceramic Factory of Jose Gimeno Martinez including its shop; we finish the day with a visit to the Lladro Factory and its shop.

May and June to be announced on a later date.

For these and more keep an eye on our website for registration and full information on all the trips.

Press and Publicity

I held the first 'Find out More' coffee and information session today and am happy to report the Oliva U3A will be getting two new members. If you know anyone who is not a member and would like to find out more, please send them to the Municipal Market on Friday's 11am. Or alternatively if you would like to come and chat with me about groups, I will be there most weeks. Sue Arnott, Press and Publicity Assistant, will also be there. She has recently joined me as part of the publicity team, to help keep the U3A name in the public eye and I am definitely going to take advantage of her marketing skills. So please do come and say hello next Friday. We will be sitting outside at the

back of the market, near the Tia Chia stall, who incidentally do some rather delicious fruit slices and coffee...not helping my New Year diet:).

What are we doing to help promote Oliva U3A?

Regular press releases are being sent out, although some of the free papers do not realize there is a town called Oliva, and fail to print our news. We could do with some really good articles if you have any news to share. We also plan to create some new posters and will be hoping for members to get them visible far and near. To make sure the members are having a say in what groups, trips and events there are, there is a plan afoot to send out a questionnaire, but this project does rely on members actually reading and completing it. It has been said that apathy rules, but I'm hoping you will prove me right and reaffirm your interest and support for our U3A when we get 100% returns on the questionnaire.

If anyone else would like to join the Publicity team, please email me: Angela_town@hotmail.co.uk

Report on our November Trip

Our trip in November to the Dulcesol Factory, now with a new name after the first owner "Vicky", was a big success. We were able to see the whole process from start to finish of all the buns they sell to Burger King, the croissants, breads etc from very close by. Amazing machinery. After the visit we all got a "surprise bag".

The visit to the air raid shelters in Gandia were impressive especially because of the relatively recent history of the Spanish Civil War and the discovery of the tunnels at the beginning of this century.

The travel Team wishes everybody a very Happy and Healthy New Year and wants to thank all the members for their "travel" support.

Report by Anja Homberg

Line Dancing Group Report



Members of the Line Dancing Group visited the Preventorio in Real de Gandia on Wednesday to give the children a demonstration. They also taught them a dance so everyone could join in.

Choir Reports

Over the Christmas celebration period we sang at different places including the churches in Gandia and Denia, Plus we sang to the residents of the residential home next to the CPC. At this concert we sang a number of Christmas Carols including two in Spanish. At the end we presented the residents with 14 handmade crocheted knee blankets and 2 boxes of biscuits. The residents reaction to our singing was excellent and they wished us to sing more.

Report by Lynda Goy



On January the 3rd we were invited by the Ayuntamiento to sing at their street concert in Carrer del Comte d'Oliva. At this venue we followed a very good magician who was entertaining the children. The choir sang 7 different Carols and the music was enjoyed by everyone who attended.



Report by Lynda Goy

Papa Noel and Madre Noel

In the run up to Christmas the Oliva Ayuntamiento were disappointed to learn the Madre Santa could not attend their meet the children event on Sunday 22nd of December. To help overcome the children's disappointment Lynda was asked to help. From the photo below you can see Papa and Madre Noel waiting for the children to arrive. This took place on the Paseo in the morning and again from 17.00 to 20.00h when the children gave Santa their present wish list. There was also a section where children could sit at tables to make little gifts to take home.



Modern Jive

Are you fed up with feeling slow and lethargic after the Christmas and new year celebrations?

Well! we have the answer at our dance class. Modern Jive is a slower form of rock n' roll/jive, so is easier than you might think.

The classes are based on peoples enjoyment and held in a very relaxed atmosphere. It will also help you get fitter and feel better for the moves you will learn.

We especially need single men as we have single ladies who are waiting for dance partners.

So why not come and try a session or two to see if you like it, even if you think that you can't dance I'm sure that we can teach you a few steps, and who knows?

The class is held at the CPC in Oliva every Friday, starting the 10th Jan, from 6.15 to 7.15pm. For more information [click here](#)

Hope to see you there.

Best wishes for the New year. Ray & Pam

**IF YOU HAVE ANY ITEM OR REPORT WE CAN INCLUDE IN OUR NEXT EDITION PLEASE
SEND IT TO ME AT mickgoy1@gmail.com BEFORE THE 8TH OF EACH MONTH.**

Thank you for reading this edition our next publication Voice will be with you on the 15th of
February.

Have a great month and please check out all the activities we offer.

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