

THE VOICE

December 2019

Issue 46

President's Message

Welcome to our Christmas edition of the Voice, in this issue you will find updates on our recent activities. Please note there will be NO Monthly Meeting this December but we will be back on January the 23rd, we hope to see you on this occasion.

As you may notice this edition is shorter than normal but hope you find it interesting. I apologise for the poor layout this is in part due to a change in the website programme of which I have no control.

On behalf of your Committee and myself we wish you a Merry Christmas and a Prosperous 2020.

President

**PLEASE BE ADVISED THAT
THERE WILL BE NO
DECEMBER MONTHLY MEETING
DUE TO CHRISTMAS**

Groups Update

For anyone who wishes to come and chat with me or another member about the groups or a new idea, you will find us (starting January 10th) drinking coffee on a **friday morning in the indoor market 11am** for at least an hour. Thursday if friday is a fiesta. I always love a good natter, so please come and find me.

Fishing has had its first meeting to discuss when, where and the basic details of the group. anyone interested in joining please contact Paul.

Bridge: Are looking for new players who have basic card playing skills. They meet on Thursdays 10-1pm (stay as long as you want).

Dance Latin American: We have a couple of professional dancers willing to take our members through their paces for Chachacha, Pasodoble, Samba and the Rumba, and probably a lot more. They are offering the choice of 3 days and charge 5 euros per person per session. The sessions will be held in the San Francesc area of Oliva. Please contact Anthony, the Group Leader if interested.

Keyboard for beginners has now started and is being held in the Mont Pego area. More members welcome

Yoga has two sessions (Monday and Friday) both 10.30 to 11.30 and are both held in the San Francesc centre.

IT Support no longer has regular meetings but is 'as and when' required, by contacting Kelvin

Possible new groups for January: anyone interested please contact Angela Town

Card Making

Dressmaking/sewing

Also, **Stand-up paddle board** taster session in the spring. let me know if you are interested.

Please can you also mention the 2-day event of craft beer home brew



Childrens Christmas Party

Again, this year the Children's Christmas Party was a great success. 50 children enjoyed the time from the food to the entertainment. At 6.30pm Santa Claus arrived at the hall and was immediately mobbed by the children. Once he managed to free himself, he was able to give everyone a shoe box present, each child also had their photograph taken with Santa and their present.

My thanks go to Atul and Veronica for the entertainment, The volunteer helpers both in the morning to decorate the hall and in the evening looking after the food and helping Atul and Veronica.

This evening was a great start to the forthcoming Christmas period



HISTORY AND APPRECIATION OF ART Visit to Valencia

On a sunny morning on the 19th of November members of the HAA group met on Xeraco station for their second visit to Valencia and IVAM, the Instituto Valencia de Arte Moderno. After essential refreshments on our arrival in the city we hopped onto the no. 5 bus which took us around to the Casa Museo Benlliure, dedicated to three generations the family of artists, and home of Jose Benlliure and son 'Pepino' and daughter Maria, who gave the house and its collection of works to the city in 1957.



The ground floor is furnished as it was in the day, and includes works by Sorolla, Pepino's teacher, and other artists, while the upper gallery floors show the works of this gifted family. A delightful garden patio, decorated with picture tiles leads to a two story house which served as studios.

A short walk brought us to IVAM where the main exhibition is *Jean Dubuffet, A Barbarian in Europe*. The French artist Dubuffet (1901 – 85), inspired by the unsophisticated and untutored art of children, primitive societies and the 'outsider art' of the mentally disturbed, which he thought worthy of full recognition in the canon of artistic endeavour, developed a personal style which is at once intuitive, savage, forceful and direct, giving rise to the term l'Art Brut.



In complete contrast is: *Reinventing Representation, Dutch Art Between the Wars*. This small exhibition features work by a number of painters deserving of wider knowledge; chief among them Charlie Toorop (1891 - 1955), daughter of a painter. A sequence of her self portraits revealing psychological insight into the process of ageing. "Is the natural appearance reality," she wondered in 1917, "or can we sense in its form only the most unreal that appears before us? This unreal, which is the most real."

We went for lunch at the nearby vegetarian restaurant La Lluna, which provides an excellent four courses for 8.50 €. Fortified by this and a bottle of wine some of the group returned to see more of the exhibitions, while others, saving them for another day returned to the station, via the charming streets of central Valencia.

Fake Games, The Collectivised Monument is an installation by Madrid artist Fernando Sánchez Castillo. Hundreds of small plastic figures, arranged in a grid on the gallery floor and falling backwards in an attitude of a dying soldier, are based on one of the most famous of war photographs. Taken during the Spanish Civil War, *Death of a Loyalist Militiaman* by the Hungarian/American/ photographer Robert Capa as a chance shot when he poked his camera above the trench and pressed the trigger, it was published in Picture Post and Life Magazine as such.



However, recent research into the landscape background shows it to have been 'staged', in a different area; which understanding confronts us with questions of what is real and what is fake. There is no photographic record of the death of a soldier, but Capa must have witnessed many; so is the reenactment of the event fake news or a pictorial report of a journalist that carries its own truth about the nature of war? After viewing the installation the visitor can write a comment on a post-it note and stick it on the wall, in return for which is given one of the toy soldiers.

The History and Appreciation of Art group meets on the first Monday of the month; for more information please go to the webpage.

Christmas Party Report

On Friday the 7th of December 86 members and guests enjoyed an excellent Christmas Party. This was held at Moli Canyon in Potries.

The party started at 18.30 with a Cava Reception which gave our guests time to meet and talk to friends. This was followed by a warm welcome from our President who also gave an outline of the evening's activities, including the introduction of our musical entertainment for the evening which was by John Curtis of Bayradio.



Following the excellent 6 course meal which everyone I spoke to really enjoyed it there was dancing to music from the Sixties and seventies. At the end of this half of the

dancing the Raffle was drawn but before we could start we had a surprise visit from Santa and Mrs Santa

who volunteered to help with the ticket draw and handing out of the winning prizes. In total there were 17 prizes from smaller items right up to the star

prize. I am pleased to announce that Julie Adams was the winner of the star prize which was two tickets for the new Benidorm Palace show Aqua, congratulations to Julie and we wish both Julie and Alan a great evening.



Following the raffle a guest, Julie Adams was given a small present to celebrating her 88th birthday, a second birthday present was also given to Gill Potter who was also celebrating her Birthday. Following a big thank you to Lynda Goy for the decorations, to Anja and Franscoise for arranging the evening, to Santa and Mrs Santa for their appearance and finally a thank you went to John Curtis for his entertainment.

The final section of the party was given to dancing and the evening finished around midnight.

If you did not make this superb Christmas Party I can assure you you missed a really brilliant evening.



Line Dancing Update

Line Dancing starts again on Monday 13th January. We would love to see some new members join us to kick start the new year.

Anyone who wants to try dancing can come to the CPC on the 13th at 10:00 a.m. for an absolute beginner half hour, followed by the normal beginners class until 11:00. The Improvers section runs from 11:00 until 12:00 followed by a period of request dances.

The 13th January session will be free. New dancers should drop the Group Leader an email just so we know how many to expect.

It's worth saying that we no longer dance to just Country and Western music. Our teacher Nigel has a huge range of music to keep us amused!

If anyone wants to get some exercise in a fun environment to shed the Christmas kilos, Line Dancing could be just the thing!

Thanks Betty.

U3A Choir Update

The U3A Choir were invited to sing at two local churches carol services.

On December the 4th the choir led the singing at the service and sang 3 Carols of their own. This was held at the Gandia Church next to the Borja Palace. This was a great success and was followed by drinks and mince pies.



On December the 11th they were invited to sing at the Church in Las Rotes in Denia. On this occasion the choir again led the singing during the service and sang 3 different Carols to

Gandia. Like Gandia this service was well attended and was a great success. The service was followed by Mulled Wine and Mince Pies.

Thank you for reading this our December edition and the January publication will be with you on the 15th.

I again wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.