

The state of alarm has now ended. Some restrictions will be easing but please take care everyone and keep to the social distancing measures we have all had to come to terms with over the last three months, to help keep the virus away from the Marina Baixa region.

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Travel.

Extremadura Refund.

Refunds are now available from LPD Travel less the 10 euros insurance cost.

Malcolm and I would like to acknowledge the efforts made by LPD Travel in securing these refunds.

Considerable legal costs for LPD ensured we were able to have these refunds quickly

Cordoba and Caravaca.

Deposit refunds are now available from LPD

IBIZA (Seven-day trip)

1st - 7th October 2020.

A 7-day trip to Ibiza staying in San Antonio. Travelling by coach to Denia then we take the ferry to San Antonio with transfer to 3* hotel 'Invisa Espla' with full board and unlimited drinks with lunch & dinner.

Cost: double room €329pp. single room €449pp a Deposit €50pp. we have no dates when further payments need to be paid.

Please register your interest for this trip.

This trip will only go ahead if it is safe to do so. Further emails will be sent when new information is available.

Contact: Margaret or Malcolm Hamer
for bookings. Tel: 602 293 642

President's Report

Hello all.



Ruth Morris

We have now moved to Phase 3 and although we must wear masks in all shops and in public areas where social distancing is not possible, it is becoming second nature to pick up a mask on the way out of the house.

The weather has certainly been changeable over the last week or so with thunderstorms and sunshine two minutes later, and the heatwave in the UK certainly seems to be a thing of the past.

We have heard of quite a few deaths in recent weeks, including my own mother who was suffering with dementia over the last two years, but in a lot of cases there has been the opportunity of having a web viewing at the actual funeral, although this is also very hit and miss, again in my case it was a complete miss. All we can do in that situation is remember them as they were and not as they appeared in the last few months of their illness.

Good news though is that the beach in Albir is now open, including the toilet facilities, which I am assured by the Town Hall in Alfaz that they will be cleaned 6 times per day. **The children's** playgrounds will remain closed, however.

Our various group activities are still on hold, although we did manage to have a committee meeting recently as we are allowed to meet with groups of up to 20 people, so I am sure that some of you are meeting up with friends and or family.

Charity shops seem to be quite full now and I think I have exhausted my contributions so far, therefore I will have to find other things to do.

Stay safe everyone, till next month hasta luego

Keep checking the website Newsboard page for regular weekly updates.

Some group activities will resume in the next few weeks as restrictions are lifted.

Sunday Strollers.

For several years your U3A has been running a monthly group get together called SUNDAY STROLLERS.

Marina Baixa is a beautiful part of The Costa Blanca. Those of us who live here are aware of this beauty and many of us like to explore. Some of us have chosen to do this on our own or with close friends. We are aware however that of our three hundred odd members many may find wandering a lonely activity or being just visitors having a problem in knowing where to go. To help members to enjoy a leisurely stroll often to less well-known areas and to meet new and often visiting members this is a perfect activity opportunity.

We call it a STROLL because we want to include as many members as possible and therefore choose strolls which are mostly wheelchair friendly or at least a fairly easy walk. We leave the strenuous stuff to (WALKING GROUPS). Our strolls are more chatting than anything with or making friends. Some easy slopes in places and should a more difficult stroll be chosen then we will publish a warning. We normally stroll for a couple of hours or so normally in a circular or **'there and back'** route led by an experienced strolling leader who often will organise a break halfway or at the end for a coffee or beer in a local cafe.

We try to pick meeting areas where there is ample parking and many of our strollers share transport where possible. New members can always contact the group coordinator Andy Graham via the website for information on friendly members willing to give a lift if possible. The name of the game is strolling and chatting.

Held on the Sunday following the monthly general meeting.
Start times - Winter 2.30 pm
Summer 6.00pm.
We do not meet in AUGUST

Spanish Language Group.

When we moved to Spain in 2004 my first taste of the Spanish language was on Camping El Raco where a lady came on to the site once a week to help a small group of us learn the basics. I then went to Camping Villasol, again once a week, to another lady offering Spanish classes but I then wanted to learn more so I had a course of private lessons at the Orsini Academy in Benidorm and followed those with 2 years of study through the Ayuntamiento. The teachers there were Spanish and spoke no English, so it was difficult when I wanted something explained **which I didn't understand.** My Spanish neighbour did her best to help me when I had queries, but she too spoke very little English. However, I persevered and when Bill and I joined U3A Doromy Hammett asked me if I would be willing to take over the Beginners Spanish group from her.



As a retired teacher I was happy to give it a go and spent the summer months preparing packs of work to share with members everything I had learned. Now, some 11 years later, the Spanish Group continues to remain popular and for the last 2 years I have run 3 classes to cater for a range of needs. Due to Covid-19, classes came to an abrupt halt on 11th March. Fortunately, two of the classes had almost completed their courses but the Beginners were only about halfway through, so we are going to continue in September where we left off in March. However, there will be a separate Beginners class for those who have either no, or very limited, knowledge of the language. Unfortunately, there will not be an Intermediate class in September as the focus will be on establishing the basics. I think all the members taking part have made new friends and some have even met for coffee between classes to practise speaking in Spanish. At Christmas and when classes finish for the Summer, we have a meal out together. I have received some wonderful gifts and cards over the years, all of which have meant a great deal to me, as too have the friends I have made. So, if you want to start learning Spanish why not give it a try. No textbooks are used, no tests or exams are taken, but plenty of handouts are provided to build up into a useful reference source and there are always a few games to help reinforce what has been learned.



Spanish classes will hopefully resume on the 9th September

As mentioned at our last meeting a few months ago next year is the
MARINA BAI XA



15th

Anniversary year.

**We are asking you all for
some ideas to help us raise
funds for a celebration**



Making a difference local charity support.

Charitable Gifts for La Nucia and L'Alfaz del Pi Food Banks.

The Committee decided that in view of the difficult time which many families are experiencing because of loss of income caused by the Covid-19 crisis the U3A Marina Baixa should use its Charity Fund to help those in need. Our Charity Coordinator met representatives of La Nucia and L'Alfaz Town Halls and **together bought various food items to the value of €500 each.** The owner of the Dialprix supermarket assisted with the selection which consisted of both fresh produce and dry foods such as noodles and rice as well as long-life milk identifying the best value of the items and sold them at cost-price less a discount. The Food Banks have storage facilities and make sure that the recipients really do need help to avoid abuse of the generosity of the various charitable donations. *Anthony Coles Charity Co Ordinator.*



Donations made through members support and generosity.

Some more Lexophiles.

- "Marathon runners with bad footwear suffer the agony of defeat."
- "The short fortune teller who escaped from prison was a small medium at large."
- "The roundest knight at King Arthur's round table was Sir Cumference."
- "Bakers trade bread recipes on a knead to know basis."
- "A boiled egg is hard to beat."
- "When a clock is hungry it goes back four seconds."
- "If you don't pay your exorcist you can get repossessed"
- "A backward poet writes inverse."
- "A thief fell and broke his leg in wet cement. He became a hardened criminal."
- "If you take a laptop computer for a run you could jog your memory."
- "Two silkworms had a race. They ended up in a tie."

Congratulations to INGEBORG KROONWIJK & Goldie the Retriever.



The Lucky Winner of the six bottles of wine for entering the SUDOKU competition we ran in May.

Joan Flint



Marina Baixa



Editorial by Elaine Mitchell

Celebrating 10 Years as Secretary.

Well what can I say – **I can't say everything there is to say about Joan. The words 'efficient rock' come to mind.**

Geoff & I joined the U3A in 2010 there is a long story involving Joan behind this – I will keep it brief. Joan was left behind (through no fault of her own) after a shopping trip to Ikea and a bag with her comfortable shoes in was on the coach. This bag was very elusive. However, through friends of friends of **friends the bag complete with Joan's shoes turned up about a year later. At this point we didn't know Joan* and we didn't know of the U3A. We were told where Joan & Bill lived and told we would know the house because of an East Warwickshire Caravan Club plaque on the wall. So, we duly delivered the shoes. Introductions followed, we were made very welcome, invited onto their naya for a cool drink – as a result of this we joined the U3A at the next meeting. * I said we didn't know Joan & Bill, but it transpired that years before both of us moving to Spain - they were East Warwickshire Caravan Club members and we were Leicestershire Caravan Club members. Geoff was chairman at the same time as Joan and they would have met at the Central Counties Caravan Committee meetings!!! Also, on subsequent CCC rallies with their family and ours!!! What a small world.**



Joan Flint Secretary

We very quickly became quite involved and I joined the committee in 2011 as Newsletter Editor, Press Office and Webmaster – these were all one job then (The Association was very much smaller). Joan was at the helm as Secretary and – I am sure I would not have coped without her. Sitting in committee Joan **was never flustered, had all her papers in order, was 'on the ball' and very efficient.** On top of that Joan lead the weekly Spanish lessons and at that time, sugar craft, exquisite work.

It didn't matter what was happening in world, government, politics and changes, we could all be assured that Joan would have the necessary update and information to pass on. Just as she has done throughout this Corona Virus.



Hard shoes to follow – but follow well, I know someone will.

During three years that I was president 2015/6/7 there were essential changes to the Constitution and that was a frustrating and time consuming job which included Joan and myself going to Alicante with Martine from the Town Hall. Throughout this Joan continued to be the calm efficient rock. The job was **eventually done with Joan's famous smile.**





Feliz Aniversario

Apart from the secretarial expertise and precision Joan is a brilliant Hostess, always with Bill's support at her side. There was a worrying time when various things went on the back burner because Bill was so poorly. Even then, Joan held everything together within the U3A.



When planning each one of the many events in their garden, Joan again led the team brilliantly. The planning in advance was always immaculately thought out. Lists on the fridge for each committee member to choose a job and tick it off. Eggs to be shelled, cucumber to be sliced, tomatoes, sliced or quartered, ham to be rolled, cheese to be grated, salad greens to be washed. Pâté to be sliced. etc etc etc.. 100 plates to be prepared or a serving table to be planned. Everyone had a job to do and because of Joan's planning everything went like clockwork. Thank you, Joan. – Bill was never far away either.

2011 Summer BBQ, 2012, Jubilee Garden Party, 2013 Hog roast, also Christmas in July, Ploughman's lunch, Wild West, Not only these many garden parties but also the organisation of Europe Day and International Day. "Ye Olde Tea Shoppe" what most people saw was the scene set, up and running. Who was behind the setting up...Yes, Joan & Bill. Yes, there was always a team, but the fine planning was usually down to Joan.



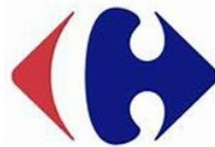
During the life of the U3A Marina Baja, the meetings have been held in various places, the inaugural meeting in 2006 in La Nucía, on 27 November with 29 members + 4 visitors. Then during Joan's time as Secretary, downstairs in a small room at the Forum Mare Nostrum, (from 2007) moving to a meeting room on the 2nd floor at the casa de Cultura in 2010. In 2014 we saw the move to the new Social Centre in Albir. It was there that the association grew to numbers larger than the license for Albir, so a move back to the Casa de Cultura in 2015 this time in the auditorium. This was becoming difficult for various reasons and so another move, this time back to the Forum Mare Nostrum but in the large meeting room. Each time there has been a move there has been paperwork and organisation and a lot more behind the scenes – always carried out to perfection by Joan.

After TEN YEARS on behalf of the U3A Marina Baja members can I say THANK YOU JOAN and thank you Bill for all your support given to Joan.



Name the Brand / Logo competition.

Write each companies name in the relevant boxes below each logo and email it back to the U3A



Win Two bottles of wine.

Fill in your answers and email it back to the editor for entry into this months competition. A Photo of the completed page will do.

Name#

Membership#

One entry per member. All correct entries will go into the draw. The more you get correct the better your chance of winning. Editors decision is final. Good Luck. Closing date: 14th August 2020 u3aterry@gmail.com

Group Activities A - Z

3C's Chaps Chatter & Coffee



Weekly - Thursdays
Saints & Sinners,
Albir 10.30 am

Contact: Geoff Mitchell
96 686 4962

Bridge - Intermediate



Weekly - Tuesdays

Hogar del Pensionista
Albir
4.00 pm - 6.00 pm
Contact: Ann Yerasosian
96 588 8414

Café Philo



Monthly -

10.00 am to 11.30 am
The Forum, Alfaz del Pi
Contact: Kate Ferry
96 584 5039

Classical Music



Monthly - (Oct to Apr)
2nd Wednesday

10.30 am to 12.30 pm
Geoff Mitchell's home, Albir
Contact: Geoff Mitchell
96 686 4962

Crafts



Weekly - Thursdays

Albir Social Centre
12.30 pm - 3.00 pm
Contact: Hazel Layt
659 018 400

Guitar Lessons



Weekly - Wednesdays
Next Door to Isa Rastro,
N-332, Albir
4.00 pm
Contact: Peter Ritson
96 687 5282

Member Assistance



On Demand
Support group for
Members in special need.
Contact: Sue Bell
680 214 320
Backup: Maureen Barrett
688 680 645

Petanca



Weekly - Thursdays
Scandinavia Park
Alfaz del Pi
6.30 pm
Contact: Colin Wilson
684 424 588

Solo Amigos



At Various times
Next Meeting TBA

See full details below.
Contact: Liz Blanchard
96 687 7364

Spanish Culture



Bi-monthly (Oct to Apr)
2nd Wednesday

2.30 pm
The Forum, Alfaz del Pi
Contact: Elaine Mitchell
96 686 4962

Spanish Language



Weekly - Wednesdays
Casa de Cultura, Alfaz
Beginners: 1.00 pm
Improvers: 2.00 pm
Improvers: 3.00 pm
Contact: Joan Flint
96 680 8591

Sunday Strollers



Monthly -
Sunday 28th June.

See full details below.
Contact: Colin Wilson
684 424 588

Ten-pin Bowling



Monthly -
1st Tuesday

7.15 pm for 7.30 pm start
La Marina Centre, Finestrat
Contact: Martin Greener
684 423 586

Watercolour



Monthly -
1st Monday

11.00 am to 1.00 pm
Casa de Cultura, Alfaz
Contact: Elaine Mitchell
96 686 4962

Writers' Help Group



Monthly -

11.00 am
Roy Gough's Home, Albir
Contact: Roy Gough
605 395 211

Latest Group News

Sunday Strollers.

Now that we have progressed to Phase 3 the strollers are off again. Sunday 28th June, RIO ALGAR at Altea. Meeting at 5.45 in the car park alongside the tram line bridge over the river in Altea for 6.00 pm start. My contact number is 602297299 Andy Graham.

Spanish Language Classes.

All being well these will start again on the 9th September.
Contact Joan Flint for further details via the website link or telephone.

Please look for further updates regarding group activities restarting on the Newsboard page on the website. This page is updated at least once a week.





Brexit

With everything being about Covid of late, normality starts again to a degree. **It's** now time to make sure you are prepared for a possible UK-EU no deal situation.

The British Government appear to be unwilling to extend the agreed transition period, its looking more likely that December 31st is the EU departure date.

Residencia appointments are now becoming available again. UK-Spanish driving licence transfers are taking a few months but if your application is in process there should be no problems. Keep your Padron up to date with the local town hall. **It's now time** to make sure all your paperwork is in order.



Funnies

With so many sporting events being cancelled they are going to televise the world origami championships on paper view

Polce toay have sa they are nvestgatng a strng of ID thefts.

Just in case your ever asked.

The space between your eyebrows is called a **Glabella**.

The rumbling in your stomach is called a **Wamble**.

Your little toe or finger is called a **Minimus**.

The sickly feeling you sometimes get after eating and drinking is called **Crapulence**.



Membership renewals are usually due within the first quarter of the year. Due to the current situation and no meetings being held, many members have yet to renew this year. Kindly renew now please if you have forgotten. **Pay now via the website.**



Keeping Up-To-Date

Don't forget that you can view this newsletter and keep up to date with the latest Association news and activities by checking our website:

www.u3amarinabaixa.com

We are also available on Facebook and you can find us by searching for:

U3A Marina Baixa

Please view the full online digital version of the newsletter for all Group Leaders contact details.

keep sending in your articles and contributions towards next month's edition of the newsletter.



Next Meeting

Possibly 28th Sept

We will keep you informed

Membership fees.

Associate Membership fee will continue remain at €1 for family/friends to attend a group activity. U3A Travel events in the future will incur an additional percentage surcharge for non-members.

Newsletter.

The committee has decided that no charges will be made for the monthly printed Newsletter.

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