

FROM OUR PRESIDENT

I hope that you all had a very enjoyable Easter. I think that we were lucky as far as the weather goes with not too much rain and some pleasant sunshine. That awful yellow pollen from the pine trees has stopped, but it is now the turn of the "rice crispies", to be followed by the pine needles. Oh joy!!

Firstly, I would like to thank everyone for putting their trust in me to act as President, and I am looking forward to contributing to the running of the Association over the next 12 months or so. Since the AGM, the new Executive Committee have held their first meeting, and we are already working towards achieving the objectives I gave at the Annual General Meeting. I am pleased to say that at this meeting and in accordance with the policies and statutes of the Association, Ron Hughes was appointed Vice President. Some of you may know Ron through his involvement as a Group Leader for the Family History Group and as a member of the Petanque Group. On behalf of the Committee and the Association as a whole, I would like to extend a warm welcome to Ron.

Our Deputy Membership Secretary (DMS), Karen White, has decided to retire and allow someone else an opportunity to serve in this role. Karen has been DMS for the last five years and she has done a wonderful job in assisting the Membership Secretary. Our profound thanks go to Karen for all her dedicated and thorough work. I am pleased to announce that Wendy Main has volunteered to take Karen's place as DMS and a formal announcement will be made at a later date.

Arrangements for the May Ball are now pretty well finalised, and some 337 members and guests are currently booked to attend. The evening promises to be excellent entertainment, and will undoubtedly be a memorable occasion for those attending. Providing the entertainment will be the Back Beat 4 Beatles and DJ Eric Taylor. A tombola raffle will be held on the evening, and we have some 80 excellent prizes donated. Please make sure that you purchase your tombola tickets soon after arriving at the venue, El Canor, on the night.

At the end of March, the Association held its first Tea Dance at the Social Centre in Jávea Old Town. This event was organised by Shirley King, who was ably assisted by her tea maids Indya and Ellese Gill. Fifty members attended, all of whom enjoyed a full English tea with sandwiches, cakes and scones. Dances were varied in style, starting with waltz's, foxtrots and quick steps and then on to line dancing and rock and roll. The music was provided by DJ Eric Taylor, who presented a wide variety of music. Everyone enjoyed themselves and the event was a great success. Our huge thanks go to Shirley for organising such an enjoyable event.

Our activity groups continue to provide us with excellent events and activities, thanks mainly to the efforts of our Group Leaders (GLs). Our Groups Co-ordinator, John Bellinger-Smith, and Jenny Wessendorff the Deputy Groups Co-ordinator, planned a working lunch meeting which was held last week for GLs to meet and discuss current group issues, exchange some ideas and views, and air any problems that may be evident.

Please be aware that the Romanian Robbery Gangs are once again active in the Costa Blanca. More details of this and other scams can be seen on our website.

Finally, I look forward to seeing as many of you as can make it, to our monthly general assembly meeting at the Parador Hotel on 25th April. Our guest speaker will be Dawn Perrier Baker, who will be talking about the excavation of the Mary Rose, Henry VIII's flagship, which sank suddenly in the Solent. Dawn was a young diver and part of the team involved in this fascinating excavation and is active in promoting the work of the Mary Rose Trust. In her talk, Dawn will tell us what the Mary Rose Project has taught us about Tudor life and she will also show us some artefacts recovered from the wreck.

Peter Allin

Featured in this Month's Issue:

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Our next collection for our 2012 Charity, **Cancer Care Javea**, will be at the April Parador meeting which is on the 25th April. Please carry on donating clothes, household goods and any other suitable items which are saleable. However, we would ask that **large and heavy items are taken straight to the shop** as they will be difficult to transport from the Parador on the actual day.

MAY BALL AND COACH

There are still a few tickets left for the **May Ball**. The last few will be on sale at the Parador meeting on 25th April.

Due to demand 2 coaches have been ordered to take members to the Ball but there are still places available on the second coach. If you would like to come to the ball by coach please reserve your place, and pay for it, at the April Parador meeting.



MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

If you have already paid your membership, and are not in possession of your new 2012 Membership Card, these can be collected from the **New Members** desk. These uncollected cards will be available for collection at each Parador meeting.

If you have changed your contact details, eg, telephone number, email address, please let me know.

The total membership now stands at 1,112 members.

Howard Parker
Membership Secretary
membership.secretary@u3ajavea.org

GROUP NEWS

Welcome to all our new members on this the first newsletter since the AGM and I look forward to all members taking the opportunity to join one of our groups, including the latest group, Pilates. Last Tuesday all the Group Leaders got together for the opportunity to discuss how the Association can help to support them in their group activities. Below is a photograph of the group leaders taken by Tom Miller just before the meeting. During the meeting I had the opportunity to congratulate our eldest, and very active, group leader, Gillian Birth who runs the Discussion Group and who celebrates her 90th birthday next week. Happy Birthday Gillian.

John Bellinger-Smith Groups Co-Ordinator - groups.coordinator@u3ajavea.org



FEATURED GROUP



The Friends of Avinença Group

Q . . What is Avinença?. . An association of some 40+ organizations, throughout the provinces of Castellon, Valencia and Alicante, that are involved in the preservation of the natural, historical and cultural heritage of the Region of Valencia. The association's members include many local NGOs as well as private and local authority backed projects.

Q . . . Where do the Friends of Avinença (F.o.A) fit in? . . Formed just over 2 years ago, mainly from U3A members across the Marina Alta, the F.o.A is a self funding support group of people who want to learn more about this land in which they have chosen to live. Their interest and commitment has resulted in F.o.A members being able to visit and participate in a diverse range of activities.

Q . . . Such as? . . We started by visiting some of the more unusual activities undertaken by Avinença members, each time with expert English speaking guides or interpreters. We visited a vulture re-introduction centre and feeding station to learn of their place in the ecology of the area. We have visited archaeological sites, endangered species breeding units, the loggerhead turtle recuperation centre, fiestas, marshlands, many organic farms including tiger nut growing , a dairy farm, orange growers, specialist vineyards, a date farm and many more. We have seen cork being harvested and processed, oranges by the thousands being prepared for large scale distribution, broccoli being prepared for the English supermarkets.

Access to many of these activities is usually denied to the general public. However, as the folk running them have come to appreciate that we are not just a group of oldies out on a 'jolly', more doors have been opened to us and this is continuing. However we are not a passive group. We also have become involved in active roles . . .

Q . . . What do you mean by 'active roles' . . Well the underlying interest of Avinença is 'land stewardship'. Noting our interest and involvement we have been asked if we would like to helping with the management of the Senillar Lagoon in Moraira, an olive grove in Beniarbeig and a stretch of the Girona River. FoA members are now involved in all of these activities. We also have members involved in the Iberian Seawatch Bird Survey and others monitoring endangered species of flora.

From time to time we receive invitations to take part in activities with other Avinença groups. We have helped remove brushwood in the Mariola Forest, helped to clear non indigenous flora and plant indigenous species in the Albufera Natural Park, and planted over 500 shrubs on a fire devastated mountainside.

Q . . . How many members do you have? . . There are some 400 folk who are involved in our various activities. Not all are from UK, most European countries are represented. Membership is free. Those who join and don't take part in our activities for a year are deleted from membership.

Q . . .How do we find out more of what you are doing? . . . Talk with Paul before the U3A meeting in the room where the Travel and Cultural Arts folk are to be found or go to the FoA website www.avinenca.es and sign up for membership, but please remember that the Friends of Avinenca are not a travel group as such.
Paul Pruden (Group Leader)

MORE GROUP NEWS

Dining Out Group

Our April Dining Out Event will be held at restaurant Masena and 83 members have booked to attend. We have still not finalised the venue for our May event but it will be held on Thursday 24th.



Peter Speer (Group Leader)
Dining.out@u3ajavea.org

Discussion Group

The next meeting will take place on Friday 4th May 2012 in the Javea Social Centre from 4.00 pm – 6.00 pm when the topic will be "**Looking at Comparative Religions**". New members are very welcome.

Gill Birch (Group Leader)
depgroupcoord@u3ajavea.org

Foodies Group

The next Foodies Group meeting will take place on Thursday 17th May at 11.30 a.m. It is yet to be officially confirmed, but I am hoping it is going to take place at an Indian restaurant (Ghurka Palace) and we will be having a demonstration of some genuine southern Indian cooking. I will confirm this as soon as possible. The June meeting (on 21st June) is going to take place in my garden (on the Montgo) where we will have an end of year gathering. The theme may be an oyster tasting party, but we have yet to finalize this, as some of you may prefer a different theme. There are no meetings in July and August. All members of the Foodies group are welcome to bring a guest, as long as you inform me beforehand.

Gillian Breen (Group Leader)
foodies@u3ajavea.org

Friends of Avenicca

The Javea U3a Friends of Avinenca group are combining with other FoA members to take part in a special 'Teach In' day on Friday 11th May. The subject will be 'How to read a River'. The Director of LIMNE, the Valencian organisation that is responsible for monitoring the health of our rivers will be explaining the holistic approach that is taken when assessing the quality of the rivers. This will include surveys of the flora, fauna, bird and aquatic life. Places are limited. If you would like to join us please apply through our website www.avinenca.es

Additionally, on Tuesday 15th May, there will be a very special trip to the Natural Park at La Murta, for a flora walk and whilst there we will visit the ruined monastery and learn about the changes that happened to the monasteries in Spain in the 1800's. This, combined with a walking tour of old Gandia to find out about this historic town, will make it a very interesting day.

Paul Pruden (Group Leader)

History Group

Following Geoff Woodward's excellent biography of King Juan Carlos I in April, we shall continue to have a Spanish focus at our next meeting which will be at **1.15 on Monday, May 14** in the Casa de Cultura in the pueblo. **Mike Granville** will present "**The Decline of the Spanish Empire**".

In the 16th century Spain's was the first empire on which the sun never set; by the middle of the 19th century it had all but disappeared. Mike will chart the decline, telling us how and why things all went wrong, and he will outline the empire's legacy – a fascinating story.

By definition, everyone in the Jávea U3A is a member of the History Group so come along on the 14th; there's no need to book. To learn more about the group or to have your name added to our e-mailing list please contact the group leader.

Peter Atkinson (Group Leader)
history@u3ajavea.org

Not Just Folk Music Group

The next meeting of the group will be held on Monday 30th April 2012, gathering at 7.00 pm for a 7.30 pm start, and the session will conclude at around 10.30 pm. **Again we will be meeting at the Javea Bowls Club, The Inn on the Green, which is situated on the Cami de Cansalades between Javea and Benitachell on the road to Cansalades Park.**

Please let me know if you are able and would like to come to this session of the Group as soon as possible, either on my new telephone number which is 96-646-3955 or by E Mail to folk.music@u3ajavea.org Anyone interested in joining the group should contact me in the first instance, preferably by E Mail at the above address.

For more information on the Group and its schedule of meetings for 2012, visit the Not Just Folk Music Group page on the Javea U3A web site.

Paul Wessendorff (Group Leader)

Play Reading Group

Now that Keith has finished his radiotherapy we have decided to go on a holiday. This will take us through to May so again there will not be a meeting in April. Sorry about this but I will try to arrange something for May.

Penny Grant (Group Leader)

play.reading@u3ajavea.org

Pilates Group

The first Pilates group meeting took place at Javea Players Studio on Thursday April 12th. (For those who do not know where this is located, it is in the road behind Bookworld Espana, two units along from Fuentes Restaurant).

There has been such an interest in the group that there is now a waiting list as the instructor has limited the number taking part in the classes. However, arrangements are being made to hold a second session, on a day and time to be arranged, which might also be at a different venue.

There are a few places left on the waiting list for the additional session so if you are interested please contact the Group Leader.

Rummikubs Group 1

This Rummikubs Group no longer holds its meetings at Quo Vadis, but at Inn on The Green Bowls Club, Javea – 3.15 for 3.30 pm start.

Krystyna Stefanczyk (Group Leader)

social.rummikubs@u3ajavea.org

Scrabble Group

Future Scrabble meetings will now take place at the Parador Hotel on Wednesday instead of Friday. The usual fun sessions will commence at 3 pm on Wednesday, the 18th April, and we look forward to hearing from members wanting to join this happy and friendly group.

Helga Edge (Group Leader)

scrabble@u3ajavea.org

Solos on Sunday Group

Yesterday we had our April event which seemed very successful.

I would like to thank all the members who came and also an extra thank you to those who sent messages of appreciation. The lunch was held at a new venue 'THE MIRA JAVEA' which we found to be very good, a lot of people thought excellent. A lovely setting with stunning views. The staff worked very hard to make the experience so good. Thank you George and please thank all your staff

In May we will hold the lunch on May 20th. I have yet to seek out a new venue for us all. I will let you know in due course.

Enjoy yourselves in this beautiful weather.

Love to all,

Graham Castleton (Group Leader)

solo.on.sunday@u3ajavea.org

Travellers Tales Group

Our next meeting will take place on Tuesday 24th April, when Cherry & Tony Cabban will be giving a presentation on their trip to **"Chile, Central America & Northern Mexico"**. Venue: the Javea Players' Studio (located in the road behind Book World Espana, Javea old town). Please arrive at 11.30 a.m. for a 12 p.m. start. New members always welcome!

Angela Chantry (Group Leader)

travellers.tales@u3ajavea.org

Tuesday Talks

Tuesday Talks are given on the first Tuesday of the month in the splendid comfort of the main auditorium on the lower floor of Casa De Cultura in Javea Old Town. Go down the steps by the tourist office (opposite the central Church) and turn left. The Casa De Cultura is the modern building in front of you. All U3A Javea members are welcome to these FREE talks. No booking is necessary so just turn up and take a seat.

The April talk (3rd April) was given by David Ord from Denia on the subject of Space Debris, both natural and man made. David and his wife Christine are group leaders of the Denia Astronomical Society so when I write that the information and images given and shown were on par with the best of them you should not be surprised.

For various reasons the start time has been moved from 10.30 to 11.30am but as from September the time will be readjusted to 11.00. It may also be of interest that the name of the activity will change to ART APPRECIATION.

NEXT Tuesday Talk will be on the 2nd of May when Dee Craig will examine the lives and times of the Spanish 'Reyes Catolicos' Ferdinand and Isabella.

If you wish to be sent a timely reminder of all future talks a few days before they take place please send your name and email address to tuesday.lectures@u3ajavea.org
Cheda Panajotovic (Group Leader)

******* Please visit your website at
www.u3ajavea.org for news about other groups and
group leader contact detail**



INFORMATION

[New or amended discounts for Javea U3A Members can now be found on the web site following this link:](#)

<http://www.u3ajavea.org/Group-Independent/PDFs/Discounts.pdf>

CARE AND SHARE TEAM

The team offers support and practical assistance to others within the Javea U3A who, like the team members, have suffered loss. If you would like further information please contact:

careshareineke@u3ajavea.org
caresharepat@u3ajavea.org
Ineke Butcher - Team Leader

BOOK SWAP & AUDIO BOOK SWAP. Brenda will be pleased to see you at the Parador meeting, Remember to bring along your books or audio books. There is a small charge of 50c if you have no book to swap, this money will go towards the U3A chosen charity.

DVD SWAP at the Parador meeting. Pat reminds you this only works if you remember to bring your DVDs along, so don't forget. The more DVDs you bring the better variety of films she will have on the table. Pat would like to appeal to those members who have DVDs that they no longer want, to donate them to the DVD table for swapping at the monthly Parador meetings. She would like to offer a larger selection and would welcome any donations. Please bring them along to the next Parador meeting on the 25 April.

A collection box for used **Postage Stamps** will be by the DVD and Book swap table. These stamps will be given to the Royal British Legion for their support fund, so please remember to bring Books, DVDs and now stamps as well to future meetings.

For Sale, Recycle or Wanted Board: At the Parador meeting we will have a board for you to advertise items you wish to SELL, RECYCLE (give away) or WANTED. To advertise your item please contact Jean at urecyclesale@yahoo.co.uk (email subject-U3A Javea notice board).

Please make sure you put all the details about the item, and your contact number or email address. We will presume you have sold, recycled or found the item before the next meeting. If you wish the same advert to go on the board again make sure you contact Jean and ask for the advert to be resubmitted. Your items **will not** appear on the notice board if received after 6pm on Monday 23 April.

You can also bring your advert and picture to the meeting and Jean will make sure it's pinned on the board. Please no advert larger than A5.