



*We wish you a very*

— MERRY —

• CHRISTMAS •

AND HAPPY NEW YEAR

★ 2017 ★

## Message from your President

We have arrived at the busy Christmas period when different events take place. Two days ago our underprivileged Children's Party took place at the CPC. As in previous years this was a great success with all the children enjoying themselves. I would take this opportunity to personally thank everyone who donated a shoe-box present for the children to enjoy, there is also a big thank you to everyone who gave their time to making this evening such a success and great event for the children.

Over the past two weeks our U3A Choir have been singing at Carol Concerts including El Cid and the service at the Borja Palace Church in Gandia.

The long-awaited Christmas Ball takes place at Moli Canyon's in Potries tonight with 99 members and guests will be celebrating Christmas. This has been arranged by our Travel and Events team, I am told it will be a great night for everyone to enjoy.

Whatever you have planned for this Christmas time, whether visiting family back home or staying here in Spain I wish you a Very Happy and Joyful Christmas and a Peaceful New Year. I look forward to meeting you all in 2018.

Can I ask you all to please remember that during this Christmas period there are people in your area less fortunate than yourself, who may require and would accept a little help and support from you.

Thanking you and a Very Happy Christmas to you all.  
Mick Goy. President.

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## Alternative Christmas

Aielo de Rugat walk SL-V43, 5 km, 3 hours, level change 290 metres

Classification: medium difficulty

Meet at 11.00am 25<sup>th</sup> Dec and bring a festive picnic to share.

Leaders Joe and Tina Bellenie. Contact details: [joebelleniegm@gmail.com](mailto:joebelleniegm@gmail.com)

Mob: 636443277

The walk passes over rivers, through almond, olive and orange groves while offering wonderful views of the sierras of La Safor.

### To get there.

From Gandia take the CV 60. turn off for Terrateig and Montechelvo on the CV 619. After passing through Montechelvo you will see Aielo de Rugat on your left.

Turn left onto the CV 689 and after passing by some brick works you enter the village. Turn left into Carrer San de Antonio and park in the street crossing at the end.

We will meet in the Bar Aielo, Calle Eglisias.

### The Walk

Leaving from the village of Aielo de Rugat we walk past the village Calvary before we cross one of the many streams and start to climb up the ravine, passing through water glades.

As we ascend we pass through pine forests and olive groves and past abandoned houses and an ancient lime kiln.

Crossing the head of the ravine we climb up to another ruined settlement and get our first views of the Castle where we stop for our festive picnic and admire the 360 degree views.

After leaving the Castle we descend past the "Sparkling forest", so named after the effect that the sunrise has in causing the dew on the trees to sparkle like diamonds, following the river past an old Moorish sheep corral, pools and waterfalls.

Arriving back on the tarmac road we return to the village through orange groves and past the old mill.

**Please let us know if you wish to join us.**

**As on all our walks, good boots or shoes and sticks are recommended.**

**[joebelleniegm@gmail.com](mailto:joebelleniegm@gmail.com)**

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# **PLEASE NOTE THERE WILL BE NO GENERAL MEETING IN DECEMBER. OUR JANUARY GENERAL MEETING**

will be held at the Polivalent ([directions](#)) on Thursday 25TH of January  
The doors will open at 10.30am with the Meeting starting at 11.00am

The presenter for this meeting will be :-  
Mike Glazier who is a member of our U3A  
The title of his presentation is :  
A low level introduction to astronomy

Mike says he would like to cover some interesting items such as the sighting of a strange object said to be from another galaxy, an asteroid. Also February will be the month of the dark Moon because there will not be a full Moon during that month and finally how I came into astronomy 67 years ago. How far is a light year and something about galaxies.

Come along and be informed as this should be a very interesting presentation.

There will be our usual Coffee and Tea and Book Table available.

All Donations given for the refreshments and books will go to our designated charity for this year which is AECC the Cancer Research Charity.

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## **Report on November General Meeting.**

The meeting was opened with a warm welcome to all the members present. Firstly, there was a brief report on the 10th Anniversary celebrations held at Viva España. This evening was a great success with 143 members and guests attending. Following a very nice meal the nights entertainment was by John Curtis of Bay Radio.

Following updates from John Flannigan our Group Co-ordinator and Anja Homburg the Travel Co.ordinator, members attention was drawn to the correct registration and trip payment procedure. An email has subsequently been sent to all members informing of these correct procedures.

A further topic raised was the IMSERSO which is a state sponsored holiday scheme for pensioners who are resident here in Spain. For more details [click here](#).

David Proctor our Press Officer gave an update on the new Facebook page, this was followed by our speaker for the morning Ulrike Missaghian. Her presentation was opened giving the members an overview into the Bicentenary of the Birth of Baha'u'llah (1817-2017). This was followed by a short film about the life and teachings of Bahá'u'lláh, the Founder of the Baha'i Faith, the film was entitled Light of the World.

The meeting was closed with a thank you to all participants and everyone was wished a Happy Christmas and safe journey home.

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## A Day at the Sales.



Our travel team have arranged a visit to La Zenia Boulevard  
La Zenia occupies 161.000 square meters and has about 150 shops.



It looks a lot like an American Shopping Mall but with a Mediterranean accent.  
Most of the shops are located on the first floor and on the second is full of with  
restaurants.

*The registration is now open please [click here](#) so you don't miss the Bargains*



## Join us for a Fabulous Evening at the Benidorm Palace Theatre

Our trip to the Theatre will be on February 15th 2018.

The coach will leave the Polivalent at 19.00h.

*Their latest show is*

## "Rubi" a unique show

The registration is now open, [Click here](#) for full details and to register

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## Report on our Children's Christmas Party

The 2017 Christmas party for the children Oliva was a monumental success. I'm not sure if I enjoyed it more than the kids. It was so nice to see the absolute chaos of children really being free to enjoy themselves. I was a bit concerned when Father Christmas arrived and was almost driven back to his slay. During the rest of the year he must be a prop-forward to have survived that onslaught. The members who worked so hard to make this happen must be extremely proud of the success. I would like to thank them all and from a particularly selfish view, I also enjoyed the experience.



Not sure if we should impeach our president, walking around with his head up a Turkey's (no need to say where) Well done Mick and to all the organisers and helpers.

Report by Mike Such

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## A message from your Travel Team

Your travel team have some great events and trips planned for this year, right up to the end of June 2018.

All of the trips this year are Full day, Part day or evening events, so that we can keep costs low and hopefully see as many people as possible join us. We have arranged a number of trips where lunch isn't included in the price allowing you do as you please, when we stop off somewhere having restaurants and cafe's close by, or indeed you can take your own with you.

If you have any feedback hints or tips regarding any of the trips please let us know. We also welcome your feedback afterwards so that we continue to meet or exceed the expectations of our members.

### **18th January - La Zenia Boulevard (Registration is now open)**

Coach only - a visit to the January Sales at this popular shopping and leisure centre.

### **15th February- Benidorm Palace (Registration is now open)**

Evening Dinner and the Rubi Show. This show celebrates the Spanish Fiesta with over 50 artists taking part to delight you with a stunning and spectacular show.

### **15 March - Mystery Tour**

Day Trip - this will be a trip to one or more beauty spots and or places of interest on the Costa Blanca. We will stop somewhere so you can get your own lunch, or you are welcome to take your own with you if you prefer.

### **17th May - Tarbaca Island (Registration will be open on January 15th 2018)**

This is a famous and historic island just off the coast of Alicante. It's been declared a historical and artistic site and an asset of cultural interest.

This will include coach and return ferry to and from Tarbaca Island, this trip is still work in progress. Full details and the price will be published as soon as we have confirmed everything.

### **7th June - Murcia City and Ikea.**

It's planned that you will have the morning to explore the city of Murcia at your leisure and then go on to Ikea after lunch. We are still working on the schedule as we would like to make sure that everyone has time to look around Ikea and also time to make any purchases before we depart back to Oliva.

The coach will drop off back at Polivalent so please make sure you have transport from Oliva to Home for any larger items you may have bought.

### **30th June end of year Barbeque**

Please check the travel pages on the website for more details about any of the events above and make sure your email address is correct as we will email out nearer the time when registration for each trip/event is open. We also look forward to seeing you at the forthcoming monthly meetings in the Polivalent and will be delighted to speak to you about future or past trips and hear any ideas you may have.

Any questions or queries please email our [Travel-co-ordinator@u3a-oliva.org](mailto:Travel-co-ordinator@u3a-oliva.org)

Report by: Nigel Hobman, Deputy Travel Co-ordinator.

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## **Facebook**

Just a quick update, our Facebook page is doing very well and more people have joined the group over the past month. Why not join today to be kept informed on items planned and reports on past events and trips.

This is not a replacement for the U3A website it is only an alternative, so please use both.

Please make sure you do not post personal details on this Facebook site as we must ensure both yours and our U3A information is kept secure.

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## **Report on the Borja Palace Carol Service.**



On December the 6th our U3A Choir joined in the Carol Service in the Church at the Borja Palace in Gandia. The Church for this service was almost full with everyone appearing to enjoy the occasion by joining in the singing. During the service the Choir sang three individual Christmas Carols as part of the evening, these were O come O come Emmanuel, Christmas Sanctus and Ding Dong Merrily. It was a pleasure to join the Church and congregation for this great evening.

Report by Lynda Goy (Choir group leader).

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## IMPROVE YOUR SPANISH

We are very lucky to have a trained, experienced, and native Spanish-speaking teacher, and an 'intermediate' class running very successfully on Monday mornings. A couple of places in this class have now become available.

We deliberately keep the class small, so everyone gets a chance to join in. It is a friendly and supportive group, but one that is working very hard with Stefanie, our teacher.

The class runs from 1015 to 11.45 (1.5 hours) on Monday mornings in a classroom in Oliva.

Not suitable for beginners but everyone else welcome. First lesson free. Class size limited to 10. The cost is divided equally between those attending - currently costs about 22 Euros per month (dependent on class size). The course runs until June.

If you are interested in improving your Spanish please don't miss the chance to give this a try - we are sure you will find it useful and you will be helping to keep this opportunity open to others. Please contact John Flannigan [groups-co-ordinator@u3a-oliva.org](mailto:groups-co-ordinator@u3a-oliva.org) for further details.

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## U3A Oliva Forum

This is a reminder to subscribe to our FORUM on the home page of our website. By subscribing you will not miss any important information e.g. Trip/Event registrations. Check it out [here](#).

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Thank you for reading this our December issue, our next edition will be with you on the 15th of January 2018.

**I and your Committee wish you a Merry Christmas and a Prosperous 2018**

**A big thank you to everyone who has contributed an item to this edition.**

Please send your items, questions or queries to me at :-  
[president@u3a-oliva.org](mailto:president@u3a-oliva.org) before the 8th of the month.