

THE VOICE

December 2018

Issue 36

President's Message

During the next few weeks on the run in to Christmas and the New Year I hope you all enjoy this festive period. For a large number of you I know this started back on Friday December 7th at our annual Christmas Party. This was a great evening organised by your Travel and Events Team and my thanks go to these members.

Please remember there will be no General Meeting in December due to Christmas, we will resume our normal meetings on January 24th at the Polivalent, I hope to see you there.

Our last General meeting was excellent with an interesting presentation by Rosa Mansell, please read about her experiences later in this edition.

I would ask you to check the latest arranged day/evening trips, the information is below and if you haven't already booked please do so and enjoy yourself.

I would like to take this opportunity on behalf of myself and your Committee to wish you all a Happy Christmas and a Prosperous 2019, We all look forward to meeting you during the coming year.

Mick Goy

**THERE WILL BE NO GENERAL MEETING IN
DECEMBER DUE TO CHRISTMAS**

OUR JANUARY GENERAL MEETING

This will be held at the Polivalent ([directions](#)) on Thursday 24th of January

The doors will open at 10.30am with the Meeting starting at 11.00am.

IF YOU DID NOT COLLECT YOUR MEMBERSHIP BADGE

AT OUR LAST MEETING IT WILL BE AVAILABLE HERE.

The presenter at this meeting will be Gloria Diego Herrero

Gloria will be giving us an update on BREXIT. This will be the latest information from the British Consulate in Alicante

Please come and find out more of how you could be affected.

There will be our usual Coffee and Tea and Book Table available
All Donations given for the refreshments and books will go to charity.
I and the committee look forward to welcoming you to this meeting.

Report on Novembers General meeting presentation

On 22nd November Rosa Mansell gave a talk on how she came to build Muklat Maasai School for Maasai children to learn English.

Rosa raised funds from her friends on a GoFundMe page and went to a village outside Arusha, Tanzania to build the school in January.

In February the school was opened and now has 95 children per day attending from ages 2 to 14, in different classes. Rosa is still fund raising

to pay the teacher's salary and donations of 60 euros per annum are being sort from anyone interested. Please contact rosamansell@yahoo.com

for more information.

The Maasai were always pastoralists travelling with their cows but since their lands have been taken to become National Parks in both Kenya and

Tanzania they have been forced to settle and become farmers. They have a tough life and education is key to improving the lives of the children.”



My thanks got to Rosa for a superb presentation and I send her our best wishes for her future work in Tanzania

The Travel Team Invites You To

A Magical Three Kings Parade Experience

Alcoy

Saturday January 5, 2019



The Three Kings Parade in Alcoy, is one of the oldest in Spain, declared an Intangible Asset of Cultural Interest and a Tourist National Interest Festival.

This promises to be a day full of excitement surrounding the celebration of the entrance of the Three Wise Men accompanied by their entourage. The parade starts at 18:00 hrs and will have its most important moment when they arrive at the Plaza Espagnola at 20:00 hrs where music, church bells, fireworks and hundreds of people with sparklers await them.



Before, there will be time to discover the old city with all its modernist houses, shops, decorated streets and many restaurants where a lunch can be enjoyed.

We advise our participants to dress warmly and wear comfortable shoes and be prepared to stand and wait for awhile.

We will leave the Polivalent in Oliva at 12:00 hours and will arrive back at the Polivalent in Oliva at approximately 22:30 hours.

All this for only 9 euros per person!!!!

[Click here](#) the full details and to register

Report on Children's Christmas party



On Wednesday we held our annual Children's Christmas Party when 56 under privileged children from Oliva attended. These children sat down to a variety of party food and drinks before enjoying entertainment arranged by Atul and Veronica. Before the end of the party each child received a box present from Santa and his Elf helper donated by members of our U3A. This is always the pinnacle of the evening when the children's faces light up.

I wish to thank everyone who helped to make this party a great success, in no particular order John and

Jacque Flannigan for organising the food, Atul and Veronica Raicha for the entertainment, Lynda Goy for the decorations, members who helped with the decorations and also during the party. I send my special thanks to the members who gave great presents for the children to enjoy.

Our Monthly Astronomy Update.

By our Astronomer Mike Glazier

I would like to wish everyone at the U3a a very happy Christmas

This month of December will show us a meteor shower known as the Geminids and the Winter solstice.

January will give us a red total lunar eclipse which I will refer to later.

The meteor shower could produce around 120 meteors an hour under good sky conditions. The maximum number will occur on the night of December 13th into the morning hours of 14th The parent of the shower, or the object responsible is the asteroid Phaethon which was discovered in 1862, just a few years after the discovery of Neptune.

Gemini the constellation which the shower is named after is depicted as two twin brothers, castor and Pollux, holding hands, they are associated with sailors being crew members aboard the Argonaut and also St. Elmo's fire which sailors will be aware of. The 'fire' is an electrical discharge sometimes seen on ships rigging.

The Winter solstice on 21st of this month will give us the longest night and the shortest day, as well as the Sun at its lowest point at the North pole.

It was an old pagan celebration, and one of the oldest known originally as YULE, now where have we heard that?

On January 21st we will see a total eclipse of the Moon, a red eclipse happening between Taurus the Bull and Cancer the celestial Crab. It will be in full eclipse at around 6.30 am in the sky area around Hydra the sea snake, Gemini and Auriga.

Finally I give you a Christmas tree, a celestial tree in the form of a nebula known within the pages of the astronomical new general catalogue of objects as NGC 2264 Courtesy of NASA. It is known as the Christmas tree nebula. Mike Glazier

The Travel Team Invites You

ALEGRIAS



A VALENTINE CELEBRATION at THE BENIDORM PALACE

FEBRUARY 14 2019

With a cast of 50 talented artists the show will transport you to the excitement of a Las Vegas casino, the colours and cheerfulness of Bollywood, the rhythms and Alegrias of a Tablao in Cordoba and the vibrant merriment of a Tropical feather finale.

Departure from the Polivalent in Oliva at 19:00 hours return to the Polivalent in Oliva at approximately 01:00 hours the next day.

Ticket to the show, dinner and transportation for

59 euros per person

[Click here](#) for full information and to register

Update on future Presenters at our General Meetings,

Month	Presenter	Subject	Date
January 2019.	Gloria Diego Herrero,	Brexit update.	24-01-2019
February 2019	Paul Griffiths	Inheritance Law	28-02-2019
March 2019	Mike Glazier	Astronomy (Mars)	28-03-2019
April 2019	T.B.A		25-04-2019
May 2019	A.G.M.		23-05-2019

Information by David Wynne Vice President.

Christmas Party Report

by Anja Homburg

First of all: TheTravel Team (Lynda Goy, Francoise Moncomble, David Wynne and Anja Homburg) would like to thank all the members and their guests who helped us make the Christmas Dinner & Dance Party last Friday such a big success.

Everybody enjoyed a delicious and abundant dinner and until our singer/entertainer John Curtis stopped playing and singing his music, the dance floor was always full of enthusiastic dancers. The room was beautifully decorated to enhance the feelings of joy and Christmas cheer. Our raffle for the evening raised 547 euros for our Charity the AECC (cancer research charity). My thanks goes to all who gave generously for this great cause.

We can look back to a very pleasant end of year 2018 celebration.



Group Information on Coffee and Chat



For anyone wishing to attend Coffee and Chat please note that we have moved to our winter location which is; El Galano, corner of Carrer de Guillem de Castro (between Aldi/Consum and Mercadona car park) and Carrer de Gabriel Miro (beside Correos).

Thanks Bernard (Group Leader) bernard.j.mason@gmail.com

Travel

The next trip will be to Alcoy for the celebration of the entrance of The Three Wise Men and their impressive entourage into the old town of Alcoy.

Some advice: dress for cold hours and if you want to enjoy a lunch make a reservation ahead of time. The website of the tourist office gives you much information about restaurants. Until 14:00 hours museums are open and the shops are open till 17:00 hours.

There are still 10 places open.

A visit to the Benidorm Palace for a Valentine Celebration has been scheduled for February 14th. Registration is now open. The price is 59 euros per person, this includes coach, dinner and ticket to the show.

March 16th the trip will take us to the Jalon Valley to enjoy the Rastro and will be finished with a lunch afterwards. More information will follow.

For all the members who were on the waiting list for the Villena/Winery tour, we are planning to organize a trip the the Valor Chocolate factory and a winery. Keep your eyes open for more information.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Anja Homburg

Walking Group

A few photos of Terry and Joe's amble from Font Salada. We were defeated by the removal of boardwalks and little bridges but still had a good amble. Following the amble we had lunch back at Font Salada.



Salsa Dancing Group Lessons by Angela Town

Start the New Year with a Salsa

After the very successful 'taster' session I am now able to start up a group for Salsa Dance Lessons at a special reduced price.

The regular charge is €30 a month, (for one lesson a week) but Enrique at PadelIndoorOndara has agreed to offer Oliva U3A members a discounted price, depending on how many people sign up.

The lessons will be on Monday's 6-7pm starting on January 7th and will now only cost

€20 per person per month (for a group of 10)

€22 per person per month (group of 8)

If more than 15 sign up the price will reduce further.

This is a great saving and only for Oliva U3A members.

We could even try to organise car sharing.

If Monday is not a good day for you, then on Wednesdays 6-7 there is also a chance of lessons, but at least 8 people need to sign up and it will need a group leader.

Please let me know if you want to Salsa your way into the New Year, or if you have any questions.

Email angela_town@hotmail.co.uk

Best wishes for the festive season,

Carol Singing

Five members of our U3A Choir visited 3 coffee shops in Oliva over the past week to sing Christmas carols. They sang in Amigos, Sanchis and Vale Vale, all the venues were well attended and everyone enjoyed the singing.

A collection for our designated charity the AECC was taken at each coffee shop and a grand total of 116.61 euros was collected.

Well done to the singers who took part.

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

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

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.