

THE VOICE

June 2020

Issue 52

President's Message

Greetings everyone

As I sit here wondering what to say to you in my first President's letter of the Voice I am reminded of a little saying:

'You're not what you achieve, you're what you overcome'

And this is certainly true of all of us during this current worldwide situation. The lockdown has presented us with challenges we would never previously have dreamed of and has opened our eyes to the little things in life that we might have previously taken for granted. It has also afforded us with new experiences – holding a U3A Committee Meeting via Zoom for example. It has made us realise how much we depend on other people which is one of the strengths of the U3A.

Since becoming President, I have been trying to meet as many of your new Committee members as possible to hear how they view the U3A and how they hope to continue to offer you an enriching experience as members of the U3A Oliva.

They've mentioned the need to incorporate play, enjoyment, fun, creativity, fantasy and recreation into our lives. The voluntary nature of the U3A is seen as affording us the opportunity of meeting people from all sorts of backgrounds who like to engage on different levels. It is both an educational and social organisation relying on people's life experiences and depends on collective input not lecturing. The group and self-help aspects of the U3A were seen as its strengths.

I'd also like to hear your views so that instead of the Voice we can hear the Voices. So, how can we achieve this when most of the groups usually close for the summer vacation and some of you are in the UK?

From **Monday 15**, it is possible to meet in groups and go to restaurants and it occurred to me that it might be a good idea were a weekly **Lunch Group** to be formed over the summer months. A different restaurant could be chosen each week and members invited to put their names down on a first come, first served basis. Let me know what you think of this idea by replying to barrypurvis1@gmail.com. If sufficient interest is expressed we could start within the next week or so.

On behalf of your Committee – Anja, Angela, Anthony, Diana, Francoise, Gail, John, Julie, Kelvin, Lydia, Nancy, and Steven - I hope you are able to enjoy life in the more relaxed Phase 3 we are entering and that we all continue to stay safe and well. Until I speak with you or write to you again

Regards

Barry

COVID-19 What is happening now?

The Valencian province is now moving into phase 3, for our members this gives us a little bit more freedom, now being allowed to travel across the whole province, still keeping a social distance where possible and wearing masks in public. Masks are now widely available in supermarkets, although they are a bit cheaper on line. For the latest guidelines (in English and courtesy of the Oliva Tattler FB group) please [check here](#).

The local organisation N332 not only have a Facebook page, but also a website, thankfully available in English. it's not only a good place to find local up to date news but also has Spanish driving/road laws. They even explain how to use a roundabout! [N332 Website](#)

Also nice to know, if you're heading to the beach the life guards are now back on duty.

Your New Committee

Thank you to all the members who cast a vote for the committee member nominees. We have a good mixture of established members and new faces, all keen and eager to get started as Barry, the New President, did not waste any time sharing out jobs and discussing roles.

You can visit the committee page on the [website here](#), to see all the pretty faces and read a little about their history, but as a brief introduction here are the motley crew and some of the new roles and sub committees being set up.

Barry Purvis: President

Anja Homburg: Vice President / Travel team / Monthly Meeting sub committee (MMS)

Nancy Benn: Secretary / Communication Sub Committee (CS)

Diana Jameson: Treasurer

Kelvin Jarman: Group Coordinator

John Melville: Webmaster / Membership Secretary

Julie Hayward: Travel Coordinator /

Angela Town: Press Publicity / CS / MMS

Gail Spoore: Deputy Secretary / Community Liaison Officer

Lydia Jones: Community Liaison Officer / MMS

Stephen Hems: Resources Officer / CS

Anthony Saxon: Resources Officer / MMS

Francoise Moncombe: Travel Team

This may be the management committee, but you are the members. Please do contact any of the team above if you have any questions suggestions or relevant information regarding their roles. They are looking forward to meeting as many of you as they can over the next few years.

Your Committee Meeting in Zoom Action



			
			
			
Nancy Benn Secretary	John Melville Webmaster/Membership	Diana Jameson Treasurer	Angela Town Press Officer
Barry Purvis President	Julie Hayward Travel Co-Ordinator	Francoise Moncombe Committee Member	Anja Homburg Vice President
Gail Spoore Assistant Secretary	Anthony Saxon Lydia Jones Committee Members	Stephen Hems Committee Member	Kelvin Jarman Groups Co-Ordinator

Group News

Having no group activities does mean you will not be subjected to a lot of news. However, as the country is opening up a bit more, it is reasonable to expect a little more in the way of group and social activities.

As mentioned in the President's message, there are plans to develop a small luncheon group if there is sufficient interest.

As far as group activities go, any restarts will be down to the Group Leader and whether they think the group can meet safely, keeping in mind social distancing and any handling of equipment. Some groups in the past have carried on meeting through the summer months, this may not be possible this year.

Please contact your Group Leader, in the first instance, to discuss your concerns or requests or Kelvin Jarman on Kelvin.Jarman@Sky.com

Almoner

Having taken up the position of the Oliva U3A Almoner, Denise Hart has since been stuck in the UK for the past three months. Luckily we have not had any emergency calls for her assistance, although we did have a back up support of Kathleen Moloney to help with any translations in those in need, just in case.

I'm happy to report that Denise now has her flight home booked, but I would like to remind members that before the current state of alarm, Denise had put out an appeal for any members who could either offer up an item for loan or add their name to a 'support services' list.

I think the past few months has taught us that there are some people who do need that little bit of extra help. This is not required all the time, but mostly on an ad hoc basis; especially now some members need to isolate more than before. So if you can offer any of the following please get in touch with Denise [here](#) and get yourself added to the list.

- **Driving/lifts: to and from appointments**
- **Shopping/farmacia (obviously only local to your home)**
- **Dog walking**
- **Translation services (face to face or over the phone)**
- **Social support/keeping in contact/ conversation**
- **Possibly Gardening or other small handyman jobs to keep members safe**

Please let Denise know if you have any items that could be loaned out short term; **ie wheelchairs, crutches, support cushions, walking frames etc.**

The members thank you in advance for your generosity with your time and equipment.

Our Charities

Last year it was decided by the committee that we would support three charities who all do great work.

The Maasai English School in Tanzania (<https://maasaienglishschool.com/>) all the money from the book stall is donated to this charity

The Franciscan Shelter for Men at Palma de Gandia and the **Amunt Cancer Charity in Denia**, who would normally have the refreshment money shared between them. Due to the lack of monthly gatherings and the chance to collect any donations, the amount this year is a lot lower than usual.

The committee have voted to add a small amount from the kitty to round up the donations with the hope that next year we may be able to double our efforts.

The amounts being sent are: **Maasai:**100 euros **Amunt:**300 euros **Franciscan:** 50 euros

An Extra Appeal from The Franciscan Shelter for Men

The Franciscan men's home has been hit very hard with the lockdown for Covid-19 in place. Their usual donations of items delivered to their premises dried up with the 'no travel' ban in place and they are now desperate for some particular items. No one is allowed access without prior arrangement to protect the men and staff.

Please help if you can. For us, it's only a few euros or cents, but for them it's essential items to survive every day with meals and the ability to keep the men healthy. There are, on average, between 65-75 men in the hospice at anyone time. Plus those who live on the streets and use the facilities. These are the items they desperately need:

Dried or tinned food: such as pasta, rice, lentils, sugar, flour, tinned veg or fruit / meat; anything that can help make cheap easy fast nutritious meals. Items that have long sell by dates and the larger the packet the better.

Toiletries: For washing / teeth / hair etc. Soaps, gels, shampoos, toothpaste, shaving equipment etc.

Cash: If you can't do any shopping, then any spare coins will help towards fresh fruit and veg.

This appeal has caught us on the hop and we do not have any system in place as yet for dropping off or collection, so to help out there will be a committee member by the **Polivalent on Thursday/Friday/Saturday (18/19/20th June) between 5-6pm with boxes for you to drop your items straight into.**

If you have items but can't get the the Polivalent on those days, please contact Angela on **Angela_town@hotmail.co.uk or +4478 6754 6710** and she will try to arrange another collection point or a pick up from you. Whichever way you can help, please consider your own healthy and safety first.

Thank you

Member Benefits

Hopefully you all will have checked out the member benefits section on the webpage, where you can find local companies or organisations who are offering The Oliva U3A members a discount or offer, when they use their services.

The list is always being added to and it's a wise member who keeps checking what's going on. It has not been confirmed as yet, but a little birdie told me that a popular local garage in Oliva Town, may be offering us a 5% discount soon. watch this space. [Check Here for all information](#)

To jog your memory we now have:

Chrissies Live in Care: Offers various discounts for there different services

Tía Chía in the Indoor market: Offers a FREE coffee/tea when you spend over 15 euros

Local Holiday Apartment: A generous discount for those extra guests.

Europesure Insurance: Travel Insurance offers 10% discount for either our Annual or Single trip policies.

Gandia Tours: discount of up to 10% off their brochure prices (excluding Cruises),

Holiday Rental: 10% discount at a holiday home located in Old Town Oliva.

Jennifer Cunningham Insurance SL: gives various discounts across their ranges of products.

Las Olas Massage Therapy & Wellness Centre in Pego: Offer 25% discount to members

Ambulancias La Peña in Oliva: For Oliva U3A members you will get a 5 euros discount and only pay 94 euros

Telitec Communications: For new clients 10% discount off installations and 5% discount off monthly internet fee on Wireless & LTE

If you know of any local company or organisation who you think would like to offer our members a discount, then please contact Angela_Town@hotmail.co.uk

COMING SOON: Recommendations. if you have been happy with a local company or service then we want to hear about it so we can share the good news with all the members.
Angela_Town@hotmail.co.uk.

Last but not Least

As you know this monthly publication is called The Voice. We have discussed at the committee if this name actually reflects the purpose. So we are opening it up to suggestions, from a simple The Newsletter, Oliva U3A Newsletter, Your Newsletter, The U3A Chronicles....If you have any great ideas or are happy to keep it as The Voice please let Angela know, you have all the summer yo think about it.

The Friday morning 'drop in for a chat' or for new or prospective members, come and find out what the Oliva U3A is all about. If you have any new neighbours, or friends or family moving into the area, don't forget the send them along to meet us

Friday 11am at the back of the Municipal Mercado (indoor market) behind the Tla Chia stall.

Hope to see you there:) wearing masks of course: Angela and Sue

Thank you for reading this edition of The Voice