



## December Newsletter 2010

Since taking over as Press Officer I am trying to make the Newsletters more interesting by including pictures, poetry and short articles. In the New Year I will be seeking contributions for the Easter Newsletter. I hope you enjoy the new format. Please print off a few copies for your friends who may not be able to download a copy for themselves.

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### President's report

**Gill Rowlands,**

president@u3a-oliva.org

Well, September arrived and I found myself making my first of many 'Welcome' speeches, an experience which I continue to enjoy, even if my dulcet tones confuse some of you, but I know you will come to enjoy the 'singy songy' side of me!!

Oliva U3A continues to go from strength to strength in membership numbers and activity groups, new ones having been incorporated since September for which I must congratulate Karmanie, Groups Coordinator, current Group Leaders and New Group Leaders for all their hard work.

Our committee returned with renewed vigour and continue to manage the day to day administration of our association, so again it's a big thank you from me for all their sterling work.

**May I take this opportunity to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a healthy and prosperous New Year.**

**Gospel singing Group - Janette Skinner** gospel\_singers@u3a-oliva.org 673180721

The gospel singing group has developed quite well in its first few months. We have 22 members, although not all members can attend every time. We have learned about 35 songs and add new songs every month. We also have an input of the history of gospel music from the 17th century on and we have a featured singer every session who is discussed and we then listen to some of their music. We have featured Portia White, Elvis Presley, The Whalers, Johnny Cash, and more. The members are encouraged to suggest new songs and artists to listen to and learn from, and they come up with great stuff. We use CD's and Google for videos on the internet to review songs that we want to learn. We might possibly work towards a concert of some sort at Easter in a venue in Oliva and make it a charity event. This is not certain yet but will be further discussed. We have some talented singers and musicians but I always emphasise that this gospel group is not about how good you are and it is not about religion, it is just about enjoying the style of the music.

## **Photography Group - Robin Lings**

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The Photography Group got off to a good start at the beginning of the new term on September 3<sup>rd</sup>. A full agenda for the term has been compiled with a format of different activities for each of the separate meetings in the month. Meetings are every Friday in the CPC from 4pm until around 6 – 6.30pm. Directions to the CPC are available from the group leader. Full details of each meeting are on the Photography page of the U3A web site.

1<sup>st</sup> Fridays are devoted to Practical Photography sessions - both theory and practical.

2<sup>nd</sup> Fridays are for evaluation and constructive critique of photo images - presented on USB sticks or camera cards by the members and projected with the use of the U3A projector.

3<sup>rd</sup> Fridays are for 'free expression' image editing of images either previously evaluated or from members own choice.

4<sup>th</sup> Fridays are for a formal Adobe Photoshop 7 Image Editing course – software and documentation are provided. Again use is made of the projector for illustrative purposes and occasional DVD tutorials.

Any 5<sup>th</sup> Friday in the month is a free session for any activity members wish to involve themselves in – revision of past topics, chat on photography generally or a social meeting over a Menu Del Día, etc.

In addition to the weekly meetings, we occasionally organise a 'field trip' or 'photo-shoot' - where members meet at a location chosen for its photogenic qualities and walk around the area taking photographs. This is an opportunity for beginners to gain some practical outdoor location experience from the more advanced members of the group.

We may also begin to run small photographic competitions.

Finally, there is a separate Photography web site where members can submit their best efforts to a Photo Gallery, submit photo images for critique and where there is a Forum for raising discussions related to Photographic topics, queries and problems.

The watch words of the U3A Photography Group 1 are, 'Learning and Communication'- where each member is keen to advance their photographic skills, both with their cameras and their computer image editing skills and discussing their problems.

'The experience level of the group varies from knowing nothing about some topics of Digital Photography and Image Editing to knowing something. Between us that averages out to knowing a bit more than nothing but less than everything - so even the most experienced are still learning something! Come and see where you fit in.'

## **Amblers Group - John Moore**

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The Amblers reformed one year ago. January 2010 was our first walk with just 6 brave souls. Since then we have grown steadily and our last walk attracted 19 U3A members. Our walks are varied, we take in coastal and inland walks, for example, Denia, Los Rotes, Jalon valley, Rafol Salem, Pego Marshes to name but a few. Our walks usually last about two and a half hours and are generally on flat ground. We are a happy and friendly group and there is as much talking as walking! Come and give us a try.

## **Gardening Group - John Moore**

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U3A gardeners have enjoyed several visits. Apart from members' gardens, we have visited "El Sueno" at Ondara which is a unique project created by the owners Pedro and Letricia with a fascinating collection of indigenous plants. Well worth a visit even if you are not a gardener! Our last visit was to L`Albarda garden at La Sella. This is a totally natural garden and is left to its own devices. It covers an area of about 50,000 sq. mts. One man takes care of this garden!

## **Book Club - Pam O' Neill**

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Here we are again at Bar Pelut for our Book Club Christmas lunch. We are meeting to appreciate the written and spoken word with a Festive slant. We started with a Complete School Verse by Jennifer Curry;

*Good king Wenceslas looked out  
On the feast of Stephen;  
A Snow ball hit him on the snout  
And made it all uneven.*

*Brightly shone his conk that night  
Though the pain was cruel,  
Till the doctor came in sight  
Riding on a mu-oo-el.*

We continued with Walter De La Mere and John Betjeman, and some of the best was childhood recollections from past Christmases.

We choose the Tapas Menu which was plentiful and varied. We then had a little cross cultural appreciation when we introduced the Staff to mince pies, which they thought were Buenisimo.

However, the best was still to come as we had a toast, with Cava of course, to one of our members who had attended most of the year even though she had been undergoing treatment for cancer, and had just been given the "all clear". Even better still a toast to a member we had not seen because of cancer, and had some more treatment to come but who felt well and looked her glamorous self. It makes one think about the message of Xmas; so the Book Club members would like to wish all U3A members a

**MERRY Xmas and a HEALTHY, HAPPY NEW YEAR**

**Craft Group - Valerie Mash**

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My group have been very active in producing some exciting mosaics using unusual products. See a pair of beach flip-flops, using sand and shells, collected from the beach, swimming pool tiles -the wrong way round, like the waves in the sea!



Mirror, pearls, and many fun pieces including a ceramic starfish - this is a wall hanging. A tray, again using a variety of tesserae, including some wonderful leaves for the tree. These are Christmas gifts.

Our numbers are somewhat fewer this year, as some members

have returned to England to live. Also we have a few members who have been in hospital, and are now on the road to recovery, and we look forward to welcoming them back in the New Year.



**Folk, Blues and beyond Club - Anne Marie Du Valle and Norman Buck**

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The Folk club has established a firm base here in Oliva and the members are committed and happy to come to the club every Tuesday - we have a variety of talents, still mainly voices and guitar but with different repertoires covering the Celtic, romantic to the 50/60s country and blues. We have regular visitors who are very happy to stay a couple of hours in our company and the restaurant owners, Diana and Dimitri, are delighted to

have us, as they are themselves music lovers and they seem to enjoy all that we sing or play- we have very talented, experienced musicians and also beginner singer/players. We are enjoying ourselves and still meet once a month with the Javea non folk club in Benitachell and some of them do come to us as well now and again. More members are still welcome.

### Ermita Benediction

*On Sunday morn with church bells ringing  
We hear the mass with praying and singing  
And on this blessed day of the Sainted Tony  
Out come the animals from **iguana** to **pony***

*The Saints take a turn round the block in a cart  
And loud excited voices wait for the start  
Of roll and holy water, warmth to the heart  
In blessings outside in the street from the priest*

*Anthony of Padua and He of the Lilies  
Bless the **puppies**, the **pussies**, the **rabbits**, the **fillies**  
As all of God's creatures, from largest to littlest  
Come forth to be blessed in the street by the priest*

***Terrapins**, **Tortoise**, **Spiders** and **Rats**  
**Budgies** and **Puppies** and **Siamese Cats**  
**Poodles** and **Terriers** in gay coats and hats  
File past to be blessed in the street by the priest*

*The multi- coloured **Parrot** pokes out its beak  
Causing all around to squeak and to shriek  
Dancing wee **Doggies** with Mamas so meek  
Pass by and are blessed in the street by the priest*

***Black fish** and **gold fish** swimming round in a jug  
Beside tiny **Chihuahuas** and a gi-normous white Dug  
Three tiny fur-balls wrapped up in a rug  
Step up to be blessed in the street by the priest.*

*Last but not least come the **Horses** and Carts  
Bells all a jingling with the stoppings and starts  
Great emptying of bladders and huge solid farts  
And they were all blessed in the street by the priest.*

*All through the streets the hundreds did throng  
Smiling and laughing and getting along  
Such joy there was in the warm morning sun  
As **All** felt uplifted and blessed in the street by the priest*

### Karmanie Hastings 20/01/02

**Slim and Trim Group - Gill Rowlands**

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Wednesdays at CPC, 11.00 - 12.30. One Wednesday per month changes to Tuesday, prior notice is given.



We are a full term into our group and have six very keen ladies attending regularly. The group has settled well and adopted a discussion driven theme, interspersed with personal experiences of previous slimming plans. We support each other as we progress through the weeks and the ladies are eager to swap recipes and learn how to adapt every day meals.



**Spanish Conversation Group - John Sharples** spanish2@u3a-oliva.org 962838434

The conversation group has approx. 20 members, and usually the attendance is between 8 and 10 members. The content of the meetings is totally flexible, the aim being to improve confidence and ability in spoken Spanish. We either have a particular subject to discuss, or topics evolve during the course of the meeting. The latest topic was "The pros and cons of living in Spain" and this has been running for a few weeks now as it seems to have opened up a bit of a can of worms! It is not a formal situation, but points of grammar and vocabulary often arise and are discussed.

**U3A Oliva Travel and Events -**

**Victoria Orme  
Lynda Acres**

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What a busy term we have had, from the Presidents retirement party in September to the Alternative Christmas Day Walk via Fine Dining, Treasure Hunts, Quizzes and the Christmas dinner dance.

On the Travel front, trips to Alicante, Valencia and Xinchona.

Lynda and Victoria have done a great job and have many more treats lined up for next term. Keep up to date with the website Travel and Events pages.



**Creative writing Group - Roy Muckart**

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The Writing Group has published their first collection of Poems and short stories, "Voices from another shore". This entertaining book is available from Roy at €5.00 a copy.

All members should have a copy on their bookshelf.

**www.u3a-oliva.org**