



## President (Joe Bellenie)

During the last twelve months Oliva U3A has continued with a full range of group activities and social events. The



highlights for me have been the Christmas dinner dance and the walking group trips to Val de Laguar and Chulilla.

I wish to express my personal thanks to the Group leaders for their time and dedication in making such a success of their groups.

We have had our AGM and election and I am sure the new President, Gill Rowlands, and her Committee will continue to promote the U3A ideal of lifetime learning.



## Group Coordinator (Karmanie Hasting)

It has been a busy year and I believe a successful one. Most groups have sustained and strengthened themselves and



are looking forward to a new session in September. Some groups have lost numbers due to returnees to U.K and elsewhere. There were some early accommodation issues with the CPC but hopefully we'll be able to avoid them this coming year, though we do have to bear in mind that we are in the lap of the Ayuntamiento.

Unfortunately we lost our second ballroom dancing group although I understand from Jill and Howard that there is an increase in the Monday group and we hope that two groups will run if the numbers continue to swell.

The Solos group didn't find a new leader so maybe there is someone out there who would like to give it a new lease of life.

Cinema and Photography have found new leaders as did the Writers group and we await their published volume of poetry and short stories with excitement.

A Healthy Eating group got under way but discontinued after Easter. Come on Happy Eaters time to give it another go.

After a venue was found for the Cookery group, unfortunately the leader had to take a time out and a small group continued with me as temporary leader. Whilst I enjoyed doing it I really would like a new leader to pick up the reins. Joe, bless Him, carried on the Canasta, and the Amblers got their pathways straightened out.

Spanish continues to be popular and although we have lost some group leaders others have come forward to carry on the battle.

The folk group has gone from strength to strength especially since linking up with Javea members. A wide variety of music can be heard although it is likely that they will require a new venue for the coming session. On a different note, a new opportunity for music lovers will be coming to you fortnightly in a group called the History and Appreciation of Classical Music.

Our Gospel Singers which was born out of one of our Friday Specials (let's try it and see) are now giving it their all and we look forward to hearing them, on July 1<sup>st</sup>, along with the Folk Musicians and Dancers from Line and Ballroom camps.

With luck we'll also have input from Craft, Art and Photography although the latter two groups have had troubles with their leaders due to health issues and other pressures.

My warmest thanks for the effort, stamina and commitment of the Group Leaders to their topics and their groups for the success we all enjoy. Check out their wonderful pages on the website. As stated above, a lot has happened throughout the year and in the words of one of my heroes, Jean-Luc Picard from the Enterprise, I have enjoyed helping to make it so.

If you would like to start a new activity group, please contact me, Karmanie.

[groups@u3a-oliva.org](mailto:groups@u3a-oliva.org)

## Travel (Victoria Orme)

Barbara and myself, the U3A travel team, have been well supported and hope that everybody has enjoyed the trips



we have done. It is always a difficult job to please everybody but I would like to thank all those who have supported us. The reports of all our trips are available on the website for members to look at, complete with pictures.

Next season we have a lot of ideas, starting with a two night break to Peniscola and Morrella in September.

This will be revealed at the July meeting. After that there will be a day out to the Turron factory in Jijona then - guess what - shopping in Alicante. This will be a cheap day out. Next year we have the Ford factory for the men, and Formula 1 testing at Valencia all AT GOOD PRICES

## Events (Lynda Acres)

Taking over the very successful team previously run by Geoff Evans has been quite a challenge but we hope that you have



all enjoyed the many events that we have arranged throughout the year. Our first ever May ball was a great success and the car treasure hunt was interesting. Our monthly dining evenings have introduced us to many different venues and menus. Gill Rowland's Social dance night at the Tennis club, our monthly quiz, and Midsummer Madness, which was attended by over 100 members and

guests, completed a year of fun and jollity for all. Keep your eyes on the events page of the website to see what treats we have planned in the coming year.

## Forthcoming events

July 28<sup>th</sup> - Dining evening at Font Salada

Sept 1<sup>st</sup> - Dining evening at 'Eden'

Sept 10<sup>th</sup> - Quiz night

Sept 12<sup>th</sup> - Oliva walking Treasure Hunt

Sept 17<sup>th</sup> - President's retirement party

Sept 23<sup>rd</sup> - Monthly meeting

Nov 17<sup>th</sup> - Group Leaders' conference

Dec 3<sup>rd</sup> - Christmas dinner dance

Full details of all these events are on the website, [www.u3a-oliva.org](http://www.u3a-oliva.org)

*The Committee wish you a very happy and restful summer and look forward to seeing you in September, when renewals will be due at the reduced rate of eight euros.*



From Tina Bellenie

With mixed feelings, I am leaving the U3A committee after three years service, having seen the association grow from zero to over four hundred members.

*Did I enjoy it? Yes, every minute.*

*What were the best moments? Seeing members in their groups, enjoying meetings, having a great time at the events, and knowing that our team had made it possible. Especially when people said 'This has changed my life'. Also working with a superb committee. Best of all, the many friends I have made.*

*Why am I stopping? Because it is time for new people and new ideas. Every association needs a turnover of people or it becomes stale and pedantic.*

Volunteering has been demonstrated to improve quality of life, and working for the U3A is a great experience. If you have a few hours to spare, do consider it, either as a committee member, a group leader or an occasional helper. Contact any member of the committee to see what is needed. You will be made very welcome.