

# **U3A Moraira-Teulada**

[www.u3amoraira-teulada.org](http://www.u3amoraira-teulada.org)

**NEWSLETTER Number 60 - February 2014**

## **A message from your Newsletter Editor**

In this month's newsletter we have a 'helpful' theme, where members' experiences are being shared and also an interesting article from Brian Nicholls about a little known memorial in Hyde Park, which was officially opened in November 2004 by Princess Anne, the Princess Royal.

When our U3A was first set up 5½ years ago, Mike Lawson volunteered to create and manage the website. It has been a task which he has found very creative and satisfying. However, he now feels that it is time to hand over to someone else and Piotr Azia will be taking over from him. The handover will be taking place shortly.

The website is currently being entirely redesigned, using new technology. We hope that the new format will make it easier for you to access information.

If you would like an interesting article or news item to be considered for inclusion in future editions of the newsletter, please email them to me.

Pat Clarke

[newsletter-editor@u3amoraira-teulada.org](mailto:newsletter-editor@u3amoraira-teulada.org)



## **Next U3A meeting**

**The next General Meeting will be on Monday, 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2014  
at the Salón de Banquetes, Avenida del Mediterráneo, Teulada at 10:30 a.m.**

**Doors open to members at 09:30 a.m.**

## **Membership Renewals 2014**

There will be four more opportunities for you to renew your membership for 2014. These are as follows:

Monday, 3 <sup>rd</sup> February 2014	Salón de Banquetes, Teulada	Doors open 09:30 a.m.
Thursday, 13 <sup>th</sup> February 2014	La Senieta, Moraira	10:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
Monday, 3 <sup>rd</sup> March 2014	Salón de Banquetes, Teulada	Doors open 09:30 a.m.
Monday, 17 <sup>th</sup> March 2014	La Senieta, Moraira	10:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

**Please ensure that you bring along your existing membership cards and your subscriptions of 10 euros per person.**

Members who are not here due to travel or other reasons can give their membership card(s) and subscriptions to a friend or neighbour who can renew on their behalf. If you are aware of friends/neighbours who are members but do not have a computer, would you please pass this information on to them. Members who did not collect their cards in 2013 will receive a card at any of the dates shown above.

**New members are also welcome.**

## **Useful Spanish Phrases** **by Pauline McGough**

Por si a caso	-	Just in case
No vale la pena	-	It isn't worth it
No me dí cuenta	-	I didn't realise
Te echo mucho de menos	-	I miss you lots
No te preocupes	-	Don't worry

## Renewing Passports by Margaret Roberts

Having successfully renewed my own Passport several years ago through Madrid, when Don's needed doing, I downloaded the forms, had the application countersigned and the photo endorsed and sat down at the weekend to gather everything together ready for posting.

The first thing I found out is that Madrid stopped doing renewals last May and now you have to post everything off to Dublin. No problem I thought except that I couldn't find an address anywhere. After some time spent trolling through various government websites, I decided to phone.

A very nice lady said that as from January 2014 all renewals must be done Online. So all the printing I had done and the countersigning etc. was all a waste of time. There is no choice; it must be completed online.

There is no need for endorsements of any kind (unless you are renewing for a child) and the payment details are included. The last page is the declaration which you have to print and sign and this is posted with two photos and the old passport, and this is where they give you the address. This declaration is printed with your name and a reference number on it so they can easily find your online application. Also you are given a reference to be able to track its progress.

In the UK it is the same system except they post you the declaration which is then returned with the photos etc. In the UK there is a system in place for people without a computer, I think through the Post Office, for which you pay extra, but I'm not sure how you would do it from Spain. I hope this helps anyone who needs to renew.

**Editor's Note** – If you wish to renew your passport, then follow this link

<https://www.gov.uk/overseas-passports>

A 16 page guide can be downloaded from here

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/help-completing-the-online-passport-application-from-outside-the-uk>

## Notes on what to do when someone dies (just what I now know)

By Jan Adams

*Having gone through the experience myself in the not too distant past, if these notes can help anyone else through a very sad and traumatic time I am glad to help.*

Call the doctor who has been attending. He will issue a death certificate and arrange for the removal of the body. If a sudden and unexplained death, call the police 112.

Tanatorio Crematorio Javea ☎ 965 790 188

Guy in charge is called Balbi, speaks English, as do his two sons who work there. You choose a coffin – be careful, they are not labelled with a price, you need to ask. Plainer ones are often more expensive. Same with the urn for the ashes. He has a list of people who conduct the ceremonies; you need to ask for what you want. As a humanist wanting no religion involvement I used Clive Read 966 462 848 mob 669 386 702 but Balbi has various priests and religious people. Another local Humanist celebrant is called Susan tel 966 493 370 mob 619 733 198 [www.costablancacelebrant.com](http://www.costablancacelebrant.com) Any music you want you give your CD or whatever to the sons, who are tech savvy. Say when in the ceremony and which track etc. You may like to make a collection for a charity, in which case provide envelopes and a container, with a sign. Ask someone to keep an eye on it as apparently donations can 'disappear'. The crematorium will provide a condolences book for people to write in.

Arrange somewhere for people to go afterwards for a 'wake'.

Send out this information to all relevant people, possibly asking them to tell anyone you may have missed.

DO NOT inform the bank if you have a joint account. They will freeze the account. Set up a new account in your sole name, withdraw all the money maybe leaving a nominal amount, and then transfer all the standing orders etc. to the new account.

Make sure you have a credit card IN YOUR OWN NAME. NOT as a secondary cardholder. Preferably in advance, but certainly before you close any relevant bank accounts.

Ask for as many INTERNATIONAL death certificates as you can. Lots of institutions want originals, and this saves waiting for them to be returned.

## **Get yourself a Spanish Will** **by Brian Clark**

“In this world, nothing can be said to be certain, except death and taxes”. Those wise and somewhat sad words were uttered by Benjamin Franklin in 1789, and of course, nothing has changed in the meantime.

So, the firm recommendation is to get yourself a Spanish Will prepared, if you own a Spanish property and/or have assets in Spain. It will not override any will you have organized in UK or Ireland. It will simply allow your beneficiaries to deal with your Spanish Estate and assets speedily, and this is important. In Spanish Law, they have 6 months from the date of death to pay IHT (Spanish Inheritance Tax). It is most unusual for the English probate to be dealt with in time to allow this deadline to be met – and this will result in the accrual of tax surcharges and interest.

As already revealed, you can include your Spanish property and assets on your UK or Irish will and leave it at that. However, after death, before the inheritance procedure can begin, an official translator, the Foreign Office, and lawyers will have to become involved – but that takes time and will cost money. It seems to be prudent to arrange a Spanish Will in the first place.

While in Spain, there are strict rules about who can and cannot inherit, but they do not apply to you. As a UK or Irish national, you can choose who you want the inheritor/s to be.

You should always seek the advice of your own Abogado regarding your own circumstances.

## **European Health Insurance Card (EHIC)**

In November 2013 representatives of the Department of Health and the Valencia Health Authority held a talk at La Senieta in Moraira. The aim of the talk was to clarify any doubts regarding the use of the EHIC and how to correctly access healthcare in Spain.

These are the sort of questions that were dealt with:

- Who is entitled to use the UK EHIC ?
- What cover does the EHIC give you?
- What is medically-necessary treatment?
- Can I use it to see a private doctor?
- What if I want to travel to Spain just to get treatment?
- What if I'm pregnant and want to give birth in Spain?

For answers to all the above questions and for further information go to: [www.healthcareinspain.eu](http://www.healthcareinspain.eu)

## **THE 'ANIMALS IN WAR' MEMORIAL, Hyde Park, London.** **by Brian Nicholls.**

Some of you will perhaps have visited the 'Animals in War' memorial in Hyde Park. It is an outstanding design and quite different from the classical 'sculpture on a plinth' concept with which we are so familiar.

By chance I happened to play a very small part in the shaping of the final design.

However, I need to clearly state that the organisation and creation of the memorial was due to a sustained effort by a highly dedicated and qualified team of people of which I was not a part and with whom I had no direct contact.

The story of what subsequently led to my modest, but I like to think, significant contribution to the concept of the memorial, started when I was nearing retirement from my college post. Knowing that I would miss the activity of work that I enjoyed, I decided to enlarge on my hobby of Equine Military History by starting a research project on Military Mules in the British and British Indian armies, which I considered to have been somewhat ignored in favour of the more glamorous cavalry horse.

I subsequently made contact with Lt. Colonel Charles MacFetridge, Chairman of the British Mule Society and an ex-commander of an Indian Army Mountain Battery in Burma in WW2. To my pleasant surprise it transpired that he had been seeking a Graduate student to produce exactly the sort of project that I had in mind. I was not a student, of course, but Charles was enthusiastic about my project synopsis and we built up an excellent relationship.

Not everyone can distinguish a mule from a horse or a donkey. The mule, a sterile hybrid, is the offspring of a large jack donkey (not the usual seaside donkey) and a horse mare. The confirmation of the foal is determined by the type of mare used. From his or her mother, the mule foal gets body weight and strength and from the sire, small hard feet, great agility in rough terrain, feral strength from his wild heritage and, if well trained and handled, a calm temperament. It is said that you can 'talk to a horse but you can whisper to a mule'. Military mules were rarely ridden. Fitted with specialised pack-saddlery, they were led by their own personal handler and carried anything from general supplies, wounded soldiers, wireless sets, pack artillery and a long list of other equipment, weapons and ammunition.

On the 'Line of March' many a lonely young soldier has whispered his fears into the long floppy mule ears. He might even have got a soft bray in return. Because of this personal contact, British, Indian and African soldiers often became so sentimentally attached to their charges that when the mule had to be destroyed through injury, the handler was often inconsolable.

Because of their especially calm temperament very large mules, usually Spanish bred, were used in WW1 to pull ambulances. There are records of their crossing flimsy swaying bridges in Mesopotamia, displaying the upmost calmness, when even well trained artillery horses were plunging to their deaths in the swift flowing rivers.

Mules were transported by lorry, train, ship and specially converted aeroplanes and in 1945 were even parachuted on to a training battlefield in a series of successful experiments. This was in preparation for a planned third 'Chindit' expedition but the nuclear attack on mainland Japan in that year, made it unnecessary.

It was therefore the 200 year old story of the military mule that I set out to tell. During my research I received an overwhelming amount of support from private mule owners and military personnel of all ranks who had wartime experience of mules and naturally held the mule in very high esteem. Research

opportunities in military facilities, usually closed to the public, became possible that could never have been achieved without their invaluable help.

I was still teaching at this stage and researching in my spare time. There was much publicity about the intended 'Animals in War' Memorial and especially about the huge fundraising task that faced the committee. In due course a fundraising reception was to be held at a luxury hotel in central London to which I was invited. I cannot now recall the exact timing, but in between the sending of the invitations for the fundraising event and the reception itself, I was in my college staff room, looking through the latest Art and Design journals, when, in a sculpture journal, I saw an illustrated preview of the short listed designs for the Memorial.

My specialism was in art and design and I was qualified to make a critical appraisal. My first reaction was that, a rather decorative prancing horse seemed to be the dominant theme used by most of the designers as a focal point for their concept. My second reaction was that, although the military mule had played a hugely important part in modern warfare and, as far as WW2 was concerned, a far superior role to that of the horse, that point had clearly not been understood by the designers. I knew of course that these were only design concepts but I felt that there was a danger that the chosen design might relegate the mule to a subsidiary role. Although this might not have happened I thought it was worthwhile contacting Charles.

He shared my concerns and spoke to a very senior officer of the Mountain Artillery Association of which Charles was a member, and who was in a position to bring some gentle lobbying influence to bear.

I cannot substantiate the subsequent course of action but, significantly, within a very short while that particular fundraising reception had been cancelled and with it went my only opportunity to mingle with the 'Great and the Good'.

In due course David Backhouse was commissioned to design what must be one of the finest memorial to animals in war in the world, and one in which the mule is shown in his rightful place of importance and correctly portrayed in that characteristic and stoic manner which is so well remembered by the few surviving military veterans.

I did briefly meet David to pass over to him some photographic reference material from my extensive archive. By then, however, I had retired and was about to move to Spain to live so, for the second time, I missed out on the inaugural celebrations associated with the Memorial.

There was a sad but small compensation in that when Charles died, Joanna Lumley, who had read our book and whose father was a 'Chindit'\* wrote me a very nice personal letter with condolences on the death of 'our mutual friend'. Very kind of her I thought.

The commemorative flower for military horses, donkeys and mules is a blue cornflower so if you ever happen to be near Hyde Park in London please visit the memorial. It is adjacent to Park Lane and children can walk into it and touch the mules and a horse. If you happen to have a cornflower or a poppy and a bit of blue tack you can adorn the mules with your own personal bridle rosette.

\* The 'Chindits' were a WW2 Long Range Penetration Group ranging behind Japanese lines in Burma, using mules and air supply support. Major Lumley was a British Gurkha officer. Casualties in men and animals were very heavy and the operational effect is debated to this day. What is not disputed is the morale boost that it gave to the beleaguered allies in proving that the enemy could be effectively attacked on their own ground. On the second expedition mules, men, artillery and heavy equipment were flown in by C47 (Dakota) aircraft towing gliders. The civilian designation of the Dakota was a DC3 and in the early post war years, many were used on the first package holiday routes to Jersey and Spain.

## Group News

### ***Art/History Programme***

#### **Art Appreciation**

Monday 10<sup>th</sup> February 2014  
'A Short Stroll through Egyptian Art'  
A presentation by Maureen Stanley

Monday, 24<sup>th</sup> February 2014  
'Guernica: The Atrocity and the Painting'  
A presentation by Peter Atkinson

#### **History Lecture**

Monday, 10<sup>th</sup> March 2014  
'War in the Alps'  
A special video presentation by Fabio Bezoari

All lectures take place at La Senieta Theatre in Moraira and start at 10.30 a.m.

There is illustrated detail on the above talks on the U3a website  
<http://www.u3amoraira-teulada.org/groups/art.html>

### ***Drama Group***

The U3A Moraira-Teulada Drama Group have recently performed "**Cinderella, a pantomime**" for the young children of the Teulada school and again for the children of the Moraira school, to help them with their English. A U3A member who attended one of the performances suggested that our adult members and their friends and families would enjoy seeing it as well. So, here we are, ready to play it for you (with just a short addition to the children's version):

When: **Tuesday 4 February, show starts at 11:00 a.m.**

Where: **Salón de Actos, Espai la Senieta, Moraira** (next to the large free car park)

**Entrance is open to all and it's free**, so you are welcome to bring along friends and family!

***Come along and be a kid again - just for a fun half hour!***



## Film Group

Monday 10<sup>th</sup> February

'Made in Dagenham'

starring Sally Hawkins, Bob Hoskins, Miranda Richardson & Geraldine James

A very British story and a very British film, *Made In Dagenham* recreates some of the real-life events surrounding the 1968 strike at the Ford Dagenham assembly plant. It takes, as you might expect, a few liberties with the exact history surrounding the story, but nonetheless tells the tale of a group of women who walked out in search of equal pay for their work. This has all been fashioned into a film by screenwriter Billy Ivory, and director Nigel Cole. Cole, previously responsible for *Calendar Girls*, is a fine choice for *Made In Dagenham*, mixing in period detail with assured direction. A light-hearted, enjoyable and funny film.

Salón de Actos, La Senieta, Moraira

Doors open at 5:45 p.m. for a 6:00 p.m. start.

Please show your current U3A membership card.

More details of this film with illustration, a review and a link to the trailer can be found on the U3A website

<http://www.u3amoraira-teulada.org/groups/film.html>

## Quiz Group

Hello everybody and we just can't believe the February U3A Newsletter and thus the second month of this year are almost upon us!

Our first Quiz of the season seemed to go down quite well and everyone enjoyed the belated festivities, when we received a very nice "thank you" surprise from the Group members.

For new Members of the U3A, the Quiz is held fortnightly in the bar at Los Leones, Sol Park, where we meet at 3.45 p.m. for a 4 o'clock start and all are welcome.

Below are the answers to the anagrams for the New Year:

1. Phrase from which to work: "NO SPECIAL FEE MOST MONTHS"

Clue: I HOPE YOU HAVE A HAPPY HOLIDAY

The solution was "Compliments of the Season"

2. Phrase from which to work: "AWFUL – NO RARE EVENT"

Clue: BUT IT'S THE WRONG SEASON TO FIND ONE!

The solution was "Turn over a new leaf"

3. Phrase from which to work: "VALUE NOTE UNDER SONNET"

Clue: REACH YOUR GOAL AT ALL COSTS

The solution was "Leave no stone unturned"

Perhaps you'd like to have a go at the following anagrams, for which the answers will be revealed in next month's Newsletter.

1. Phrase from which to work: "TAKEN OUT DEEP, I HURRY"

Clue: BUT DON'T TELL ANYBODY!

Solution contains 5 words of 4, 2, 5, 4 and 3 letters.

2. Phrase from which to work: "EVERY STUDIO CURSES JESTER"

Clue: GIVEN AN APPROPRIATE SWEETENER!

Solution contains 4 words of 7, 4, 4, and 8 letters.

3. Phrase from which to work: "VOLATILE KING WAS HISSED "

Clue: SO THIS REALLY WON'T APPLY TO HIS ROYAL MAIL!

Solution contains 5 words of 6, 4, 1, 6 and 4 letters.

We hope you all have a good month and enjoy St Valentine's Day.

Best wishes, Les and Helen

### ***New Year, New Groups***

If you would like to start a New Group or have ideas for Groups please contact me and I will help you in any way I can. [sbaehr1951@aol.com](mailto:sbaehr1951@aol.com)

### ***Moraira-Teulada U3A Committee Members 2014***

<b><i>President</i></b>	Jill Cole
<b><i>Vice President</i></b>	Don Roberts
<b><i>Treasurer</i></b>	Christine (Titch) Crossfield
<b><i>Deputy Treasurer</i></b>	John Hopwood
<b><i>Secretary</i></b>	Margaret Roberts
<b><i>Membership Secretary</i></b>	Sue Popkin
<b><i>Deputy Membership Secretary</i></b>	Margaret Williamson
<b><i>Group Coordinator</i></b>	Shirley Baehr Tel. 966 495 633
<b><i>Travel Group Coordinator</i></b>	Carol Mantle
<b><i>Newsletter Editor</i></b>	Pat Clarke
<b><i>Website Liaison/Discounts Officer</i></b>	David Haxon
<b><i>Speakers List Coordinator</i></b>	Eileen Haxon
<b><i>New Members Liaison Officer</i></b>	Shirley Tuckey
<b><i>Committee Member</i></b>	John Manley
<b><i>Committee Member</i></b>	John Freeman
<b><i>Members-Committee Liaison Officer</i></b>	Brian Nicholls

## CALENDAR OF GROUPS

DAY	A.M.	P.M.
<b>MONDAY</b>	<i>Art Appreciation Classical Music Appreciation Computing – Intermediate History Golf Padel Tennis</i>	<i>Bowls Canasta Cocina Club Creative Writing Film group Gardening Patchwork Scrabble</i>
<b>TUESDAY</b>	<i>Computing - Beginners Drama group Healthy Walking Yoga</i>	<i>Computing - Beginners Dining out (evening) Five-a-Side Football (evening) Flower Arranging Golden Oldies Musicians Group Knit, Stitch and Natter Mosaics Sailing group</i>
<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	<i>Exercise Class Painting Petanque 1 Spanish Conversation for Beginners/Pre-Intermediate</i>	<i>Alternative Wine Appreciation Backgammon Badminton Bowls Cribbage (evening) Debating Mosaics Pilates Rummikub</i>
<b>THURSDAY</b>	<i>Chess Freshwater Fishing Healthy Walking Petanque 2 Petanque 3 Photographic group</i>	<i>Mah-Jong Padel Tennis Painting Petanque 4 Quiz group Table Tennis</i>
<b>FRIDAY</b>	<i>Spanish Conversation for Beginners Yoga</i>	<i>Bridge Darts (evening) Patchwork Reading group</i>
<b>SATURDAY</b>	<i>Petanque 5 Spanish Conversation – Intermediate/Advanced</i>	
<b>SUNDAY</b>		<i>Dining Out - Sunday Lunch Solo group</i>
<b>VARIOUS</b>	<i>Friends of Avinença, Jigsaw Puzzles, Solo Uno</i>	
<b>TO BE ANNOUNCED</b>		

For further information on any of the above groups, please go to  
<http://www.u3amoraira-teulada.org/groups.html> or contact Shirley Baehr on 966 495 633

## **CIRCULATION OF NEWSLETTERS**

*You can read and/or print off copies of the U3A Teulada/Moraira newsletters. The small file version is intended for members who have dial-up modems and long download times. This version contains basically just the text content of the newsletters. The other version is for members with a broadband internet connection. It contains photographs, illustrations etc. that make the Newsletter more attractive to read.*

*Contributors - please note that all items that you wish to be included in the newsletter must be with the Editor by the middle of the third week of each month. Photos are welcome.*

*This newsletter is posted on the U3A website and, to protect privacy, no email addresses or telephone numbers are shown without the owner's specific permission. Go to the website for emailing instructions.*

## **DISCOUNTS**

In order to reduce the size of the Newsletter, the details of U3A discounts are now only included in the copies which are printed for non computer owners. For computer owners details of discounts are given on the website [www.u3amoraira-teulada.org](http://www.u3amoraira-teulada.org)