



Art Appreciation Report

JANICE GALLOWAY

This year we have expanded the Art Appreciation group and we now meet at two locations, El Morche on the third Wednesday of the month and Canillas de Abiada on the second Wednesday, both meetings start at 11am. I have 30 people on my mailing list and normally we get about 10 people at both locations.

Our format is a short introduction, followed by a DVD and then a lively discussion. Since September, members have been introducing their favourite painter or a painter with a topic which merits discussion. This has added a dynamic element to the group and the enthusiasm flows.

This year we have had

- September when Janice Galloway introduced Turner.
- October gave us Roger Martinez about Constable.
- November was Sue and Gordon Kind introducing Dali.
- In December, Maggie Silwood took us to Malaga to the Casa and Rusinol Exhibition.
- Then January was Janice and Jack Vettriano, our first living artist.
- February in El Morche and March in Canillas with Maggie Silwood and Van Gogh,.
- February we also had an impromptu trip to Malaga to visit CAC for the Abraham Genie exhibition.
- March Mary Ensor took us around the galleries in Velez Malaga.

Future plans are:

- April is Roger Martinez and Reynolds.
- May, Pompadour Centre in Malaga

- June, Thyssen Art Gallery, Malaga to view Days of Summer exhibition.
- The schedule for next year is under construction.

Everyone is welcome.



Book Club

Helen Boulton

The Book Group meets on the 4th Tuesday of the month at the Tanit Bar in Torre del Mar and on the 4th Wednesday of the month at El Choto in Peñoncillo. Approximately once a year we each submit as many recommendations as we wish, and these are put to the vote and the most popular go onto our reading list. We have recently chosen our reading list for 2015.

We read a wide variety of books on all subjects, from children's books to science fiction. We try to diversify between modern writing and the classics, for example, this month we have been reading *Water for Elephants* by Sara Gruen and *Ladder of Years* by Anne Tyler.

We also like to discuss adaptations, television shows and films. We didn't like *Water for Elephants* film, but thought *Babe the Sheep Pig* was better than the book.

It is not compulsory to read all the books we choose, and if you cannot make all the meetings, you may still contribute on-line. We are a friendly group, and lively discussions always ensue.

Helen



Cycling group report

VERNON WHEATCROFT

The cycling group continues on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of every month. There is a constant core of 6 members , who are permanent residents here and joined by others when they are in Spain.

We have broadened the area which we are now happy to cover where we drive to a spot and ride from there eg Malaga to Cartama, Nerja to Herradura. Vinuela and round the lake . We always ride at around 18kms per hour with coffee break after 2 hours and Menu del Dia at the end.

I have a mailing list of 20 people who I advise of the meeting place on the Saturday before the ride . We have been fortunate with the weather and have not missed a ride due to rain. We are always keen to have new members join our group and will help if required with advice on equipment.

Vernon Wheatcroft



EASY WALKING GROUP

GERRY & MAGGIE SILWOOD

The "Easy" Walking group is continuing with an average of 12 walkers each walk.

Our last two walks have been to the Torre near Lake Vinuela led by Terry which was great and with spectacular views of the lake and the mountains and this month was along the coast from Rincon de la Victoria. Next two are to the old railway line near Zaffaraya and to the Botanical gardens in Malaga- a gentle stroll around the grounds.

Anyone of average fitness is welcome to join us. We are a sociable group and enjoy a lunch or tapas after each walk.

Thanks,
Maggie



EXPLORATION OF CLASSICAL MUSIC

JAMES TAYLER

This group has been meeting on the second Friday of each month at Antonio's Bar at the entrance to Canillas de Albaida since November 2013 and on the coast since November 2014. The location of the coast group has changed to Parquesol Resturant El Morche. Both groups are led by James Tayler.

It is not intended as a rigorous course in "Music Appreciation" (whatever that is!) but a mixture of exploration of what Classical Music is about and how it is put together, something about the history of music and about the composers who have written it, and an opportunity to encounter some of the byways of forgotten but eminently worthwhile music as well as the established and popular masterpieces.

The sessions on the coast so far have been:

- November 2014 - Introductory session – a programme of shorter pieces of music to give a taste of the various kinds of classical music which can be heard in concert halls and recital rooms.
- January 2015 - The Symphony – including an introduction to "form" in music.
- February 2015 – The Symphony: Mozart and Beethoven – including thoughts on "What is a tune?"
- March 1 2015 The Concerto

We plan:

April 2015 - "Programme Music" – Music which paints a picture or tells a story

Unfortunately there will be no May meeting

June 2015 – Choral Music Part 1: Sacred Music

July 2015 – "The Forgotten Treasury": British opera between Purcell and Britten

We break for the hottest weather through August, when many people are away.

September 2015 – “iZarzuela!”: The Spanish lyric theatre. The extracts from stage and film productions will be played on video as well as audio.

Since last January the sessions at Canillas de Albaida have been:

- February 2014 – The Symphony: Mozart and Beethoven – including thoughts on “What is a tune?”
- March 2014 - “Programme Music” – Music which paints a picture or tells a story.
- April 2014 – Choral music – Part 1, Sacred music
- May 2014 - “The Forgotten Treasury” – British opera between Purcell and Britten
- June 2014 – The Concerto
- July 2014 – Choral Music – Part 2, Secular Music
- September 2014 – Franz Peter Schubert – his life and music.
- October 2014 – iZarzuela! – The Spanish lyric theatre. This session was a little different in that it presented video extracts from zarzuelas on a screen
- November 2014 – Nationalist composers
- December 2014 – Lollipops. bon-bons and “These you have loved”
- January 2015 – The Symphony after Beethoven
- February 2015 Ralph Vaughan Williams – His Life and Music.
- March 2015 – “The Music of Friends”: An introduction to Chamber Music

What’s planned in Canillas

April 2015 – “A Ramble in Some Musical Byways”

Unfortunately there will be no May meeting.

June 2015 – Sir Edward Elgar: Much more than simply “Pomp and Circumstance”

July 2015 - “iZarzuela 2!” – A second selection of delights from the Spanish stage.

We break for the hottest weather through August, when many people are away.

September 2015 "Whom the gods I've . . ." – Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

Everyone is welcome at both groups. The Canillas group usually enjoys lunch after the session.



Helping Spanish Students

Following a request from the college (Maria Zambrano in Torre del Mar) last year several of our members volunteered to join the students in their classes. This was to help them choose the correct words and to improve their pronunciation of English. These students are working towards jobs in the travel and hospitality trade.

For some of their lessons from their Spanish teachers it is very helpful to have a native English Language assistant or assistants in the classroom. Our members that did this last year found it interesting and satisfying.

At present there are three Spanish teachers who would like us to join in these lessons. You can join in as many or as few lessons as you like, and a timetable showing where help is required is available. If you have some Spanish that helps, but the class is mainly held in English. If you would like to know more please contact me.

Roland Gillett (Group Leader) (rolandgillett@gmail.com)



Our Mahjong Group meets every Thursday morning from 10.30am at one of two locations. On the second and fourth Thursdays in the month, we meet at Bar Piscis on the promenade at Algarrobo Costa. On all other Thursdays we meet at Cafe Mango in Benajarafe (just behind Cajamar bank).

Reminders are sent out every week to about 25 registered members of the Group. There are typically between 6 and 12 players attending, though on occasions there are more, and sometimes fewer. We have agreed a quorum of just 3 players so there is almost always a game in progress!

If you have never played and are curious about the possibility of learning the game, don't hesitate to make contact and then come along. Not only will you be very welcome, you will have a lot of fun and be hooked in no time at all!"

Cheers

Richard



MEDITATION & RELAXATION

HELEN HARES

Torrox meditation take place on the 1st and 3rd Thursdays of the month at 11.00 am, it is held at Judy Milners house in Torrox Costa.

The Competa group has also been well attended by a regular group of about 6 to 8 people on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays at 4.00 pm at Helen Hares villa in Competa.

we listen to various types of meditation CD's from Indian meditation to Archangels, General Wellness and listening to affirmations. The sessions usually last about 45 minutes and then we sit for awhile and have a discussion on what have listened to and then a general chat amongst ourselves

Attendance by both groups is usually between 6 to 10 people.

Helen



Munch Bunch

February 2015 marked the first anniversary of the Munch Bunch gastronomic gatherings. Maggie Silwood and Norma Kira Masip co-chair this activity where we invite members to monthly lunch outings on the third Friday.

Members make suggestions of venues in the zone and help in contacting and coordinating the events with restaurant managers. Maggie and Norma share the responsibility of contacting the membership with the details of each venue and confirming attendance for each outing with menu selections and direction for each.

For over a year we have enjoyed a wide variety of fine lunches including wine tasting in Sayalonga, ethnic Japanese dining in Nerja in January, a menu del dia in Torrox at the Guadalupe Restaurant, as part of a wholesale fruit and vegetable warehouse: very local eatery!! This past March, 19 of us gathered in Torre del Mar by the Paseo Maritimo where in Padre Pio (with Marziano, Italian owner and Nai, Brazilian Chef) we were spoiled with a delectable menu del dia where we pre-selected and specified fish or meat entrees for each participant ahead of the meal.

Each month, we attract 15 to 20 participants and most express their satisfaction at the food, the fun and the value of the outing!!

Maggie and I look forward to another "delicious" gastronomic year while exploring and discovering hidden eating treasures in the Axarquia!!



Painting Group

The painting group meets once every other week on Wednesday morning, 11am at La Plata beachside Restaurant - on the left coming from Torre del Mar just off the roundabout as you come to Benajárafe (Carretera Málaga, Km 263, 29790 Benajárafe)

This is a group of artists and would be artists who meet to exchange techniques and skills using a variety of mediums oils, pastels, watercolours acrylics etc.

Roland Gillett (Acting Group Leader)

Pétanque (Canillas de Albaida) Group. DAVID WOLFE

In the past year the mayor of Canillas de Albaida has kindly built three new pétanque pits for us to play on.

We play every Thursday at 2.30 in the afternoon but when it gets to hot we the change the time to 10.30 in the morning.

We welcome new members and visitors as we would like to I increase our numbers.

It is our intention to arrange to play other clubs.

Any enquiries please contact me by email or telephone 666 88 66 11

Kind regards

David Wolfe



Petanque (Torre del Mar) Group

ROLAND GILLETT

This group continues to be well supported. Due to ill health and sadly one death in our members this year we continue to have sufficient numbers who regularly turn out for our Monday afternoon games.

We have members with a range of proficiency and make sure that everyone who comes to each meeting is guaranteed to be able to play, no sitting around waiting for a game.

We play every Monday from 3pm just along westwards from the blue and white lighthouse in Torre del Mar. Play usually goes on for an hour to an hour and a half. Afterwards we retire to a nearby cafe for refreshment and a chat.

Any U3A El Morche member who would like to come along and have a go (we can lend you some boules) please let me know by Sunday night before the day (rolandgillett@gmail.com) and I will bring some along.

We look forward to seeing you.

Roland Gillett, Group Leader



Photography Group

The Photography Group meets once a month on the last Wednesday of the month, normally in the afternoon. Some meetings are to share information, tips, information, planning photoshoots etc. and others

are out and about on a photoshoot (we recently went round parts of Velez Malaga).

We also have the opportunity to display some of our photographs in a restaurant in Torre del Mar (Las Perlas - closed Mondays) and this has proved popular with both the restaurant owners and their clients. We change the display regularly and our members have the opportunity to see their work on display). Our group Leader is not able to take charge of the group at the moment so any questions you may have can be sent to me. New members always welcome.
(rolandgillett@gmail.com)

Roland Gillett (Acting group Leader)



POLYMER CLAY

CHRIS HOBBS

Polymer Clay groups meets every two weeks at the Parquesol Restaurant in El Morche. The meeting starts at 11am. We have 8 members who attend regularly.

Polymer Clay dates back to the 1930s when it was first invented in the USA. In the last 10 years in particular it has become very popular in Europe. It's an interesting medium that encourages creativity and experimentation. It requires very little specialised equipment and is rewarding for both beginners and the more experienced. Because polymer is a relatively young medium, new ways of using and developing it are always being discovered and often shared freely online.

Polymer clay is very versatile. It can be used to create traditional jewellery, tribal jewellery or very futuristic stuff. It can be used to faux turquoise, agate, opals and other faux gemstones. You can stamp it, emboss it, carve it, paint it, or just use it as it was originally intended. It doesn't have to be confined to jewellery making either. Polymer can be used to make buttons, to cover boxes, picture frames or to create mixed media projects with acrylics, oils, gold leaf etc. Some people have even created 'paintings' with it.

This is a small hands on group where ideas are freely shared and experiment is encouraged. There is always help available, but the essence is sharing knowledge and hands on experience. Each member has their own equipment. However, we will lend you materials for a few weeks to get you started. The list of equipment required is available from the group leader.

So far we have learnt to make small items of jewellery. We have also created embossed mirrors, photo frames, boxes and faux gemstones.

During the first few meetings we have learned various techniques. We have all produced earrings using a kaleidoscope cane. We made skinner blends, bulls' eye canes and Jelly roles which have become necklaces, earrings, buttons and covered boxes.

Everyone welcome



Quiz Group

Andrew Boulton

The quiz group meets on the first Friday of every month at the Parquesol restaurant in El Morche.

They are always lively affairs, different members taking it in turn to host the quiz.

The quizzes are on various topics and formats.

Andrew



SPANISH HISTORY

PATRICIA SHAW

The history Group now has 38 and has been increasing in size over the years. We enjoy a good turn out with between 16 to 30 members present at any one time.

On Tuesday 7th April I talked about "The Romans in Iberia" and my next talk will be on the Visigoths. Andrew (Henbest) talked about "The Spanish Inquisition" his next talk will be about Don Quixote. Norma will continue her talks on her experience of living in France as a family who fled Spain during the Spanish Civil War. We welcomed two new members at our last meeting Patricia Rothwell and Stella Duckett who we hope we will be seeing more of in the future.

For our History meeting in February we enjoyed a visit to the Treasure caves in Rincon de la Victoria and there were 28 people who joined us for our visit.

Our next trip will be on the 5th of May when we will be visiting the car museum in Malaga.

We are also looking forward to more people volunteering to give talks in the future and also more interesting visits to historical places including a few which will include an overnight stay.