



SPOTLIGHT ON...

Staying out of the sun - for fun

'I belong to the U3A (University of the Third Age), learning for pleasure in Fuengirola, Costa Del Sol, Spain,' writes Ann Matthews. 'I have been running a short story and article-writing group for two years now. It was a group for beginners, most were apprehensive, with a desire to write but not sure they could do it. They have become a cohesive group who have gained in confidence and have a go at any task given.'

'We meet fortnightly for two hours. Our U3A only operates from October to May as the summer is too hot for most to take part in activities. As we have no access to our group rooms during the summer, we carried on in our homes, taking turns. We did have to have July and August off – much too hot – temperature anything from 35-41c means mostly doing nothing very much.'

'They are a prolific group, and everyone usually manages a short story of 1,500-1,750 words every two weeks. Each member reads their stories, which we have all come to enjoy. The group are comfortable with constructive critiques,

'We have learned a great deal from one another. I think sharing our efforts has helped us to recognise that there are many different styles of writing and the importance of developing our own style.'

'I am thrilled that two members of our group have been shortlisted in *Writers News*.

'The beginners group will be continuing but we are launching a new group this October for writers, established, published or otherwise. We will be sharing our ideas, looking at different genres, playwriting and publishing, in particular e-publishing. We would love to share ideas with other groups. I can be contacted at spanisheyes41@hotmail.com.'

