

**MINUTES OF THE U3A GENERAL MEETING
HELD ON 11th APRIL 2013
AT THE SOL IFACH HOTEL, CALPE**

John Pickford opened the meeting by relating the sad news of the death of Peter Kennard who died on Good Friday and he extended our sympathy to his widow Gillian and her family. Jenny O'Neill read out a card from Gillian thanking everyone for their kindness and stated that a collection of €224 had been given to Help of Calpe.

WELCOME: John welcomed 158 members and 10 new members to this, the first meeting at our new venue, the Sol Ifach Hotel. He began by pointing out some safety issues such as the fire escapes and a warning to take care when leaving the raised seating area. Before the meeting Mark Sanderson entertained us by playing his acoustic guitar: he is one of our group leaders who also gives guitar lessons.

We had two speakers today: the first, Rosemary Sheppard, a member of Moraira U3A Creative Writing Group read a very amusing short story she had written about sex in a graveyard followed by the return of Mike Rendell, author of 'the Journal of a Georgian Gentleman' this time talking about entertainment in England in the 18th Century. Rosemary was presented with a potted plant and Mike a bottle of wine after votes of thanks from Tina Wallis and Dell Haynes.

APOLOGIES FROM THE COMMITTEE: Rod Anderton

CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED: None

MINUTES OF THE LAST GENERAL MEETING (14th March):

Janet Bond, Secretary, read a brief resume of the minutes which had been put in their entirety on the stage if anyone wished to look at them. The proposed and seconded minutes were signed by President John Pickford.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE LAST MEETING:

- The Newsletter is now being emailed to those members that have registered their correct email details. Unfortunately a number of members have changed their addresses and they were requested to check that the Membership Secretary had the correct details. Anyone without email is welcome to receive a hard copy of the Newsletter and Tina has a list of those requesting this. We have made a considerable cost saving by printing off fewer copies of the Newsletter.
- Members were reminded that for most of us it is time to renew membership and that the subscription of €10 is now due.
- A small group has been busy organizing discounts for us with local companies and shops. This list is now ready to go and will be added-to as others come on board. Please see the website for details.

NEW BUSINESS:

- It has been pointed out that we used to have a photographer (Danielle) who took pictures at our meetings. It is useful to have photos for inclusion in the local newspapers as they are more inclined to include us if our notices and reports are accompanied by a picture. Members were asked if they would like to take on this role, possibly as part of a team and if so to let the committee know.
- We are aware that some members only find out about our meetings after they have taken place. We are trying hard to send out the Newsletter 7 days in advance of the meetings and Rod Anderton contacts the local press each month. Unfortunately they do not always include us in their publicity so we are, in addition, looking into the possibility of informing members who do not have email but

have a mobile phone being informed by text message of the dates and venues of our meetings. We will report further on this when information is available.

REPORTS: John called upon the various co-ordinators to present their reports.

Groups: Sandy Bianco gave her Groups report:

- Badminton is on Thursdays 9.30 to 11.00 at the Sports Hall: all levels welcome at €1 per session. We have spare racquets which may be borrowed if anyone does not have their own
- Liz Lodge will be holding her first papercraft workshop this year on 18th April from 10.00 to 1 pm at her home. Liz had sign-up sheets available at the meeting and the fee of €5 was payable on signing up to cover the cost of materials
- Petanc is now on its summer timetable and will start at 4 pm on Sundays
- The next mens' dining will be on 25th April at Porque No in Calpe. Contact roger Milsom for menu choices and directions
- Flower arranging has now changed its venue to bar Topaico III on La Fossa beach alternate Mondays from 8 April from 10.30 to 12.30
- Canasta is now weekly on Thursdays from 2 to 4 at Sandra Llewellyn's home
- The next Ten Pin Bowling is on Thursday 18th April: sign up today
- JUGS – next meeting on Thursday 2nd May at Restaurante Maruja on La Fossa beach. Sue had a sign up sheet at the meeting today
- Carole Ritchie's painting group will now be at 10.30 and not 3 pm – still on Fridays
- A new mosaics group will be starting in September with a possible 'taster' session beforehand. More details next time

A show of hands revealed that we could print fewer copies of the Groups List as most people would be prepared to look at the website for details.

Social :

Joy Lally presented her 'Social' report.

- We had a most successful Flamenco evening at the Bolero. Some good photos had been sent to Danielle for the scrapbook
- A quiz night on April 12th against U3A Vall de Pop who have challenged us: 6 teams of 4 persons will take part. Venue: Bar Nou in Senija with a fish and chip supper with wine etc included in the price of 11 euros
- 13th June. A lunch near the beach at the Exotic Bar after the June meeting. 10 euros for 2 courses – menus and sign up sheets next meeting
- A formal dinner dance in October will be announced after the summer break

Travel : Ellen gave the Travel Report

- Day trip to Gandia to include lunch and tour of the palace. 27th September €28
- 5 days Cordoba and Seville – 5 days leaving 3rd June - €390
- Valencia – sponsored day trip for €5 – 17 May
- 'Alternative' Eastern Mediterranean Cruise for those who missed out on the cruise promoted earlier in the year. This cruise to depart from Barcelona – 15 days for approx €775 per person staying at the same places as the other cruise
- Proposed trip to Russia is hopefully going ahead next year.

Full details are on the website.

Culture and Publicity: Rod Anderton's report was read by Jenny O'Neill

- Viva España flamenco show and meal. €35 pp with coach transport. Only 10 places remaining. Depart at 12.30 return at about 18.30
- Cwmbach Choir Concert in Calpe 17 May. Organised by Calpe and Benissa Lions Club
- Javea Players' next production is 'Bottoms Up' 16-20 April
- Calpe Gilbert and Sullivan's next production is at the Benissa Casa de Cultura on 9/10 May: tickets 12 euros with proceeds to Benissa Caritas
- 23 May 'Sounds familiar' €12

All information has been sent to the 'Cultural Interest Group' and further information available from Rod Anderton.

AOB:

- As last year, Norman Westworth is hoping to arrange Christmas at Guardamar which was successfully organized by Jean Laikin for many years in the past. He outlined the arrangements from past years and will be taking this further if there is sufficient interest.

NEXT MEETING: Thursday 9th May at the Ifach Hotel, Salon Mareostrum.

- The May speaker will be Geoffrey Woodward who will be presenting his talk about the history of Gata de Gorgos.

The 13th June meeting will also be at the Ifach Hotel

John thanked everyone for their attendance and for their very positive feedback on the new venue. A show of hands revealed overwhelming support for the Ifach as compared with the Casa de Cultura.

From the point of view of the organisers of the meeting it was deemed a great success to have everything and everyone contained in the one room and a couple of minor snags will be ironed out for the next meeting.

Janet Bond, Secretary
12 April 2013

Proposed: Liz Lodge

Seconded: Nicola Martinez

Signed: John Pickford (President)

Date: 9 May 2013