

**MINUTES OF THE U3A GENERAL MEETING
HELD ON 19th FEBRUARY 2015
AT THE SOL IFACH HOTEL, CALPE**

John Pickford, President, welcomed everyone to the meeting.

INTRODUCTION OF SPEAKER:

Our speaker today was Dr Ignacio Poole. He is a family doctor and Master in cosmetic surgery with a practice in Javea who also works in Calpe's Centro de Salud 2 days a week. He was a most personable gentleman speaking fluently and with a good deal of humour. His talk was accompanied by many 'before and after' shots of ladies who had undergone facelifts to relieve the signs of aging which are 'tired, sad and angry' and affect us all (yes, men as well!) after middle age. He explained that the photos were of ladies because he wanted to ensure that no-one recognized their friends so they were all taken a number of years ago. The main causes of our problems here in Spain are the sun, smoking and sipping so we have to be sure to cover up and give up! We also have to do our homework when it comes to choosing which surgeon to choose.

The vote of thanks was given by Missouri and she presented Ignacio with a bottle of brandy in thanks.

APOLOGIES FROM THE COMMITTEE: None

CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED: None

MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER GENERAL MEETING:

The minutes had been put on the website and circulated. They were proposed by Mike Warnes, seconded by Keith Cherry and signed by the President John Pickford.

MATTERS ARISING SINCE THE LAST MEETING:

- Newsletter: The President confirmed with the members present that all had received their Newsletters by email or picked up their copy here today.
- Kutxabank Refunds: The bank has now paid fees into the U3A account and Edith is contacting the relevant members to enable them to receive their refunds. The bank has extended its offer for a further 12 months, so, just to clarify, if you pay your membership fee directly into the bank and at the same time open a current and savings account, they will refund the cost of the U3A membership.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Keith Wildman, President of AFPO said a few words mainly centered around the elections. He stated that probably we are all bored of elections which are taking place both in the UK and here in Spain but they should be of interest to us. Over the past 20 years Keith has been involved with 5 different mayors in Calpe and to date the current Mayor, Cesar Sanchez, has been the most budget conscious which is one of the most important things we need. We also have Carole Saunders who chairs the Committee concerned with charitable organisations which for us here as we get older is the only help we get as there is no state-funded social care. The new party Podemos is very left wing and anti-austerity and this could affect the euro which will in turn affect our money. Keith suggested that people should join AFPO as among other things it has the inside track for interaction with the town hall, and has the benefit of a webpage to keep us up to date.
- The new committee is now in place and was introduced to members. After the meeting our photographer took a photo to put on the website and in the scrapbook.
- The committee has been concerned about the number of late payments of subs which amount to a considerable amount of money. We have been taking steps to correct this by reminding members when their subs are due and by checking memberships on entry to our meetings. It is easy for

members just to forget for whatever reason but it is clearly not fair on the vast majority of people who do pay on time to be carrying late payers. Therefore we wish to tighten our policy on payment of subs. The following will be put into our policy book subject to approval:

- It is a requirement that membership fees are renewed on time but a period of 30 days leeway which covers illness, holidays or any other good reason will be accepted.
- Membership will be deemed to have lapsed after this 30 day period and the member will have to re-join in they wish to continue belonging to Calpe U3A. Only paid-up members will be allowed to take part in U3A group activities or social events and trips without paying a 'guest' surcharge where this applies.

Members were asked if there were any objections to this amendment and there were none so this is now policy. (This enhances the alteration in policy made on 9th May 2013).

REPORTS:

Social: Report by Tina Wallis:

- The dinner dance at the Tennis club on Valentines day was a great success
- There will be an informal dinner dance at Dracula on 29th April with a 3 course meal with a choice of menu for 16€ a head

Other items on offer will be presented next time.

Groups: Report by Diane Putnam:

Everything as per latest Groups List.

- Bowls still playing at 2 pm (no need to bowl sideways now!)
- A new group Computer Helpers with Giovanna Wallis and Kerry Edwards offering assistance. Ian Coleman's Computer Buddies which started many years ago is still ongoing
- Franco's Spain group will be cancelled now that Sandy Keeble is no longer a member
- JUGS lunch at the Tennis club 5th March: Val had a sign up sheet
- New Ladies Beauty Day with Lorraine which has proved a great success in Moraira will be on the first Monday in March
- Calpe Council is starting an evening of music/dance at the old Pensionistas building on Saturday evenings. Entry is free at 7.30 with drinks and food available
- Table Tennis has procured another morning (Fridays) from 9.30 to 12.30
- Mens' Dining on Thursday 26th Feb at Django opposite the Salinas, 13.50
- Diana Farmer has a few takers for a chess group and she will pursue this with an interest sheet at the next meeting on her return to Spain.

Travel:

Penny presented the travel report:

- Benidorm Palace: 38 signed up
- Shoe Museum and winery trip now fully booked with 54 signed up. Menu choices to be made
- Northern Spain and France 32 signed up
- Med Cruise in October still places available
- Day trip to are Cuella and Albufera now on offer
- Possible trip to Budapest for the Christmas market

All complete trip details are on the website.

Culture and Publicity:

Rod Anderton started by congratulating Roger Gallant's Costa Barber Singers who have recently won a competition. He also thanked everyone for their patience in queuing for their wine and tapas at the last meeting.

Other items are 'Sounds Familiar' at the Casa next Thursday, Lee is selling choir concert tickets (14th March) in aid of Caritas. They will be joined by a Swedish choir to which one of the members belongs. Gondoliers 27th March and Tap Dancing at the Casa on 14th April.

Rod will be updating his cultural interest group list.

Membership: Teresa reported 11 new members today. We now have 560 paid-up members largely thanks to chasing-up late payers.

Treasurer: Edith reported a healthy balance of around 6,000€.

AOB:

- Anyone who has not collected their refund should see Tina after the meeting. This offer will close at the end of February.
- A member asked when memberships are due for renewal and was told '12 months from the last one as we now have a rolling membership'.
- At the APRIL meeting our Mayor, Cesar Sanchez will be coming along to say 'Hello'. Members are asked to think of non political issues to put to him (send them to our 'enquiries' email address if you wish to be anonymous). One major concern to us all is parking in town and we will be sure to raise this.

NEXT MEETING:

The next meeting will be on 19th March and we will be entertained by our choir.

Janet Bond, Secretary
19th February 2015