

**MINUTES OF THE U3A GENERAL MEETING  
HELD ON 17th JANUARY 2013  
AT THE CASA DE CULTURE, CALPE**

**WELCOME:** John Pickford welcomed 152 members and 25 new members to this first meeting of 2013. On behalf of the Committee John hoped everyone had enjoyed their Christmas break wherever they had been. John introduced Tina Wallis, now our Vice President who had been on Meet and Greet and would entertain new members for coffee after the meeting.

There was some sad news to give which was that a long-standing member John Deveney had died and we offer our condolences to his family.

At this point we were supposed to have a presentation from Isabel Signes Soler of Federoptics Signe in Calpé to talk about her charity work in India for which Calpés City Council has shown support with the Campaign 'Sponsor Eyes 2012'. Unfortunately on the day Isabel was indisposed and did not appear so we were without a speaker.

John asked whether anyone from the audience wished to step in but no-one volunteered!

**APOLOGIES FROM THE COMMITTEE:** None

**CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED:** A 'thank you card' from Mary Anderton for her '15 minutes of fame' from the AGM where she had been presented with a voucher and flowering plant in recognition of her lengthy and unstinting service to U3A Calpé.

**MINUTES OF THE LAST GENERAL MEETING (11th October 2012):**

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

**MATTERS ARISING FROM THE LAST MEETING:**

- We still need a Travel Group leader although John Pickford, aided by his willing team will continue for the time being
- Janet read an update on the new Health and Wellbeing page of the website by Pat Spencer who was on holiday. Pat states that she will be putting on health information such as The Spanish Healthcare Administration, Patient Assistance and Information Service (SAIP), and Your SIP Card. Other sections will be put on as and when time permits and Pat welcomes comments and anything you would like to be included on the page
- The Scrapbook had been put on the stage by Danielle and she asked for contributions for it

**NEW BUSINESS:**

- Update on the database. The database will be demonstrated to Group Leaders next Friday. The new PayPal system will be introduced shortly which will enable members to complete their details on line if they wish: this should be useful for the six-monthers who spend much of their time away from Calpé as well of course members being able to join in the usual way at a meeting. Members are asked to check carefully to see if their personal details (especially email addresses) are correct as email is now a much-favoured method of communication.
- John stated that he intends to start writing a President's blog on the website as soon as possible. For this he asks for comments to put in it which may be of interest to others. Items which come to mind are sporting prowess, progress in a group, even the odd joke to lighten things up.

05/04/2013

- Your committee welcomes suggestions from the floor or after the meeting on how we can improve our meetings. What would you like us to include. Another issue is venue and we welcome any ideas for a venue which can hold 150 plus people.

**REPORTS:** John noted that some Committee members have changed jobs and he welcomed onto the Committee Rod Anderton (Culture and Publicity) and Jenny O'Neill who has taken on the role of Travel Group Treasurer as a Committee post.

**Groups:** Sandy Bianco gave her Groups report summarised here:

- Resolutions Weight Loss Group. Why not lose a few of those extra Christmas pounds with Amanda Llewellyn on Mondays at 3 pm at her home starting on 21st January
- Guitar lessons. Mark Sanderson, a very accomplished musician, starting 29th January at Mark's home. You will need to have your own guitar
- Next Ten Pin Bowling tonight in Moraira. Giovanna Wallis is contact
- Flower arranging with Tina Wallis re-starts on 4th February when the Bolero re-opens
- No JUGS until 7th March. Sue Longley will have all the details and a sign-up sheet at the February meeting
- Dave Roberts has now taken over the Improvers tennis from Mashood at the Voramar. Same day and time
- Badminton. Winter is the ideal time to take up Badminton on Thursdays in the Calpé Sports Hall. Dave Lodge is now leading the Group 9.30 – 11.30
- Mens' Dining. Thursday 31st January probably at La Jayena, yet tbc. Contact Roger Milsom for details
- Meal with Friends group led by Paula Martin meets next at Aguamarina on Saturday 2nd February. Contact Paula for details
- Dancing at Marcia's 6.30 (beginners) and 7.30 (intermediate)
- Bowls on Wednesdays: Keith Cherry 10-12

Details of all group activities are on the website or you may contact Sandy for details.

Sandy also stated that Gillian Kennard's husband Peter has been very sick and he is now out of hospital. Doctors have recommended he use an exercise bike and if anyone has one for sale or for loan to please contact Sandy and she will take it from there.

## **Social :**

Joy Lally has now taken on the role of Social Events Co-Ordinator. Joy started her report by thanking Tina for holding the fort whilst she had been on holiday and for organizing the Christmas Party which had been a great success.

New social events in the pipeline which will be publicised later are :

- A flamenco show and meal at the Bolero on March 17th. Sign up sheets and menu choices next meeting
- a paella in June probably at the Ermita San Juan
- a quiz against other local U3A's following the success of our own Quiz Night in October last year
- a formal dinner dance after the summer break

**Travel :** Ellen Mitchell, a member of the Travel Team, gave the travel report which is summarised below:

- Benidorm Palace for their dinner dance/show on 8th February, coach pick up from the Esmeralda

- 4 day trip to Peniscola and Barcelona 17th April. All inclusive €320 pp
- 5 day trip to Cordoba and Seville, 3rd June. €390 pp all inclusive
- Day trip to Gandia being researched to include lunch 27th September. Details at February meeting
- Eastern Mediterranean Cruise – sold out. 82 members have booked and there is a waiting list currently of 11
- Proposed trip to Russia is postponed at the moment as it is proving difficult to put together. Maybe it will go ahead next year.

Full details are on the website.

**Culture and Publicity:** Rod Anderton stated that 600 euros had been raised by the choir concert and 2 trolley dashes had spent the money on items for the food bank.

Rod is in touch with the free newspapers to try to ensure that every couple of weeks we are featured. He appealed to Group Leaders to write short articles on their activities with photographs to keep us in the public eye.

Cultural activities in the pipeline include:

- Viva España on 26th May: 35 euros to include coach travel
- EMAUS tavern evening at the Bolero with fish and chip supper on 23rd February
- Calpe/Benissa Lions quiz and meal at the Bolero €13.50 to raise funds
- Footlights CATS on 14/15/16 February at the Casa de Culture. Ann Dyer is taking bookings
- A Russian classical pianist on Saturday next at the Casa de Culture

Further information available from Rod Anderton.

**Treasurer :** Nothing to report.

**Membership :** Nothing to report except that we had 25 new members today.

**AOB:** None

**NEXT MEETING: Thursday 7th February at the Casa de Cultura.**

Members were reminded to check the venues and dates of future meetings because sometimes it was necessary to change the week owing to availability particularly of the Casa. Group Leaders are asked to pass the word around their Groups and friends so that people do not turn up at the Casa on the wrong day. All meeting dates and venues will be put on the website.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 11.10.

Janet Bond, Secretary  
18 January 2013

Proposed:

Seconded:

Signed:

Date:

05/04/2013