

**MINUTES OF THE U3A GENERAL MEETING
HELD ON 23rd January 2014
AT THE SOL IFACH HOTEL, CALPE**

John Pickford welcomed over 160 Members including 12 new members to the meeting and then introduced our speaker Andrew Johnson. Andrew is one of our Members who gave us an excellent presentation on 'Strange Fiestas' from around the world many of which we are familiar with here in Spain such as the many involving fireworks and fallas to the strange custom of baby jumping near Burgos. Keith Cherry gave a vote of thanks to Andrew and presented him with a small gift.

APOLOGIES FROM THE COMMITTEE: Rod Anderton

CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED: Two thank-you cards: one with thanks to the travel team for the excellent Eastern Med Cruise and the other thanks for her enjoyable time spent with U3A Calpe.

MINUTES OF THE LAST GENERAL MEETING (17th October):

Janet Bond, Secretary, read a brief précis of the minutes which were available if anyone wished to look at them. The minutes were proposed and seconded and then signed by President John Pickford.

MATTERS ARISING SINCE THE LAST MEETING:

- New Committee: The new Committee, voted-in at the AGM, were introduced to the Members:

John Pickford:	President
Tina Wallis:	Vice President
Treasurer:	Edith Watson
Secretary:	Janet Bond
Travel Treasurer/Asst U3A Treasurer:	Jenny O'Neill
Membership Secretary:	Val Osborne
Groups Co-Ordinator:	Diane Putnam
Social Events Co-Ordinator:	Tina Wallis

- Scrapbook: Danielle Collaudine has been keeping the scrapbook for some years and now the current one is full it is a good time for someone else to take over as she needs to give it up. We have made several appeals for a volunteer to take it on and really do not wish to let it lapse. We will keep pushing this at subsequent meetings and display the book so everyone can see what is involved.
- Helping Hands: For those who do not know about it we have a 'Helping Hands' list of people who do not wish to be full Committee members but are willing to help out with small tasks such as 'meet and greet, handing out the Newsletters, and generally undertaking small jobs on an 'as and when' basis. We circulated the list and obtained some new names and will do this again at the next meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Limerick Competition: The Limericks having been held over from the AGM were judged by the Members at this meeting. The winner was Jenny O'Neill who received a bottle of wine for her effort and 2nd was Sandy Bianco. The donations will be spent on items for the food bank. These two most popular Limericks are as follows:

There was a young girl from Milan
Was chased by a lad with a plan.
He wined, wooed and fed her
In order to bed her
And now she is pushing a pram!

There was a young man from Leeds
Who swallowed a packed of seeds
In half an hour his chest was in flower
And his bum was covered in weeds!

The Committee thanks everyone for their entries and we may run further different competitions in future months (any ideas would be welcome).

- **Change of Postal Address** We are aiming to change our postal address from Total Post to Correos as the opening hours suit us better with the costs being similar if not a little cheaper. This will of course be publicised in due course.

REPORTS: Shortened versions of the reports had been circulated with the Newsletter to give those members who do not or cannot come to meetings a chance to learn about the various activities taking place. John called upon the various Group Leaders to present their reports.

Social Tina reported that as yet there had been slow take-up of interest in the inter U3A quiz to be held on 14th March at the Tennis Club against U3A Vall de Pop. 12 euros to include 3 course meal and prizes.

Groups Diane presented the Groups report which was by and large the same as the Groups List already circulated and on the website

- The bowling alley in Moraira has closed. Possibility of joining another U3A in Gandia if there is sufficient interest
- Choir resumes on 18th February
- Classical Music: 2nd Thursday starting 13th Feb
- JUGS 6th Feb: phone Sue Longley to book
- Petanq: 2 pm Sundays
- Swimming: Several deals on offer now pool has reopened: contact Nicola Martinez
- Yoga moved to Gran Sol same time/day
- Resolutions Weight Loss Mondays 2 pm with Amanda Llewelyn

Travel: John asked for volunteers to write a report on the Gandia day trip and the cruise. 2 people volunteered and these will be put on the website when they are received. He gave details of 2 trips: Cuenca and Toledo and Calasparra and also a 2-centre trip to Russia in June and Vancouver/Alaska fly cruise in September. Further day trips are planned and all details are on the website.

Culture and Publicity: Rod Anderton was on holiday but details of future meetings had been sent to the press.

- Calpe and Benissa Lions are presenting their Annual Quiz on Sunday 9th Feb at El Bolero. Tickets are €13.50 in aid of the Lions Admin Fund to include a 3 course meal with wine
- Footlights West Side Story 13/14 Feb at the Casa: tickets available.

Membership: Val reported 12 new members today who were invited to a coffee afterwards.

- **Incorrect email addresses:** John Pickford again appealed for everyone present to state if they had not received their Newsletter which had been bulk emailed to Members before the meeting. The Membership Secretary had a list of rejected email addresses and only two people present were on it. Val will try to contact the remaining Members on the list in order to correct them. Anyone without email was asked to ensure that their name was on Tina's list to receive a paper copy at the meetings.

Treasurer: Edith reported a healthy balance.

AOB:

- At the October quiz the jackpot was not won and so 48 euros was spent on tuna at the request of the food bank
- If you wish to vote in the Euro Elections you have until 30th January to register your request to do so
- Members were again asked to put forward any ideas they may have to enhance the running of the U3A
- Janet and Keith Wildman made an appeal for a volunteer to take over co-ordination of Calpe HELP as the current co-ordinator is giving it up due to ill health. The area co-ordinator from Denia will be our speaker at the next meeting to explain to us all the benefits of this worthwhile organization
- Regeneration of the Old Town. Members were reminded that those on the padron may vote on the schemes being put forward. Deadline end of January at the latest.

NEXT MEETING:

- This will be held at the Ifach Hotel on **Thursday 20th February 10.00 for 10.30.**

Janet Bond, Secretary
January 2014

Proposed: Liz Lodge

Seconded: Barbara Turner

Signed: John Pickford

Date: 20 February 2014