

**MINUTES OF THE U3A GENERAL MEETING
HELD ON THURSDAY 21st JANUARY AT THE SOL IFACH HOTEL, CALPE**

John Pickford welcomed everyone to the meeting and made a special welcome to the new members who joined today. We have had 18 new members since January which is a very good start to the year.

INTRODUCTION OF SPEAKER:

Our speaker today was Father Marcus from the Costa Blanca Anglican Chaplaincy. He entertained us in his usual fluent and amusing style about his trip to India in 2015 showing us slides of the various places all over India he and his wife visited. He is clearly captivated by the country and its people and this came across in the talk.

APOLOGIES FROM THE COMMITTEE: None

CORRESPONDENCE:

A card from Jenny O'Neill in thanks for her gift on leaving the Committee and a Christmas card from Carole Saunders.

MINUTES OF LAST GENERAL MEETING OCTOBER 2015

The minutes of this meeting were proposed by Mary Anderton and seconded by Penny Pearson

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE LAST MEETING:

Suggestions Box We have reinstated the suggestions box which will be by the door in future meetings for members to use. We will take note of all suggestions and of course members will remain anonymous.

Scrap Book The scrap books will be moth-balled as they are outdated in this age of IT. Tricia Adams has been keeping them recently and will bring them next month for safe keeping in our store at the hotel. We will rely on the Newsletter and website for our publicity and of course the press where appropriate.

PayPal We are still waiting to see if Kutxabank can let us have a card reading machine which will be useful during our meetings. John is actively pursuing this option as we think it would be the preferred payment method allowing members to make payments using their credit cards which will give an added protection compared with PayPal. PayPal is considered to be cumbersome and rather expensive.

Newsletter A gentle reminder to send your articles to Janet who will include them all including your photos.

NEW BUSINESS:

Dinner Dance Bookings are going well (120 to date) for the dinner dance at Venta la Chata in February but we are able to accommodate more. The coaches are booked, also the band. Menu choices and payment to Anne Melling please together with names of those on your table.

Webmaster We would like to find someone to take over the reins if Michael Scannell becomes unable to continue. He does not want or need an Assistant at this time but someone with the skills who could take this on in the future would be a useful contact.

GROUP REPORTS:

Treasurer Gordon reports that we have a healthy balance of some 5,400 euros.

Groups Diane had updated and circulated the Groups List.

- Possible new group : card games and board games twice a month with a venue to be decided. Interest sheet shows there is interest
- JUGS Blau Mar in the Oceanic building. 4th Feb
- Mens meal 28 Jan at Pato Laqueado
- Papercraft Next Tuesday at Liz's home
- Swimming Wednesdays 10-11 - Nicola Martinez
- Flower arranging Resumes 8th February.

Sports: Table Tennis continues to be very popular with in excess of 40. Also there is one badminton net available on Tuesdays.

Travel

- 0830 pick up for Valencia day trip
- New trip 23 March to Villena and a bodega 35 euros
- Day trip to Murcia town centre 10 euros
- Patios at Cordoba 15 May 4 days 3 nights 305 euros
- Cruise Royal Caribbean Rome and Greek Islands from 824 euros (flights not included)
- 25 October Sri Lanka

All details on the website.

Publicity and Culture:

Rod has been without IT for several weeks but has managed to put publicity into the newspapers and to email the cultural interest group. We are looking into the possibility of having a Press Officer to try to ensure better publicity: more of this next month.

Membership: Helena reported 592 current members with 527 paid up. We also have 1 life member and 1 honorary member. Helena is continuing to chase late payers.

AOB:

- Janet read out an email from Betty Gower commenting on the fact that there is always a single person surcharge in hotels. John replied that this seems only to apply in Spain and he agreed it seemed unfair. The travel team have investigated this point to no avail so there is nothing we can do about it but he assured everyone that the travel team always try to get the best deal.
- Maureen Dunn asked if there was any resolution to the Grievance Procedure which has been dragging on. John stated that the committee had received an email on the subject within the past two days and we have replied. The Committee's questions have again not fully been answered so the situation is ongoing. We all wish to see a resolution ASAP.
- Anyone willing to help with interpreting at the Calpe Salud should speak to Pat Spencer and this would be much appreciated.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING:

Thursday 18th February. We have two speakers lined up: more information in the Newsletter.

Members are asked to note that the April meeting may be subject to change owing to the Hotel's commitments.

JANET BOND
Secretary

23 January 2016

PROPOSED: Joy Lally

SECONDED: Dennis Alba

SIGNED: John Pickford

DATE: 18/02/2016