

**MINUTES OF THE U3A GENERAL MEETING
HELD ON 14th MARCH 2013
AT THE CASA DE CULTURE, CALPE**

WELCOME: Tina Wallis, Vice President chaired the meeting as John Pickford was just off an aeroplane from Australia and feeling decidedly jet-lagged. She began with the sad news that one of our members, Jim Fletcher of Rafol, Calpe died this morning after enduring much pain. We offer our sincere condolences to his widow Lyn and their family at this sad time.

137 Members attended this meeting and we had 8 new members. A welcome was extended to them and the hope that they enjoy their activities with Calpe U3A.

Our speaker this month was Peter Arnold who spoke about his wine bodega in Murla in the Jalon Valley. Peter is a German who has worked in the wine industry in several countries including 13 years in South Africa. He moved to Spain in 2002 and opened his bodega which produces well acclaimed wines in small quantities. Peter said he cannot compete with the 'Big Boys' for price but his wines are as pure as possible using as few chemicals as possible. An invitation was extended for small parties to visit for tours and tastings. A vote of thanks was proposed by Rod Anderton and Peter was presented with a bottle of brandy.

APOLOGIES FROM THE COMMITTEE: None.

CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED: None.

MINUTES OF THE LAST GENERAL MEETING (7th February):

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. They were proposed by Jan Newark, seconded by Peter Lally and signed by President John Pickford.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE LAST MEETING:

- We still need a Travel Group leader and Paco Mora came forward as willing to take on the task. John will arrange a meeting with him in the near future.
- The newsletter is now being emailed to members. It will be a little late this time as John has been away. This month we have collected a list of names at the door of members without internet access and they will continue to receive a paper copy. This list will enable us to judge how many copies to get printed so as to not waste so many. This month we had 50 printed and that was more than enough and represented a considerable cost saving.

NEW BUSINESS:

- A reminder that for most of us it is membership renewal time. Members were again asked to ensure that we have their details legibly written on their envelope and were reminded that the fee is still 10 euros
- Members were informed that our fame is spreading. We recently had an enquiry from a lady in Australia who wanted permission to use one of our photographs from the Web in a presentation she was making at a conference. The picture she selected from the thousands on Google was of Peter Purvey's discussion group in 'action' putting the world to rights and we were delighted to give her permission.

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

Groups: Sandy Bianco gave her Groups report:

- The next 10pin bowling session is on 21st March. There was a list for names and the more names the cheaper the price.
- JUGS is on Thursday 4 April at Restaurante Dracula in the Port. Sue was at the meeting with the menu choices
- The Zumba Group has now folded so Giovanna Wallis is going to start a new Dance Fitness Group. It will be gentler than Zumba and held on Monday afternoons from 1 pm at the Bolero starting Monday 8th April.
- Snooker at the Esmeralda. Rose Somerford has worked tirelessly to set up a new Snooker Group. A leader is required but a show of hands at this time showed little interest but it will be advertised again.
- Mens' Dining: 28th March at the Texas Steak House. Contact Roger Milsom for details nearer the time.
- Diane Putnam's board games starts 22 March and then every 1st and 3rd Fridays. Call Diane for directions as she has moved house.
- Finally Sandy made a plea for photographs and also reminded everyone that the Groups List is on the Website or you may contact Sandy for details.

Social :

Joy Lally presented her 'Social' report.

- We have 81 signed up for the Flamenco evening at the Bolero. A few still to pay and make menu choices.
- A quiz night on April 12th against U3A Vall de Pop who have challenged us: we are looking for 6 teams of 4 persons. 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 after the June meeting. Venue to come next meeting.
- A formal dinner dance in October will be announced after the summer break

Travel : Jenny O'Neill gave the Travel Report and began by welcoming John and Teressa back

- Benidorm Palace on 8th February was thoroughly enjoyed by 43 members
- 4 day trip to Peniscola and Barcelona has had to be cancelled due to lack of support
- 5 day trip to Cordoba and Seville, 3rd June. €390 pp all inclusive
- Day trip to Gandia to include lunch and tour of the palace. 27th September
- Eastern Mediterranean Cruise – sold out. We have received a certificate confirming booking
- Proposed trip to Russia is hopefully going ahead next year.

Full details are on the website.

Culture and Publicity: Rod Anderton stated in his report that we were advertised in the local press this week.

Cultural activities in the pipeline include:

- Viva España flamenco show and meal . Date change to 2nd June, €35 pp with coach transport. Enough interest to make it a viable trip. Depart at 12.30 return at about 18.30
- 30th March in Teulada. Mozart's Requiem: tickets at 15 euros.

Further information available from Rod Anderton.

CALPE HELP:

Keith Wildman, President of AFPO made a plea on behalf of Help of Calpe who are in difficulties over their accommodation for storage of such things as wheelchairs, commodes etc which are currently in a cellar under a school which is now required back by the Town Hall. Next to the store is the St Vincent de Paul Library (a charity) which has excellent books and now also is under threat of closure. The Help volunteers are looking for premises maybe in an apartment block or unoccupied locale but it must be inexpensive to be viable. Anyone with any ideas to get in touch with Keith Wildman or Janet Bond-

Keith also warned Members about the importance of declaring their overseas assets. AFPO has a solicitor who can help if anyone has need of one. Also Keith warned of the latest scam in the Gas Man saga: this time a telephone scam and he warned that no-one has right of entry to your home except the Guardia Civil so do not let anyone in unless you know who they are.

AOB:

- Joy asked anyone who is a group Leader to check their email for details of the Group Leaders' thank-you bash in April. She would like a reply even if you are not able to go so that she can check that everyone has received their invitation
- Tricia Adams reminded everyone of the Spanish Buddies scheme. Further details available from Tricia
- Danielle would like more pictures for the scrapbook.

NEXT MEETING: Thursday 11th April at the Ifach Hotel, Salon Marenostrum.

- The April speaker will be Mike Rendell who entertained us brilliantly last year talking to us about his hoarding ancestors. His subject this time is Entertainment in the Georgian Era and the Top Twenty Tourist.

Please do come along and support our new venue.

The 9th May and 13th June meetings will also be at the Ifach Hotel:

After the meeting we were invited to a tasting of Peter Arnold's wines in the café upstairs.

AND FINALLY:

It being very close to Mothers' Day Giovanna read us a touching poem penned by Sandy Bianco with a Mothers' Day theme.

Janet Bond, Secretary
15th March 2013

Proposed: Rosemary

Seconded: Norman Westworth

Signed: John Pickford

Date: 11 April 2013