

**MINUTES OF THE U3A GENERAL MEETING  
HELD ON 15th MAY 2014  
AT THE SOL IFACH HOTEL, CALPE**

John Pickford, President, welcomed 100 members to the meeting which included 10 new members.

**INTRODUCTION OF SPEAKER:**

It was with great pleasure that the President introduced Father Marcus to talk to us today. His talk with the intriguing title 'Beach Dreams' was in fact a potted history of an idea that grew from a one-day event designed to bring together the various organizations within his area of work on the south coast of England and which eventually after several years became a larger and larger festival over a week's duration. Father Marcus wondered if something similar could be organized within Calpe and judging from the response from the audience it would seem to be a popular idea. John said that we would discuss this in Committee with the view to taking it forward to see if there was interest from our members and the wider Calpe community.

A vote of thanks was given by Nick Green who also presented Father Marcus with a bottle of brandy.

**APOLOGIES FROM THE COMMITTEE:** Val Osborne.

**CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED:** Emails from the Merrys who have now returned to the UK thanking the U3A for the good times they have had whilst being members of Calpe U3A and also an email from Shirley Cuesta with her contact details in Llandudno which will be kept on file if anyone wishes to contact her.

**MINUTES OF THE APRIL GENERAL MEETING:**

The minutes were proposed by Eunice Hancy and seconded by Albert Hancy.

**MATTERS ARISING SINCE THE LAST MEETING:**

- Some good news and huge congratulations to Albert Hancy who won first prize in the painting competition held at the recent exhibition at the Diamante Beach Hotel. Albert is a member of Hilary Hare's painting group and on the website there is a photo of Albert receiving his prize from Charlie Dimmock. His painting was on display for everyone to see. Also congratulations are belatedly due to Enid Hollingworth, also a member of Hilary's group, who also won a prize, news of which had only just reached us. Well done both U3A members and of course to Hilary who runs the group. Perhaps at a future meeting Enid would bring her painting along for us to see?
- Apology from the Committee that no soft drinks were available at the last meeting when a glass of wine was given to those present
- Everyone present confirmed they had received their Newsletters by email.
- During the summer break we will be compiling a list of possible speakers and members were again asked to help the committee with some suggestions.
- Possible visit to Ciudad Patricia which was reported in last month's minutes. We are awaiting a reply from AFPO to see if they would like to combine with us for this visit which we hope will go ahead around September time.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

- Updating the website. Group Leaders were asked to tidy and update their webpages. We now have an 'official photographer' in David Stockton so please contact him if you wish your group or activities to be photographed. We have his details on file.
- Giovanna our Newsletter editor asks for more articles. Without articles to put in it there would be no Newsletter and it is up to members to feed these into her. She will also hold on file any recipes, jokes, tips etc. you would like to share with others so please send them to Giovanna and she will fit them in where there is a gap.

- We debated in a recent Committee meeting whether we are holding the right number of meetings. The members present today confirmed their agreement with the present arrangements.
- Pat Spencer pointed us in the direction of her 'Health and Wellbeing' pages. Pat works hard to bring to our attention items which can affect us all such as the fact that now in order to make an appointment at the Salud it is necessary to take along photo identity to help avoid fraud (this has been a ruling at the hospital for some time). Pat has put together an article on prostate cancer which is difficult to diagnose and this article is available on request. She also canvassed for more members for the AFPO interpreting service which does such useful work at the Salud

## **REPORTS:**

Social: Report by Tina Wallis:

- Informal dinner dance on Tuesday 27 May 16 euros for members, guests €18. Numbers now up to 40
- New summer lunch at the Exotic Thursday 19th June after the meeting €11
- 24th October annual quiz at the tennis club. Teams of 4, 6.30 for 7pm 12 euros
- Formal Dinner Dance; details later.

Groups: Diane Putnam has been working hard since her return to Spain. As previously reported she is arranging for Groups information to be updated on the website.

- JUGS: Signup sheet for 5th June at Las Olas
- Petanc: 4 pm Sundays
- Bowls: 4-6

Other information on Group activities is on the Groups list and website. Next month Peter Purvey will talk briefly about his 'New Philosophy' group

Travel: Report by Penny Brighton

- Sanctuary at Calasparra tomorrow
- 20th May Ibiza. Limited availability
- Day out in Valencia with the usual stops and also the new IKEA store and shopping Centre. 8.30 am departure
- Cartagena, 26/28 Sept. Visit the fiesta of Roman and Carthaginians. €225 half board 4\* hotel
- Novelda in October. Day trip with guide in the morning, pm bodega visit with wine tasting and lunch €35 pp
- Caribbean Cruise Depart Calpe on 6th Dec for 8 night's fly-cruise from Madrid to Caribbean. Only a few cabins remain

Details of all trips and how to book are shown on the website.

Culture and Publicity: Rod Anderton

- 24th May: Curtis concert in Teulada at 8 pm
- Choir concert has had to be cancelled due to the Casa not being available and letting us down at the last minute due to the Euro elections. Tickets will be valid for the new date which is 3rd October
- Rod is researching hotels for Benidorm at Christmas: In addition to the proposal offered last month Beniconnect are offering the Flash Hotel for 7 nights 22/28 December half board for €450 and the Flamingo is offering 5 nights 24/28 December for €319 As usual members of the Cultural Interest Group have been advised of all events.

Membership: Val Osborne was in the UK but Edith reported 10 new members today and membership renewals going OK. Val will send reminders on a monthly basis to everyone who is overdue asking them to kindly renew their membership.

**Treasurer:** Edith reported a healthy balance.

**AOB:**

- Nick Green informed everyone that Father Marcus is doing a bike ride from Gandia to El Campello visiting all the churches in his area! Funds raised will go to his chaplaincy and he expects to be in Calpe on 9th June at 2 pm. U3A members were asked to go along and cheer him home

**NEXT MEETING:**

- This will be held at the Ifach Hotel on Thursday 19th June 10.00 for 10.30. Peter Purvey will talk about his New Philosophy Group and then we will be entertained by the Costa Barber Singers this can be followed by a luncheon at the Exotic offered by the social group, see above for details.
- This will be the last meeting before the summer break.

Janet Bond, Secretary  
17 May

Proposed: David Farmer

Seconded: Fred Sleight

Signed: John Pickford

Date: 15 May 2014