

MINUTES OF THE U3A GENERAL MEETING HELD ON 11th OCTOBER 2012 AT CASA DE CULTURA, CALPE

WELCOME: John Pickford welcomed over 127 Members and 11 guests to this meeting. He then introduced Carole Saunders who gave a brief talk on what we can do to help in Calpe area in the coming months:

- The British Consul will be giving a talk on 30th October at 9:30am in the Casa de Cultura. He will be bringing representatives with him from Traffico and Marina Salud and they will also be discussing the “Meals-on-Wheels” service and Home Help.
- The Thursday morning free water aerobics class is now full and they have started taking names on a waiting list.
- The free history of Alicante/Valencia and Calpe classes in Spanish is now taking enrolment. It will be held at the language school in Calpe and will run for 6 months, 2 hours per week.
- They are now looking for volunteers for the following ventures:
 - Stephen Bowles is running his English classes again for the unemployed Spanish people in Calpe. Please contact Stephen directly or Debra Miller. They are also hoping that some of the civil servants are going to attend to greater improve their English. This year they will also be holding classes in the afternoon as well as the morning sessions as last year.
 - Volunteers are required for the food bank and also the new clothing bank. In the first instance, please contact Carole directly on her town hall number: 647 371 581
 - The institute is now open for students to continue study after school hours. They need some volunteers to sit in the library at the institute to help students with their English homework. This will only be for 2 hours, 1 afternoon a week.
 - The schools in Calpe are now starting up their own allotments and are looking for helpers to get the garden growing and to educate the students on where food comes from.
 - The next date for the cleaning up of the Salinas is 21st November.

GUEST SPEAKER: We had a very entertaining and enlightening chat on language and its global uses by Andrew Johnson. The vote of thanks was given by Bob McLean

APOLOGIES FROM THE COMMITTEE: Joy Lally, Janet Bond

CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED: None

MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING (13th September): Giovanna Wallis read out Janet Bond’s précis of minutes from the last general meeting. Members were informed that copies of those minutes were on the front of the stage if they wished to have a look at a copy and also that they could receive a personal copy of the minutes if they requested them from Janet on email address enquiries@u3acalpe.com. Acceptance of the minutes was proposed by Rod Anderton and seconded by Liz Sanderson.

ACTIONS FROM THE LAST MEETING:

- Election to Committee posts for 2013. We still need a Travel Leader as Liz Sanderson will not be standing, and a Travel Treasurer. Please apply for these and any other posts as soon as possible as the closing date is 26th October.
- It was announced that our new Assistant Webmaster will be Giovanna Wallis and that she will also be taking care of the newsletter. John asked the members if they were happy with this month’s newsletter and all were in agreement that it was good. Newsletter contributions must be made no later than 6 days before the general meetings to allow time for the committee to approve the newsletter. All contributions should be sent to editor@u3acalpe.com or to Janet Bond.
- The new health and wellbeing section of the website is to now to be contributed to by Pat Spencer who gave a short speech about what this will include. There will be a section on the Spanish health service (SIP cards, co-payments etc). A first aid and emergency section will be created, along with a section on wellbeing (relaxation, stretching etc). Pat will ensure that when using relevant documentation, she will quote the source of it for reference. She will welcome all feedback and suggestions from members regarding this new web page.

NEW BUSINESS: There was no new business

REPORTS:

Travel: John Pickford is continuing as travel leader with the support of Jenny O'Neil, Diane Putnam and Teressa.

The honey trip will be departing from the Esmeralda on Saturday morning at 10am. 50 members are going on it and looks to be a great adventure.

The Galicia trip was very successful. The only downside being the long journey.

All other trips previously discussed have now been cancelled (due to Liz Sanderson's choice to not stand). There will be a shopping trip to Murcia and 4th December departing at 8:30am. The cost will be €8 for members, €10 for non members.

Members were reminded that travel insurance for all of the U3A trips is their responsibility.

Social: Tina Wallis reminded us of forthcoming social events. Firstly the Quiz Night tomorrow, 12th October at the Bolero. We have 70 people signed up and are still taking more at the end of the meeting. The cost will be €10 for members and €12 for non-members, to include supper and prizes. She also spoke about the Christmas party also at the Bolero on 8th December. She was taking names and payments today, €18 for members, €22 for non-members. If menu choices were not made today, she will be taking further names and payments at the AGM on 15th November as this will be the last meeting before the event.

John Pickford then presented us with a teaser question: What is the longest flat horse race in the UK calendar? A gold star would be presented to the first person to answer him tomorrow night!

Groups: Sandy Bianco read out the following groups report:

Alexis James-Crabb will begin a 4 week course of meditation and crystal healing for beginners on Tuesday 16th Oct. A sign up sheet has been put out and the venue is the Diamante Beach hotel on the understanding that everyone buys a drink. For further details please contact Alex.

Paula Martin wants to step down from the solos plus group and wonders if anyone else would like to take it on. She is forming another similar group which is not only for solo people. It has been re-titled 'Meal with friends' so anyone can come along. Paula will organize dinner in a restaurant once a month, the first one being on 3rd November at Restaurante de Jayena. There is a sign up sheet or contact Paula direct.

Paula has also set up another social group taking the form of a coffee morning. No need to sign up, just come along to Jimmy's bar at 10.30am on Monday mornings.

Bowls have gone onto their winter time, it is now from 2-4 on Mondays and Thursdays, please arrive 15 minutes before.

Mark Sanderson is going to run a new guitar group. You will have to have your own guitar. There is a sign up sheet and Mark will get in touch later with details.

Tina has changed the day for the ten-pin bowling group to Thursdays. The next meeting will be on 18th October at the alley in Moraira, 7 for 7.30. You will need to sign up and pay today please so that Tina can book the lanes and get the best deal.

Sue Longley's next meeting of the JUGS group is on Thursday 1st November at the Las Olas restaurant on Levante Beach. Please be there 1 for 1.30. Please make your choices and pay today so that Sue can get the best deal by ordering in advance. The cost for this lunch is 10 euros.

Men's dining will be on Thursday 25 October at the Oriental garden restaurant in Calpe. Roger is away at the moment, he will be in touch when he returns.

Culture: Rod Anderton announced that the trip to the Bodega Enrique Mendosa has had to be cancelled as there was not enough interest.

On 23rd November there will be a concert at Canor to include a meal for €30. It will be a collection of light opera and songs from the shows and any profit will be donated to MABs.

On 12th October the Bourbon Street Stompers are giving a concert.

On 13th October, Illusionarte are giving a concert in the Salon Blau in the Casa de Cultura at a cost of €14. It will begin at 7pm.

From October 16th-20th "What the Dickens" will be performed.

From 19th-21st October there will be a trip to Pensicola run by Beniconnect. The cost will be €175.

On 14th December in the Salon Blau in Calpe, the U3A Choir will be forming their Christmas concert. The cost will be €5 a ticket and all proceeds will be going to charity.

AOB:

- David Horne told us of Janet Mitchell who is very unwell in the UK at the moment. She is limited to walking 75 yards without having a break and the doctors will not operate on her until she can only walk 10 yards without a break. He informed us that she has Intermillenal Claudication which means that she has severe circulatory problems and has a blocked artery in her leg for which she is receiving physiotherapy.
- The Marina Alta and Costa Blanca Flower Club are having a demonstration made to them by Michael Bowyer MBE on Thursday 25th October at 3pm at La Senieta, Moriara.
- Pat Spencer asked what sort of clothing would be suitable to pack for the trip this weekend. John Pickford advised a raincoat!

DATE OF NEXT MEETING : Thursday 15th November 2012 at the Casa de Cultura. This will be our AGM so it will be members only and everyone is invited to join us in the bar for a glass of wine after the meeting.

Giovanna Wallis, Acting Secretary
12th October 2012

Proposed:

Seconded:

Signed:

Date: