

**MINUTES OF THE U3A GENERAL MEETING HELD ON
Thursday 17th January at the IFACH HOTEL CALPE**

The Meeting was opened at 10.55 a.m.

- 1. The Meeting was opened by the President Verity Waddell. The President apologised for her absence during the last couple of months due to having to be in UK to take care of her mother who has since died.**
- 2. An apology for absence from the Meeting was received by Michelle McNickle, Vocal 2**
- 3. Any other apologies.**
- 4. Correspondence – none.**
- 5. The Minutes from the last Meeting were proposed by Ellen Mitchell and seconded by Arthur Croesdell.**
- 6. Matters arising – none.**

7. REPORTS;

- a) Treasurer: We have 1349.80€ currently in our Kuxta Bank
190 .53€ in Petty Cash
888.68€ on loan to the Table Tennis group
2429.01€ is our current balance**

The above does NOT include the membership float of (100€) or travel a/c funds

**Recent significant expenditure 150€ for General Meeting room hire (17th January)
We are expecting a bill within the next month from Jane Godfrey re digital signature issue (amount unknown).**

- b) Press and Publicity: Our Press officer David Stockton pointed out that his reports have had mentions In The Post and that our new start time for the meetings was mentioned on Pure Gold Radio on Monday. Tuesday and Wednesday mornings.**
- c) Travel: Kerry reported that the day trip to Valencia would be leaving the Repsol Petrol station at 8.00am and 8.15am at Esmeralda Hotel on 31st January. Look on Face Book and our Website for all details. Rod Anderton explained to us about a future trip to a Bodega in Villena on Wednesday 27th March taking in a visit to the Francisco Gomez bodega including a talk and tasting of the wines and then going to the Restaurant in the Hotel Salvadora in Villena. The cost of the trip will be 45€ per person and it includes travel, visit to bodega and lunch in the hotel.**
- d) Groups Co-Ordinator: Pam Phakey reported that there are now 28 groups running and anyone would be welcome to start a new group. There will be a flower arranging event in the Bar Exotic on Levante Beach on 28 January, 11 and 25 February.**
- e) Membership: Dairong reported that we have 511 members , and 21 renewals and 13 new members today making a total of 706 altogether.**

8) AOB: none

9) **THE DATE FOR THE NEXT MEETING IS 21ST FEBRUARY AS USUAL AT THE IFACH HOTEL.**

Our Speaker today was Elaine Horton MBE who explained that she joined the Jalon Valley Help Organisation 25 yrs ago after having had a career in Social Work for 30 years and she has been President for 16 years.

Elaine told us that she has over 140 voluntary members who are shared between the Drop-in Centre, the Charity shops in Jalon and Alcalali of which there are two with a third one opening soon in Orba. These shops are the main providers for the funds required to do all the good work that Help does. There are also many events for fund raising all around the Jalon Valley that help to provide the necessary funds.

In the Drop-in centre in Alcalali it is possible to just “drop-in” for a chat and a cup of tea and a slice of cake or you can join in classes in paper card making, mosaics, singing. Also there is a whole range of medical supplies, equipment, hospital type beds, chairs etc to aid people who are just old or recovering from injuries and operations, which can be loaned out for just a deposit (returnable) and hopefully a donation. They have also got at the Fontilles centre two rooms for respite care or terminally ill patients.

We should all take stock of our lives here in the sunshine and make provision for a time when we are too old, infirm or with some other illness which renders us unable to remain in our own homes. Elaine implored us all to take one of her small packages which are a sheet of paper with important and vital information for when help may be needed by us. This includes completing a page of information which may be required, if we are suddenly hospitalised, of our personal details blood group etc.

All the members thoroughly enjoyed this talk and although some of it seemed to be depressing, it will enable us all to make a potential horrible situation into one that is handled differently. The President thanked Elaine and presented her with a gift of Cava and David Stockton took photographs of the presentation.

The Meeting closed at 11.45am.