

## Presidents Report Nov 2014.

Time marches on and another year goes by, I'm pleased to report a very good year as president of U3A Calpe, I would like to thank the members for their continued support.

We have successfully moved our general meetings from the Calpe's Casa de Cultura and relocated them at the Ifach hotel. This new home for meetings is proving to have been a very good move with which members are pleased. The makeup of our meeting has also changed and we now have a regular guest speaker at our monthly meetings which goes down well.

The U3A website has been updated during the year. It continues to be improved and an example of this is the new "Renew your membership subscription" facility having recently been added. This allows members to make payment using the automated system incorporating PayPal. A similar online facility for paying by PayPal for certain travel trips is an additional feature that has now been made available and we have recently added an "upcoming U3A event" block.

U3A now banks with KutxaBank (BBK) in Calle Corbeta, as Barclays left us in the lurch, Kutxa's staff all speak good English and are very helpful. During the year we managed to negotiate a deal with them for U3A members who opened a current and savings account which gives those members a 10 Euro credit and earned U3A commission. Kutxabank are currently crediting those members, U3A will be benefitting by 480 Euros which will help towards our general running expenses.

The U3A website and database is continually being updated and improved, however we are still having trouble in one particular area, namely the sending out of the newsletters by email. We have 39 incorrect email addresses. You can help us here please, those that are not receiving the newsletter by email can you please contact any member of the committee with your correct email style, this will enable the membership secretary to change and update our records: this also applies to those members who have recently changed their email address to a new one. We will of course still provide those members without a computer with a printed copy of the Newsletter at the general meetings.

The U3A Group Leaders have successfully run their groups throughout the past year that members have enjoyed. These dedicated group leaders spend many, many hours, working to ensure you enjoy the group activity they arrange and

offer to members: these various groups are very popular judging by the numbers that attend their sessions.

"On behalf the committee I would like to formally thank them for all their hard work and dedication, you are greatly appreciated and noticed." A big thank you also goes to all the Volunteers and Helping Hands who take on jobs on an ad hoc basis especially at the time of our general meetings, when their support to the committee is invaluable.

Your committee is concerned about members who are overdue renewing their membership fees. A number of them are being allowed to participate in U3A group activities and we feel we must tighten up on these people, for the sake of the vast majority who do pay their subs on time. In an effort to overcome this problem we will be sending reminders to the late payers regarding those memberships that are considered to be lapsed.

I have been supported by a very diligent and hardworking first class committee that has made my job as president an easier one, my thanks go to them, Val Osborne, after many years as membership secretary is leaving the committee, but remains a U3A member.

I and my committee would like to wish all our members a very Happy Christmas and Happy New Year and I look forward to seeing some of you at the U3A Christmas dinner and dance or at our first general meeting next year in January.

John Pickford.  
President U3A Calpe.