

President's Report November 2016

It's with a touch of sadness that I offer my president's report for the year ending the 17th of November 2016, as I will not be standing for re-election, having decided it's time for somebody else to take on the mantle of Calpe U3A president. I first took over as president in May 2012 and will have completed just over 4 years in that role. Previously I served as travel group leader and vice president, before becoming president, and carried on in three roles, president, vice president and travel group leader for a period of time. All in all I have been a committee member in these roles for just over 6 years.

During my tenure a number of changes have been implemented which has helped Calpe U3A become a first-class functioning association that generally runs like clockwork, namely: the introduction of a new U3A Web site; new membership database; successfully relocating monthly meetings to the *Ifach* Hotel in their *Salon Mare Nostrum*; inviting monthly guest speakers to entertain and educate; as well as a monthly bulk email being sent out to members who have email addresses. This last included the newsletter (now replaced by a new "notice board" page on our Web site), groups list and previous month's draft general minutes for approval at general meetings. I have kept up the practice of providing hard copies of those items at general meetings for members who do not have a computer.

Last year Calpe U3A were presented with Calpe's top award, the *Jaume Pastor i Fluxia* first prize by our mayor César Sánchez and other members of the council in the *Casa de Cultura*. The prize was awarded to us for being the best association in Calpe. A record of this event, including a video, can still be viewed on the U3A Web site.

The U3A Group Leaders continue to run their groups very well. It's still a pleasure to hear from members saying they enjoy taking part in the group activity in which they have chosen to participate. Our group leaders are very dedicated in ensuring members enjoy and learn from their group activity. Some of our groups continue to grow, Table Tennis being a fine example.

On behalf of the committee we would like to say how much we appreciate all the tireless hours and hard work group leaders put in, organising and arranging the group activity they offer, U3A would not function without you. The committee would also like to extend a big thank you to the volunteers and helping hands especially at the times of our general meetings, when the support given is invaluable and ensures that meetings run smoothly.

The membership secretary regularly informs all members in good time when they need to renew their membership dues. This is important because if your membership is not up-to-date you cannot participate in group activities.

In addition to my standing down, Janet Bond, our secretary, after many years of dedicated service, along with Diane Putnam, our vice-president and Keith Cherry, our sports groups leader are also standing down.

Last year Edith Watson stood down as treasurer and was succeeded by Gordon Green. Rod Anderton stood down earlier in the year from looking after publicity and culture, and Teressa Pickford stood down from her role as travel group treasurer due to health reasons, (Edith Watson kindly volunteered to step in.) A very big thank you goes to all of the committee members for their support, I am pleased the rest of the committee members are intending to stand for re-election, I wish them well and thank them for their support.

Well to sum up, it's has been a great honour for me to represent Calpe U3A as President. The trust the membership has shown is greatly appreciated and I would like to thank all of you for your support during my time in office.

John Pickford
President U3A Calpe