

Annual General Meeting 19th November 2020

Presidents Report

I have had the great honour of being President of Calpe U3A for three years now. It is prior to standing down at this AGM that I present to you my report and overview of our activities for 2020. I must also thank all members who's support has continued during this difficult year, this has been so important because without you we would not have a U3A.

What a year it has been!

Initially membership was growing, until this pandemic hit us and for sometime everything was put on hold. As a result everyone renewing their membership was given an extra two months ie 14months till their next renewal date.

I am delighted to say that many groups are now up and running, having taken on board all necessary controls and followed changes in rules. We normally thank our group leaders for all the work they put in, but those running groups now are absolutely amazing! A huge thank you goes out to them and also to our members who are attending groups and following all the new restrictions.

The virus is going to be in the world for some years to come and it is very important, if U3A Calpe is to continue, that we adapt to the 'New Normal' and get on with life.

Our General Meetings have restarted in the Salon Blau in the Casa de Cultura. This venue is safe there are strict controls we must observe but we have gone a little further. Numbers are limited and details of controls are widely publicised. Masks must be worn throughout, hand gell on arriving and social distancing must be observed and thank you to those ensuring this is done. This is safer than a bar or restaurant. Many thanks go to all the extra helpers needed now, the more complex meet and greet, manning the essential signing in desk, manning the membership desk and stewards to supervise seating.

We have extremely competent office holders on the committee who have been very supportive throughout my tenure as President. A few helping hands are still needed to organise speakers, a News Update and other sundry tasks.

Covid 19 has had a big impact on all our lives with a much greater use of the internet to communicate. Zoom was discovered, some groups started up using it and we now hold our committee meetings on Zoom, very successfully, helped by our Webmaster.

Publicity has been excellent with good articles in free papers and the Costa Blanca News, often in three papers in one week.

Unfortunately it has not been possible for Travel to organise day trips or holidays due to the restrictions.

The subscription remains at 10euros and will run from the day you join to exactly 14months later for all 2020 renewals. All Group leaders should have membership renewal forms and are asked to ensure that group members have up to date membership.

During my three years as President my personal life has been quite a roller-coaster of emotions as I lost both my mother and recently my father I spent a lot of time with them and the last months for each were terribly upsetting in different ways. I am very grateful for all the help, support and

condolences I have received from so many lovely U3A members.

I hope to stay on the committee as our new President takes over, as a Vocal to try and see that the U3A Calpe digital signature is finally obtained and that our revised Constitution is legally approved. I can also help a little with some Spanish admin.

I am extremely grateful to the members for their support, the group leaders who's groups are running now, the committee for their support, and the helpers for the essential work they now do. I hope all will give our new President the same support and trust that the role proves as enjoyable as it has been for me.

Wishing you all a safe but enjoyable Christmas and a Happy, Healthy 'New Normal' 2021.

Verity Waddell
PRESIDENT
U3A Calpe