MINUTES OF THE U3A GENERAL MEETING HELD ON 17th APRIL 2014 AT THE SOL IFACH HOTEL, CALPE

In the absence of John Pickford, President, the meeting was hosted by Tina Wallis, Vice President. Tina welcomed 98 members to the meeting.

INTRODUCTION OF SPEAKER:

Tina introduced Geoff Woodward who entertained the meeting with a most interesting presentation 'Juan Carlos: the reason Spain has a democracy today'. The presentation was every bit as good as Geoff's previous talk on Gata de Gorgos.

Bob McLean thanked Geoff and presented him with a bottle of brandy. Bob commented to Geoff that we look forward to his next presentation. Geoff then hinted that it was to be his last presentation, a comment that the Members disagreed with. Let's hope he will be back to entertain us in the future with another interesting talk.

APOLOGIES FROM THE COMMITTEE: John Pickford, President, had unfortunately been delayed in the UK by a family bereavement; Janet Bond, Secretary, was ill and Diane Putnam; Groups Co-ordinator was also delayed in the UK owing to family business.

CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED: None

MINUTES OF THE MARCH GENERAL MEETING:

The minutes were proposed by Keith Wildman and seconded by Nick Green.

MATTERS ARISING SINCE THE LAST MEETING:

- PayPal: The first new members to have used PayPal have given us positive feedback on the workability of the system.
- Newsletter/Group Listing/Minutes: Members confirmed to Tina with a show of hands that all had received their copies by email
- We will be renewing our insurance shortly with a new company which gives us better cover than we had previously for a much lower premium

NEW BUSINESS:

- We have speakers in place for the next few months before the holidays but Tina asked for names of people we can invite from September onwards. Does any member have anything interesting to share with us for 20 minutes or so or know anyone they would like to propose? At the previous (March) meeting one member had suggested his local deli for a talk on 'cheese' and another had suggested the prostate cancer charity. The members present today did not pass any comment on either of these two topics.
- We have received an invitation from Ciudad Patricia, Benidorm to arrange a visit there. They will provide coach transport and refreshments on arrival and a 4 course meal is on offer for 10€ (or take a picnic). We may be able to combine a visit with a party from AFPO if the numbers interested justify this. Several hands were raised at this suggestion so we will take that forward.
- Maite Boronate Day Centre: During a recent meeting we raised €109 in exchange for their goods. When asked how they wanted us to spend this money we were told they need a guillotine. This costs €180. Tina asked for permission for the U3A to donate the balance needed and this was agreed by all by a show of hands.

REPORTS:

Social: Report by Tina:

- Informal dinner dance on Tuesday 27 May 16 euros for members, guests €18
- New summer lunch Thursday 19th June after the meeting €11

<u>Groups:</u> Diane's return to Spain has been delayed but the Groups List had been updated. Diane will be back for the May meeting

Swimming: U3A monthly subscription including sauna and Jacuzzi now €20 (was 35)
 Swim and Aquagym and Gym €35 (was 43); Tuesdays and Thursdays 9-10 or 11-12
 You will need an Access card,€3
 Swimming group Wednesdays 10.30. Restarts 2nd May. You are requested to bring cap, towel, flipflops. (It did not go unnoticed that there is no mention of a swimsuit!)

Travel: Report by Jenny O'Neill:

- Sanctuary at Calasparra 16th May: only 2 places left
- Caribbean Cruise Depart Calpe on 6th Dec for 8 night's fly-cruise from Madrid to Caribbean. Only outside cabins remain
- Novelda in October. Day trip with guide in the morning, pm bodega visit with wine tasting and lunch
 €35 pp
- Cartagena, 26/28 September. Visit the fiesta of Roman and Carthanineses. €225 half board
- Day trip in the autumn to new Ikea store in Valencia with visit to Lladro factory.

All information is on the website. Suggestions requested for more trips which will be researched by the travel team.

Culture and Publicity: Rod Anderton:

• Rod is researching hotels for Benidorm at Christmas: In addition to the proposal offered last month Beniconnect are offering the Flash Hotel for 7 nights 22/28 December half board for €450 and the Flamingo is offering 5 nights 24/28 December for €319. More suggestions and details by the next meeting. Mary informed the meeting that the U3A spring choir Concert at the Casa de Cultura would take place on 20 May. Tickets €5

Membership: Val reported a good number of membership renewals

Treasurer: Edith reported a healthy balance.

AOB:

Raffle tickets had been issued to Members on arrival for an 'Adult after 8 Easter egg' which was won by Penny Pearson and the raffle ticket was then exchanged for a glass of wine.

NEXT MEETING:

• This will be held at the Ifach Hotel on Thursday 15th May 10.00 for 10.30 when the speaker will be Father Marcus with a talk entitled 'Beach Dreams'

Janet Bond, Secretary from notes taken by Edith Watson and Tina Wallis 21 April 2014

Proposed: Eunice Hancy Seconded: Albert Hancy Signed: John Pickford Date: 15 May 2014