

**MINUTES OF THE U3A GENERAL MEETING
HELD ON THURSDAY 28 APRIL AT THE SOL IFACH HOTEL, CALPE**

John Pickford, President welcomed 110 members to the meeting which included six new members today.

We opened the meeting with the sad news of two deaths of former members. Ian Stuart, widower of Pat, died suddenly after a fall in Denia and Mena McNulty who died suddenly in hospital recently. Peter Purvey gave a moving tribute to Mena having known her for many years. She was one of the stalwarts of his discussion group who will be very much missed. Mena's son came over from the US for the funeral and came to the meeting to thank everyone for their friendship with his mother and saying how much she had enjoyed being part of the U3A family.

INTRODUCTION OF SPEAKERS:

Today we had two speakers dividing the talk between them. David Stockton, our U3A photographer and Bob Bamber, well known for his professional quality photos talked about getting the best results from our compact digital cameras, the pitfalls and composition of the photo itself. It was a topic obviously enjoyed by the members judging by the number of questions asked afterwards especially as most people in the audience own either a compact camera or smart phone on which to take their photos.

The speakers were presented with a token of appreciation afterwards by John Howard who gave the vote of thanks.

APOLOGIES FROM THE COMMITTEE: None

CORRESPONDENCE: None

MINUTES OF LAST GENERAL MEETING MARCH 2016

The minutes of this meeting had been circulated as usual and copies were available for those without email. Proposed by David Farmer and seconded by Sandra Llewelyn and signed by the president John Pickford.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE LAST MEETING:

Newsletter: The newsletter had been circulated by email as usual along with the pack containing the minutes of the last meeting and Groups List. They had been sent out the weekend before and no 'unsuccessful' reports had been received from Microsoft.

Town Hall trip to Alicante: The trip organised by the Town Hall had been held the previous week and been much enjoyed by those who took part. The Town Hall is very keen to keep us informed of how the local government functions in the Alicante region and have extended a further invitation for a visit to the diputacion and Marc Museum in October. There will be no charge for the trip and we will start a list of those interested in going as soon as we have been notified of the date.

Hopefully many of our 6-monthers will be back by then and able to take part and fill the coach. John will be writing to thank the Mayor, Michelle, Hilde and Carole at the Town Hall for organising the day for us.

Members were reminded that it is everyone's responsibility if they sign up for a trip to let the organisers know if they are unable to attend. Seven people failed to turn up for the Alicante trip and the travel team experienced similar problems on the recent Murcia trip which is very annoying for those waiting on the coach and disrespectful to the organisers.

New Sports Facilities: We are still waiting for the Town Hall to respond to the proposals/costings and plans put forward by Keith for the new bowling green and improvements to the petanc courts. Copies of the paperwork have been left on the president's desk in Alicante as a gentle reminder/nudge and hopefully we will hear something soon.

NEW BUSINESS

AOB In General Meetings: As stated in the covering email from the President prior to the meeting which included the Newsletter and other information, the Committee has changed the way in which AOB items will be taken at General Meetings. This did not mean that members could not have their say - simply that items must be notified either to our post box or to the Secretary seven days in advance (giving your name and membership number). This would enable the Committee to give a more considered reply to your query or comment

Appeal for more Interpreters at the Salud: Pat Spencer said a few words about the volunteer interpreters at the Health Centre. Many people make use of this excellent service and Pat would really like to have more people come forward and volunteer to be a member of the team. The service was started in 2006 and operated Monday to Friday between 0900 and 1200. Anyone willing should contact Pat direct

Discussion Group As mentioned earlier Peter Purvey runs our discussion group. His membership numbers have been dwindling lately for various reasons and he would like more members to join in the lively debates. Anyone wishing to know more should contact Peter for a chat over a glass of wine to see what it is all about.

GROUP REPORTS:

Social: Anne Melling is organising a 'Hello to summer' lunch at the Maruja restaurant on the Levante Beach. Cost €15. Sign up next month for the event on 16th June.

Treasurer: Gordon reports that we have a healthy bank balance of around €5000 which is the amount we like to keep in hand.

Press and Publicity: David and Maureen Elford have been working on their publicity handouts. Their experience is that we get little publicity from the free press and they will be holding more discussions with the newspapers on this. It

was considered we need to up our game and to this end the publicity wallets will be going into places where we hope to attract interest from potential members

Groups Diane had updated and circulated the Groups List.

- After their recent concert the choir will start again in the autumn
- Board and card games: 1st and 3rd Friday in May and then restart in the autumn
- Flower Arranging is taking a summer break
- JUGS: meal at tennis club Thursday 5th May
- Mens' Dining at Brauhaus this evening

Sports:

- All sports items are on the website: nothing new to report except Keith's thanks for the receipt of a storage box as requested at the last meeting.

Travel

- Murcia trip enjoyed by those who participated
- Cordoba/Granada: going ahead next week. Entry closed
- 7th June: Caves at Busot then to Valor chocolate factory: €30 per person
- Honey Festival 2 nights 175pp - more support required
- Barcelona 1-4 December €280-300 per person B&B with 50€ deposit required. Trip needs more support or will have to be cancelled
- November: possible trip to a brewery/castle and meal

All details on the website.

Membership: Helena reported that we have 622 members

AOB: No items raised as per the new procedure

DATE OF NEXT MEETING:

19th May. Apologies in advance from John Pickford: the meeting will be chaired by the Vice President. Speaker TBA with cava and cake after the meeting.

JANET BOND
Secretary

29 April 2016

PROPOSED: Nicky Martinez

SECONDED: Marion Fisher

SIGNED: Diane Putnam

DATE: 19th May