

**MINUTES OF THE U3A GENERAL MEETING
HELD ON 7th FEBRUARY 2013
AT THE CASA DE CULTURE, CALPE**

WELCOME: John Pickford welcomed a rather low turnout of 87 members to the meeting. Possibly this was due to the very high winds on that day.

Our speaker this month was Nick Green who gave a most interesting insight into his Classical Music group and concluded by playing a wonderful piece by a little-known composer which he hoped may inspire others to join the Group.

APOLOGIES FROM THE COMMITTEE: Tina Wallis, Edith Watson

CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED: None.

MINUTES OF THE LAST GENERAL MEETING (17th January 2013):

Janet Bond, Secretary, read a brief resume of the minutes which had been put in their entirety on the stage if anyone wished to look at them. They were proposed by Ellen Mitchell, seconded by Giovanna Wallis and signed by President John Pickford.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE LAST MEETING:

- We still need a Travel Group leader although John Pickford, aided by his willing team will continue for the time being. Members were asked once again if anyone wished to come forward.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Update on the database. Our new membership database is now up and running and we will be adding the PayPal payment facility which will be useful for those members who come and go to the UK and elsewhere. The system will automatically notify members when their membership is due and, hopefully, will help avoid the rush of everyone queuing to renew in April. However, Members may continue to pay on the door as usual
- Members were asked to check their personal details that are held by us. This is particularly important now we are, this month for the first time, sending the Newsletter by email and will continue to do so prior to each meeting. Unfortunately we discovered that quite a few email addresses are not correct so everyone was asked to check their email address and if incorrect to give it to the membership ladies at the door. On the subject of emailing Newsletters, we asked that anyone without a computer could have a copy emailed to them by a friend so that they may keep up with the news. By emailing the Newsletter round we hope to reduce our printing costs which have risen considerably.
- Starting from the April meeting we are planning to hold some of our General Meetings at the Ifach Hotel in the Salón Marenostrum. This is located on the ground floor of the hotel's reception area. It is a very good room which can accommodate up to 200 members. There is ample space around the room for tables for not only the usual Membership, Travel and Social desks but also any group Leaders who may wish to promote their Groups. Parking nearby is relatively easy, the bus service has a stop close by. Members will be able to purchase teas and coffees from the bar/café area in the foyer and socializing before and after the meeting will be possible in a way which is not possible at the Casa. We have booked the room for April, May and June to give it a good try to see if we all like it and will welcome feedback after our April meeting.

REPORTS: John called upon the various co-ordinators to present their reports.

Groups: Sandy Bianco gave her Groups report summarised here:

05/04/2013

- Mens' Dining will next meet on 28 February. Roger will be in the UK and would like someone to organize it.
- Spanish lessons. Jan Newark is our co-ordinator and a sign up sheet was put forward with her telephone number. There is possibility of new classes including absolute beginners.
- Nicola is still running the swimming group on Wednesdays at the municipal pool where we have the use of the sauna and Jacuzzi.
- Snooker at the Esmeralda. Leader required and a sign up sheet was put forward.
- Hilary Hare could fit in a few new members for her Painting Group on Mondays at 3 pm at her home.
- JUGS: 7th March at La Mama Nostra. Sign up sheet available.
- Paula has asked that anyone not able to attend the dance classes should let her know as she needs a minimum number to obtain a good price at the studio.
- Verity Waddell is now available to start her cycling group. They will be easy rides at first while she continues her recovery.

Details of all group activities are on the website or you may contact Sandy for details.

Social :

Joy Lally presented her 'Social' report.

- A flamenco show and meal at the Bolero on March 17th. Sign up sheets and menu choices were available
- A quiz night against other U3As in April: we are looking for teams
- A Group Leaders' thank you dinner at the Gran Sol on 27th April (guests to be paid for)
- A formal dinner dance will be announced after the summer break

Travel : Ellen Mitchell gave the Travel Report

- Benidorm Palace for their dinner dance/show on 8th February, coach pick up from the Esmeralda. 43 Members have signed up
- 4 day trip to Peniscola and Barcelona 17th April. All inclusive €320 pp
- Viva España flamenco show. Date change to 2nd June, €35 pp with coach transport. 33 people have expressed their interest.
- 5 day trip to Cordoba and Seville, 3rd June. €390 pp all inclusive
- Day trip to Gandia being researched to include lunch 27th September. Full details at March meeting
- Eastern Mediterranean Cruise – sold out. 82 members have booked and there is a waiting list currently of 11. Individual cabin details are being processed and allocated.
- Proposed trip to Russia is postponed at the moment as it is proving difficult to put together. Maybe it will go ahead next year.

Full details are on the website.

Culture and Publicity: Rod Anderton stated in his report that we should have publicity in the local newspapers next week

Cultural activities in the pipeline include:

- Viva España already mentioned under Travel
- EMAUS tavern evening singalong with supper on 23rd February
- Footlights CATS on 14/15/16 February at the Casa de Culture. Ann Dyer is taking bookings – only a few seats left
- 1st March at Salon Blau 'Love is all Around' cabaret for 8 euros in aid of EMAUS

Further information available from Rod Anderton.

05/04/2013

Treasurer : Edith Watson was unable to be present but had sent her financial report. We have a balance of €4,600.

Membership : We have 570 paid-up members excluding 5 new ones at this meeting.

AOB:

- Jenny O'Neill and Jan Newark are continuing to compile a list of organizations and shops which will give us discounts. Members are asked to canvass their contacts to see if they could be added to the list and to let either Jenny or Jan know their names. A reminder was given not to declare we are U3A until the deal is struck!
- Giovanna appealed for more articles for the Newsletter
- A member asked whether Travel could be added to PayPal. John said he would look into this in the future.
- Finally, new members were invited to coffee upstairs afterwards.

NEXT MEETING: Thursday 14th March at the Casa de Cultura.

- The March speaker will be Peter Arnold talking to us about his bodega and the art of making good wine

The 11th April, 9th May and 13th June meetings will be at the Ifach Hotel:

There being no other business the meeting closed at 11.10.

Janet Bond, Secretary
9th February 2013

Proposed:

Seconded:

Signed:

Date: