

**MINUTES OF THE U3A GENERAL MEETING
HELD ON 15th JANUARY 2015
AT THE SOL IFACH HOTEL, CALPE**

John Pickford, President, welcomed 123 members and 13 new members to the meeting.

INTRODUCTION OF SPEAKER:

Our speaker today was Dick Hanscombe. Dick is well known for his regular articles in the local press and for his books on gardening in Spain. He spoke about making the most of our outside spaces and gardens here in Spain and also showed slides of his own garden and patio areas. Such was the enthusiasm of the audience that his question and answer session had to be limited owing to time constraints and we are sure he would be welcomed back another time. Keith Cherry gave the vote of thanks and Dick was presented with a bottle.

APOLOGIES FROM THE COMMITTEE: Jenny O'Neill, Penny Brighton, Ellen Mitchell

CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED: None

MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER GENERAL MEETING:

The minutes had already been signed off at the AGM and put on the website. They had been proposed by Marion Fisher and seconded by Anne Melling.

MATTERS ARISING SINCE THE LAST MEETING:

- **Newsletter:** The Newsletter was late this month owing to editorial difficulties. Everyone present stated they had received their newsletters and various correspondence which had been circulated prior to the meeting
- **Kutxabank Refunds:** The bank have apologised for the delay in refunding members their membership subs but this should happen shortly. Kutxabank have extended their offer of refunding membership fees if you open both a current account and savings account. You must state it is for U3A and not AFPO as some members belong to both organizations.

NEW BUSINESS:

The new committee is now in place and we have held our first meeting. They will be introduced at our next meeting as several members are on holiday at the moment.

REPORTS:

Social: Report by Tina Wallis:

- 14th February Dinner and Dance at the Tennis Club
- Refunds of 5€ for those attending the dinner dance were handed out

Other items on offer will be presented next time.

Groups: Report by Diane Putnam:

Everything as per latest Groups List. A few slightly changed timings below:

- Bowls still playing at usual times although building work is going on on the rinks. Beginners and all comers Thursdays, experienced players only Mondays
- Bridge 7-9 on Tuesdays
- Choir restarts next week: thanks for support at their concert
- Crib: new venue close to Multiprecio, Monday evenings

- JUGS: new leader Val Wetherald. Thanks given to Sue for her previous efforts even through the hot summer months
- Mountain Walking. Now start time of 9.15: don't be late or you will miss out
- Sugarcraft: a new venture for Liz Lodge who had samples at the meeting. 22nd January 10-1 pm 5 euros
- Petanc: 2 pm Sundays
- Yoga: temporarily suspended while we look for a new venue: any ideas anyone?
- Classical Music. Nick Green and his group is very much missed. Ideas sought even if the format is different would be welcome and considered
- Canasta: Tuesday and Wednesday – same time
- Spanish. Manuela had info on all the Spanish courses available.

Travel:

John presented the travel report in the absence of Penny and Ellen.

- 33 people thoroughly enjoyed the two-day trip to Valencia staying in an excellent central hotel
- Benidorm Palace: 39 signed up
- Shoe Museum and winery trip 36 signed up
- Northern Spain and France 32 signed up
- Med Cruise in October for 8 days 32 signed up: prices are rising so add your name quickly if you wish to be included

Also being researched are Cuella and Albufera, possible 2 days Murcia and a 23 day cruise in 2016. All trip details are on the website.

Culture and Publicity: Rod Anderton gave his report details of which have already been sent to the Cultural Interest Group.

Calpe G&S Society concert on 27 March: tickets 10€
Live flamenco at the Casa de Cultura on 30th.

Membership: Teresa reported 13 new members today. We now have 562 paid-up members largely thanks to chasing-up late payers. This is the best total in 4 years.

Treasurer: Edith reported a healthy balance.

AOB:

- Many members know Percy who is in the Sol y Mar Residencia (formerly known as La Saleta.) He is doing well but is bored so would welcome visitors!

NEXT MEETING:

The next meeting will be on 19th February and the speaker will be Dr Poole, a plastic surgeon. Form an orderly queue!!

The meeting concluded with a very nice assortment of tapas provided by the hotel and drinks for everyone.