

**MINUTES OF THE U3A GENERAL MEETING
HELD ON 13th JUNE 2013
AT THE SOL IFACH HOTEL, CALPE**

John Pickford opened the meeting by relating the sad news that Mike Manning had died this week after his heroic battle with cancer. Our heartfelt sympathy and best wishes go to his wife Judy and her family.

John then introduced our own U3A choir under the leadership of Mary Anderton. They entertained us with an alphabet themed programme and we also joined in with the signing of the 'Pitter-Patter Raindrop Song'. It was a delightful way to mark our 'end of term' and put us in the mood for summer. They were thanked on our behalf by Giovanna Wallis and presented with cava to be enjoyed after one of their rehearsals.

WELCOME: John then welcomed 129 members and 6 New Members to this, the last meeting before the summer break. The new members were invited for coffee with Tina, Vice President after the meeting. He then made the announcement that Penny Clifford and her partner Geoff Pearson were getting married in the UK on 17th August. We wished them all the best for a very happy day and continued happiness in their life together.

APOLOGIES FROM THE COMMITTEE: Edith Watson.

CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED: None.

MINUTES OF THE LAST GENERAL MEETING (9th May):

Janet Bond, Secretary, read a brief précis of the minutes which had been put on the stage if anyone wished to look at them. The minutes were proposed and seconded and signed by President John Pickford.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE LAST MEETING:

- Members were once again asked if they had received their Newsletters by email and if not to check that we had the correct email address for them in our database. We picked up several incorrect ones at the meeting so hopefully next time the number of rejects will be reduced.
- We again asked for volunteers to join our photography rota which really helps Rod Anderton with his publicity brief as the newspapers are more likely to include us if accompanied by a photo or two

NEW BUSINESS:

- Discounts for Members. Thanks were given to those members who have been putting together a discounts section for our Website from local companies who are willing to give U3A Members discounts on purchases or services. This list is by no means complete but is ready to be added to the Website. We will of course keep adding to it as and when other suppliers come on board.
- PayPal and Banking Facilities. We have been advised by María, Manager of Barclays in Calpe that the branch is being closed and all accounts transferred to the Benidorm Branch. This does not suit U3A and we will be seeking new banking facilities: we will advise the results of this in due course. In the meantime Members were advised to carry on as normal with any payments they have to make but to be aware of 2nd August closing down date. We have been talking for some months about introducing PayPal as a means of payment for subscriptions and trips. This is now ready to be implemented and we hope that Members will find it a useful facility, especially with Barclays closing.

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

Groups: Sandy Bianco presented the Groups report.

- With effect from 17th June the bowls will go to the early summer hours from 4 – 6pm.
- Due to the Bolero having new managers the last final dance fitness class of this season will be at the Gran Sol restaurant on Monday 24th June. It will start again on 9th September back at the Bolero: more information on this will be given later.
- The next 10-pin bowling will be on 20th June to be organized by Sandy as Giovanna is busy throughout the summer. The bowlers can meet fortnightly if they wish.
- The Yoga Group has been suspended for the time being until the new people at the Bolero settle in. It will recommence in September but may be on a different day.
- Flower Arranging and Mosaics will all break for the summer – to be resumed in September.
- The next Mens' Dining will be at La Marina Restaurant in Calpe on 27th June. Phone Roger for details.
- By popular request JUGS will meet on 4th July at La Mama Nostra with a €13 menu.
- Finally Sandy reminded Members that she runs a baby equipment group where they can borrow cots, high chairs etc when they have 'little people' coming to stay.

Members were advised to check the website for the latest timings.

Social :

Joy Lally presented her 'Social' report.

- The next social event, a lunch at the Exotic Restaurant on Fossa beach, would take place after the meeting today.
- There would be a summer picnic at Valessa Park on 11th July starting at 3 pm. There would be no charge for this but Members are to bring their own food/drink/comfy chair. Mary Anderson has agreed to lay on music and Keith has loaned his cricket game which has been enjoyed on previous occasions. A show of hands revealed there was enough interest to make a viable event.
- Annual Quiz in October with names being taken at the September meeting. Probable venue the Bolero.
- We will hold a dinner/dance in December possibly on Thursday 5th. The Diamante Beach is the favoured venue so far of those researched. Probable cost around 28/30€ per person.

Travel : John Pickford gave the Travel Report.

- Valencia 17 May. A full coach and a great success.
- Viva España. Another very successful trip on 2nd June much enjoyed by those who went.
- Gandia day trip 27th September now full.
- Cruises: balance for both Valencia and Barcelona departures to be paid by 15th July. 69€ per person for insurance for those requiring it. Participants may pre-book their excursions and pay in advance and the company has guaranteed an English speaking interpreter. John has secured 3 more cabins which are being held for 24 hours only - at a slightly higher cost than the original deal
- Details of further possible day trips will be announced later.
- John concluded by thanking his valuable team for their hard work.

Culture and Publicity: Rod Anderton reported.

- Viva España flamenco show had already been mentioned under Travel. Rod again appealed for photographs to accompany his reports to the press.

AOB:

- None.
- **NEXT MEETING: Thursday 19th September** at the Ifach Hotel, Salon Marenostrum when our speaker will be talking to us about 'Eyes and Eyesight'.

- The following meeting will be **17th October**, again at the Ifach.
- Our AGM on **November 21st** will be at the Casa de Cultura as we have to have a venue large enough to hold all our members – should they turn up! Members were reminded that this is for paid-up members only and we will be checking names at the door. It would help greatly if Members came with their Membership Number to make this easier.

Finally Members were asked to think during the summer whether they might wish to stand as Committee.

The meeting closed at 11.35 with John Pickford wishing everyone a happy summer holiday

Janet Bond, Secretary
14th June 2013

Proposed: Peter Lally

Seconded: Mirin Vera

Signed: Tina Wallis

Date: 19th September 2013