

MINUTES OF THE U3A GENERAL MEETING
HELD ON 20 March 2014
AT THE SOL IFACH HOTEL, CALPE

The President welcomed 101 members to the meeting.

INTRODUCTION OF SPEAKERS:

Tina Wallis was due to be our main speaker today but was unable to buy the fresh flowers necessary for her demonstration owing to the market being closed the previous day for fiesta. A free raffle was held which included two bottles of wine and potted plants.

Roger Milsum talked about his Men's Dining Group which meets on the last Thursday of the month at a local restaurant and his tennis for beginners which meets on Tuesdays and Fridays. Roger has spare raquets for anyone to borrow if they wish to give the sport a try. This information was valuable especially to newer members.

Mary Anderton gave an amusing talk on 'Words Connect People'. She ended by reciting a poem in broad Scottish which was very funny despite our not being able to understand much of it!

Finally, Pat Spencer gave an informative insight into the ways in which health legislation affects us all here in Spain, the various services available and finally some guidance on correct breathing, stretching and meditation to beat stress. All her information will be on her Health and Wellbeing webpage.

The Committee thanks Mary and Pat for stepping up at literally the last minute to entertain us.

APOLOGIES FROM THE COMMITTEE: Diane Putnam, Groups Co-ordinator

CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED: None

MINUTES OF THE JANUARY GENERAL MEETING:

The President announced that we were trying something new today. We would not read the minutes of the previous meeting as a draft version had been circulated by email and also put on the website to give everyone a chance to read them. A show of hands revealed 100% agreement for this course of action. The previous minutes were proposed by Yvonne Woodham and seconded by Graham Hall.

MATTERS ARISING SINCE THE LAST MEETING:

- We have spoken previously about changing our post-box from Total Postal to Correos. Having looked into this we have decided it is not viable because Correos charge the sender 35 cents for a stamp to put items into the post-box which would be unacceptable to our members. We will therefore be staying with Total Postal. Members are reminded to seal securely any envelopes that contain our membership fee.

NEW BUSINESS:

- We have speakers in place for the next few months before the holidays but we are asking 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. One member suggested his local deli for a talk on 'cheese' and another suggested the prostate cancer charity. These two members to follow this up.

REPORTS: Shortened versions of the reports had been circulated with the Newsletter to give those members who do not or cannot come to meetings a chance to learn about the various activities taking place. The President called upon the various Group Leaders to present their reports.

Social: Tina reported that Vall de Pop had sent thanks for our organization of the recent quiz. Vall de Pop were again the overall winners so we have work to do to beat them in the return match which they will organize.

Other future social activities in the planning include:

- Informal dinner/dance on 27 May at Dracula in the port. 16 euros for members only as there is a limit on numbers
- Possibility of a Beetle Drive later in the year which a show of hands revealed would be popular
- Formal dinner/dance in a local hotel nearer to Christmas will be organised

Groups Diane is on holiday but the Groups List had been updated to the best of our ability. She will be back in Spain for the April meeting

Travel: Report by Penny Brighton

- Calasparra 16th May. Day trip €10. Only 5 places left
- Ibiza May 20/23 ½ board €399 for 4 days 3 nights
- 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
- Invitation from Vall de Pop to join their trip to northern Spain. Zaragoza, Picos de Europa etc €530-€560 pp. Details on the Vall de Pop website

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: more details later
- New members especially are reminded of his need for photos to accompany his press reports
- Several new members have joined the choir. Their next concert will be 23 May. 5€ in aid of contra cancer

Membership: Val reported a good number of membership renewals and 2 new members.

Treasurer: Edith reported a healthy balance.

AOB:

- A plug was given for AFPO with details of the work they do in the local area and details of how the organization may be joined.
- Good wishes were given to Shirley Questa who unfortunately is leaving us to return to the UK.

NEXT MEETING:

- This will be held at the Ifach Hotel on Thursday 17th April 10.00 for 10.30. The presenter will be Geoff Woodward who has been to us before when he talked about Gata de Gorgos. This time his topic is 'Juan Carlos: Why Spain is a Democracy'. He is an excellent speaker so we hope for a good turnout.

Janet Bond, Secretary
27 March 2014

Proposed:

Seconded:

Signed:

Date: