

**MINUTES OF THE U3A GENERAL MEETING  
HELD ON 19th MARCH 2015  
AT THE SOL IFACH HOTEL, CALPE**

John Pickford, President, welcomed everyone especially new members to the meeting. He followed this with a couple of notices. The first was the recent sad death of Percy Watson aged 99. Percy was a valued and active member of the U3A who was looking forward to receiving his 100th birthday telegram from the Queen but sadly didn't quite make it. Our condolences have been sent to Percy's family.

Good wishes for a speedy recovery were sent from us all to one of our Dutch members Willy Offenbergh who has had a heart attack.

**INTRODUCTION OF SPEAKER:**

We did not have a speaker today but instead were treated to some wonderful entertainment from our U3A choir. Always a good listen, they excelled themselves today possibly flushed with the success of their recent concert in aid of Caritas where they joined forces with a visiting Swedish choir of which Kristina, one of our ladies is a member. The buttonholes in the colour of the Spanish flag made by Penny were a nice touch! Thanks were given to all and they were presented with chocolates.

**APOLOGIES FROM THE COMMITTEE:** None

**CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED:** None

**MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY GENERAL MEETING:**

The minutes had been put on the website and circulated. They were proposed by David Stockton, seconded by Keith Cherry and signed by the President John Pickford.

**MATTERS ARISING SINCE THE LAST MEETING:**

- Newsletter: The President confirmed with the members present that all had received their Newsletters by email or picked up their copy here today.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

- Bank Accounts: The President confirmed to those present for the sake of good order that the U3A has 3 bank accounts with Kutxabank: the General Account, the Travel Group Account and the recently opened Table Tennis Account. The General Account is only used for the day to day running expenses of the association (website, meeting venues etc) and is used to subsidise U3A social events like the Christmas Dinner and Dance. We must always hold a healthy bank balance in the General Account for legal reasons.

The Travel Group Account is totally separate and is used only for trips. Free places are neither given nor taken: all members of the travel group team pay their own way. This account has a totally separate travel treasurer. Any subsidised trips offered are only paid for from the Travel Group Account and definitely not from the General Account. The Committee is making members aware of this following suggestions heard that 'freebies' are being taken which is most definitely not the case. All three bank accounts are audited independently and are available to view by any member at the AGM held in November.

- We are always looking for volunteers to help out with our General Meetings. If anyone can offer help they were invited to speak to Tina after the meeting.

## **REPORTS:**

Social: Report by Tina Wallis:

- Our next event will be the informal Dinner/Dance to be held at Dracula on 29th April. Cava reception, 3 courses including wine with Daniel entertaining. It promises to be a really fun evening.

Groups: Report by Diane Putnam:

All group details and news are on the website. Additional items of note are:

- Ladies Beauty Days: Lorraine is still not fully recovered so the group is on hold for now but will happen
- Possible new group Chess. Diana Farmer would like names of anyone interested. Sign up sheets here today and next month: Diana returns to Spain in May
- Computer Buddies: Tribute and thanks paid to a really good article in the Newsletter by Ian Coleman offering advice on tablets and iPads
- Mens' Dining: Needs more men for the next event as the Brauhaus needs a minimum of 10 to get the best deal. Roger was available to answer questions
- Papercraft: Liz had a table to sign up for making a window card suitable for both male and female recipients

Diane thanked all the Group Leaders for their hard work saying that U3A was nothing without our Groups. Judging by the round of applause the members present endorsed this sentiment

## **Travel:**

Ellen presented the travel report:

- Benidorm Palace and Elda/Yecla Shoe Museum and winery trips both very successful and enjoyed by participants
- Northern Spain and France a few places still available
- 24 June Manises/Albufera/Cullera: 35 euros (members) 40 euros (non members) places available
- September a possible day trip to Elche still to be confirmed
- Med Cruise in October places available. Post meeting note: the tour company has changed the itinerary probably to include Sardinia instead of Tunisia in the light of recent events in Tunisia

All complete trip details are on the website.

## **Culture and Publicity:**

Rod Anderton gave thanks to David Stockton, our photographer who is always on hand at our events and meetings to record them for the press and the website.

Following the successful choir concert Rod announced that the choir would like to welcome some more members!

Pat Spencer told us about her recent trip to relatives in Australia. She went along to an inaugural U3A meeting of 160 members in the area and told them about some of her experiences in setting up a U3A

including the benefit of holding regular meetings which was something they had not considered essential! Pat also told us that the information on renewing your EHIC card has changed recently. The website will be updated and all is now much simpler.

**Membership:** Teresa reported 7 new members today. We now have 591 paid-up members.

**Treasurer:** Edith reported a healthy balance of around 5,900€.

**AOB:**

- Members present were reminded about the solar eclipse due tomorrow
- Two of our 'oldest' members Enid and Peter Barton are soon to be leaving Spain to return to the UK. We wish them all the very best of good wishes and hope to see them back in Calpe for a visit at some stage
- The Town Hall has stated that you are able to vote by post and on line.

**NEXT MEETING:**

The next meeting will be on 16th April when our main speaker will be David Elford, an ex Senior Executive/Director of many department store operations including Liberty of London. His presentation will be entitled 'A Walk Down the High Street'.

In addition our Mayor, Cesar Sanchez will be popping in to say 'hello' and answer our (non political) questions about Calpe. Members are invited to send their questions to John or Janet.

The Manager of our bankers Kutxabank will be coming along to say a few words and will also be bringing more of the free goodies (bags and hats) which we had last month.

There will be tapas/wine after the meeting for attendees.

Janet Bond, Secretary  
21st March 2015