

**MINUTES OF THE U3A GENERAL MEETING
HELD ON THURSDAY 24 MARCH AT THE SOL IFACH HOTEL, CALPE**

The March General Meeting was chaired by Diane Putnam, Vice President. John Pickford, President sent his and Teressa's apologies stating that owing to the ill health of two members of their family demanding their urgent attention they could not attend the meeting. Diane welcomed everyone to the meeting especially the five new members attending.

INTRODUCTION OF SPEAKER:

Our speaker today was Michael Scannell, our Webmaster. Using the live website on his laptop Michael talked us through each of the sections in an effort to make it clearer to members to navigate the site, where to find the items that interested them and how to add comments of their own. Michael explained why the typeface had been chosen as it had been something that he accepted had been commented upon in the past. From comments afterwards it was obvious that the talk had been most useful and well received by another capacity audience.

APOLOGIES FROM THE COMMITTEE: David and Maureen Elford, John and Teressa Pickford

CORRESPONDENCE:

None

MINUTES OF LAST GENERAL MEETING MARCH 2016

The minutes of this meeting had been circulated as usual and copies were available for those without email. Proposed by David Farmer and seconded by Sandra Llewelyn.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE LAST MEETING:

Kutzabank Credit Card After further meetings with the bank the committee has reluctantly concluded that a card reader for our meetings would be more trouble than it was worth on the grounds of cost and as it would hold up transactions at the travel desk. This idea has therefore been shelved.

Possible new Committee Meeting Room As mentioned last month we have been looking into the possibility of finding a meeting room to hold our committee meetings and which could possibly also be used as a day-to-day centre where members could meet up for coffee and a chat. We have been unsuccessful so far in finding such a venue but if any member has an idea please let one of the committee know and we will check it out.

Dinner Dance From the emails we have received the Dinner Dance was a huge success and thanks must be given formally to Anne Melling who despite the initial hiccups over the menu and lots of chasing around with John Pickford at the last minute everything went smoothly. We now know the constraints of the venue with

freshly cooked food meaning a limited menu choice and would not hesitate to go there again.

Newsletter Again Janet made a plea for more articles to go in the newsletter as she has nothing in the pipeline for April. One member put a suggestion in the box which unfortunately was only read after the meeting. This member does not have a computer and relies on the newsletter which she receives from friends to update her on our events and trips. She was disappointed that lately the newsletter contained more anecdotes than diary inputs. The reason for this has been that we need to draw a balance between getting the news out to you and repeating ourselves on the website, in minutes at meetings etc. In future we will try to put everything in the newsletter even if it is in a shortened form.

Trip to Alicante

Everything is in place for the visit arranged by the Town Hall for our visit to Alicante on 14th April reported in last month's minutes. We have generated a list of those interested together with their phone numbers and email addresses and have contact details at the Town Hall. Lunch (20€ per person) is optional but naturally the Town Hall has to inform the restaurant of numbers wishing to take the lunch. Pick up is 0830 from the bus station and will leave Alicante port after lunch at around 4 pm. Lunch money will be collected on the coach by Mary and Rod Anderton as Janet who has been coordinating this visit so far is not now certain if she will be able to attend.

New Sports Facilities Keith will report on this item in his monthly sports report.

GROUP REPORTS:

Treasurer Gordon reports that we have a healthy bank balance of around €5000 which is the amount we like to keep in hand.

Groups Diane had updated and circulated the Groups List.

- There is little interest in a chess group so this has now been deleted
- Joy Lally is on holiday so bridge is on hold until 19th April
- 29th April a Group Leaders' thank you at the Ifach to acknowledge the huge part our Group Leaders play in the running of the U3A and who, along with the committee, give their time and service free of charge apart from a very small donation towards refreshments in some cases.

Diane reported on the upcoming cultural events - many of which will be over by the time these minutes are issued

- 7-9 April Javea Players in Moraira €15
- 14 April Ballet at the Casa de Cultura
- 15 April La Boheme at the Casa
- 21 April G&S Ruddigore €10 at the Casa
- 6 April Giselle broadcast from the Royal Ballet, in Denia

Mary updated members on the U3A choir concert featuring music from the shows with the €6 entrance money going to Caritas. As usual the choir would like some new members (especially men!)

Sports:

Sports coordinator Keith has been looking into the provision of a new bowling green which the Town Hall has indicated they wish to pay for. Keith has submitted plans and costings and we await the response from the Town Hall. The Town Hall seemed favourably disposed to Keith's ideas which would greatly enhance tourism in the town as clubs currently have to travel to Javea to play.

Also included in Keith's plans are refurbishment of the petanc courts to bring them up to standard including resurfacing, security, storage facility etc.

- All sports items are on the website

Travel

- Ellen thanked everyone for their help on the Villena trip which was a great success
- Spaces still available on the Murcia trip which now sadly conflicts with the date chosen by the town hall for the trip to Alicante
- Cordoba trip: balance of payment due before 1st April
- 7th June: Caves at Busot then to Valor chocolate factory: €30 per person
- Honey Festival 2 nights 175pp
- Barcelona 1-4 December €280-300 per person B&B with 50 €deposit required

All details on the website.

Membership: Helena reported that we have 622 members with 572 paid up and 5 new members today.

Press and Publicity David and Maureen Elford were not at the meeting. They will update members on progress of their projects at the next meeting.

AOB:

- Pat Spencer was unable to be at the meeting today but she asked us to mention that the Town Hall has agreed a contract with the Habitat Resort Residential Home. The cost is normally €1500 a month but if you organise it through the town hall the cost is reduced to €1300 representing quite a saving.
- Tricia Adams had the box of first aid cards should anyone wish to take one.
- Keith Cherry is looking for a sturdy box to store table tennis equipment at the Sports Hall.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING:

Thursday 28th April. Note the date is later than usual owing the complete refurbishment of the public areas of the Ifach Hotel. The speakers will be David Stockton and Bob Bamber giving hints and tips on how to get the best from your digital camera.

JANET BOND
Secretary

29 March 2016

PROPOSED:

SECONDED:

SIGNED:

DATE: