

**MINUTES OF THE U3A GENERAL MEETING  
HELD ON 9th MAY 2013  
AT THE SOL IFACH HOTEL, CALPE**

John Pickford opened the meeting by relating the sad news that two of our members had recently passed away. The first, Geoff Kay, partner of Annie Welton whose funeral was held on 1st May and secondly George Watson, husband of Edith our U3A Treasurer whose funeral was held on 6th May. Our heartfelt sympathy goes to Annie and her family and also to Edith and her family at this time.

**WELCOME:** John welcomed 147 members to this, the second meeting at our new venue, the Sol Ifach Hotel. We had asked the hotel to make a few changes to the layout of the room and we will continue to make improvements until we get it all just right.

Our speaker today was Geoff Woodward who gave a most interesting, amusing and informative talk on the history of Gata de Gorgos. The vote of thanks was given by Hugh Stewart and Geoff was presented with a bottle of brandy.

**APOLOGIES FROM THE COMMITTEE:** Val Osborne, Sandy Bianco, Edith Watson

**CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED:** Card from Edith thanking everyone for their support and stating that 192€ had been sent to 'Help'.

**MINUTES OF THE LAST GENERAL MEETING (11th April):**

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 by Liz Lodge, seconded by Nicola Martinez and signed by President John Pickford.

**MATTERS ARISING FROM THE LAST MEETING:**

- The Newsletter had been emailed round to Members. Members were once again asked to check that we had the correct addresses for them in our database as we had a significant number of rejected emails and we cannot correct mistakes unless we are informed of them.
- We have made some changes to the contact information form and this can be accessed online.
- Last month we asked for volunteers to be part of a 'photography rota' who would take pictures at our meetings and social gatherings. Anyone wishing to add their name was asked to see one of the Committee after the meeting. This ties in with our publicity in the press which is always more successful if accompanied by a photograph or two.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

- The Committee would like to introduce a policy change. At this time of year we were all supposed to renew our subs but for various reasons for some people this drags on and sometimes well into the winter period. The Committee feels this is not fair on the vast majority who do pay their dues on time. Now that we have a rolling membership the month you pay is the month for renewal. For the future we will impose a 3-month period during which you will have had several reminders. If your membership is not renewed within this time period it will then be considered lapsed. You can of course re-join at any time. This proposal was put to the Membership for voting and there was 100% vote in favour.
- We have researched the possibility of sending bulk SMS messages to Members who do not have email but do have a mobile phone to inform them when and where our meetings and social activities are being held. Members were asked to let the Committee know if they would like to receive a reminder text message on their mobile phone.
- Members were asked to let us know if the Newsletter is to their liking or of any changes they would like to see. It was pointed out that the deadline for entries in the Newsletter is 10 days before the

next GM. Hugh Stewart asked if 'Lions' information could be put in and the reply was that U3A business would take priority but if there was room then 'Charitable' events could be included.

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

**Groups:** Janet Bond presented Sandy Bianco's Groups report:

- Due to Jack Sugden returning to the UK the World War One group has been suspended for the time being unless anyone would like to take it on. Please contact Sandy if you are interested
- The next JUGS will be on 6th June at the Aguamarina for a summer buffet including wine for approx 10 euros
- Audrey Coleman has kindly agreed to start up the mosaics group for beginners. The Group proper will begin in September but Audrey is doing a couple of 'tasters' on 5th and 12th June from 10.30 – 1 pm in her home. A sign up sheet was available and Audrey will contact Members with directions.
- The next 10 pin bowling will be in June. Giovanna has negotiated a deal and we now get 2 games for 8 euros which includes prizes.
- Liz Lodge will be holding a Waterfall Card workshop on Thursday 23 May at her home. Usual meeting arrangements apply. Liz will supply all the materials for which payment must be made in advance
- Giovanna's dance fitness class has now started. The last one will be at the Bolero next week and the new venue will be announced.

**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 on June 13th. Choice of 3 courses and a drink for 10 euros. Choices to be made in advance and a sign up sheet was available today.

**Travel :** John Pickford gave the Travel Report

- Valencia – sponsored day trip for €5 – 17 May. 5 places remaining
- Gandia day trip to include guided tour of the Ducal Palace, lunch and free time in Gandia 27 September 28 euros (non members 30 euros)
- 'Alternative' Eastern Mediterranean Cruise for those who missed out on the cruise promoted earlier in the year. This cruise to depart from Barcelona – 15 days for approx €775 per person staying at the same places as the other cruise
- Proposed trip to Russia being researched for next June 10 days is hopefully going ahead with flights from Madrid or Alicante cost about 1600€
- Cordoba and Seville unfortunately not viable so will be cancelled
- Other trips are in the pipeline: more details in due course.

Full details are on the website.

**Culture and Publicity:** Rod Anderton reported

- Viva España flamenco show and meal. €35 pp with coach transport. Only a very few places remaining. Depart at 12.30 return at about 18.30
- MOFTAG fair Saturday 11 May in Delphin Square
- 'World in Union' concert in Benissa 22/23 May, proceeds to EMAUS
- Curtis Group concert in Teulada 26 May 15€
- Palau Valencia – opera Othello – 80€

All information has been sent to the 'Cultural Interest Group' and further information available from Rod Anderton.

