

**MINUTES OF THE U3A GENERAL MEETING
HELD ON 17th OCTOBER 2013
AT THE SOL IFACH HOTEL, CALPE**

John Pickford welcomed members to this meeting. He is still having problems with his vision and therefore Tina Wallis; Vice President conducted the meeting.

SAD NEWS: After welcoming everyone Tina began by reporting the news that John Divine had sadly passed away. His wife is still in Calpe and our sympathy was extended to her and her family.

INTRODUCTION OF SPEAKER: Our speaker this morning was Gema Gonzáles, the Director of the Maite Boronat Day Centre for the disabled. She spoke to us with a slideshow about the work and activities of the Centre which runs a care and therapy centre for mentally handicapped people from all over the Marina Alta and which is severely under-funded receiving very little help from the other town halls. Some of their handicrafts had been brought along for which donations were made to help swell funds. Gema was accompanied by Councillor Carole Saunders who translated from Spanish for us and also answered some general questions on council issues. A vote of thanks and a gift was given to both speakers by Missouri Tyrell.

APOLOGIES FROM THE COMMITTEE: None

CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED: None.

MINUTES OF THE LAST GENERAL MEETING (19th Sept):

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

The Secretary also gave official notice of the upcoming AGM for which 21 days' notice has to be given.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE LAST MEETING:

- **New Bank:** We hope to have a representative from Kutxabank at our meeting in January. We have a special arrangement with the bank whereby members who open a savings account with them will have their subscriptions paid back to them and the U3A will receive 30 euros towards funds for each member doing so. We will hear more about this in January.
- **Next Year's Committee:** We mentioned last month that two committee members are standing down at the AGM in November. We will be seeking replacements for these and information on the duties of these posts (and any of the other posts all of which can be contested) can be obtained from any Committee member. Nomination slips are available from the website enquiries@u3acalpe.com or by phoning the Secretary on 618 018 779.
- **New Members:** Since the AGM last year we have had over 100 new members. For those who do not know about it we have a 'Helping Hands' list of people who do not wish to be full Committee members but are willing to help out with small tasks such as 'meet and greet, handing out the Newsletters, and generally undertaking small jobs on an 'as and when' basis. We will be circulating this list at the next meeting so anyone may add their details to it. It would be really nice to see some new names on the list.

NEW BUSINESS:

- **Website:** A number of members have expressed concern on how to log into the website. John Pickford explained that you do not need to log in if you just wish to surf the website: it is freely available to anyone. Only those contributing to the site or with permissions to alter the actual pages need to log in.

- **Limerick Competition:** Last month we spoke about a Limerick competition to be judged at the AGM. We have had a few entries but would like more. Janet will co-ordinate the entries which should be sent to any member of the Committee.
- **Result of the Specsavers Competition:** This was won by Dave Roberts who was one of three people tying with the highest scores and his name was drawn from a hat. He proudly showed us his prize of a new pair of specs and our congratulations were given to him.

NEW BUSINESS:

- **Group Leaders** Any Group Leader who would like to give a short talk or demonstration about their group's activities would be welcomed to do so at one of our meetings. Any funny stories, anything which would inspire others to join or even start up a group of their own just let one of the committee know and we will slot it into the programme.

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

Social Joy reported on Social Events

- Quiz night at the Bolero on Friday 18th October. 11 teams have signed up for this event
- Christmas Dinner-Dance on 5th December at the Diamante Beach hotel. 71 have so far signed up for this. Reception at 7 pm for a start at 7.45. Next month will be the last opportunity to sign up and pay.

Groups Sandy Bianco presented the Groups report stating there was little change from last time

- JUGS 14th November
- Yoga Ted is now back in Spain and will start on 23 October
- David Lodge is doing sterling work with the Badminton Group: Thursdays 11.30 -1.30
- Mens' Dining 21st October

Sandy concluded that after 10 years she is standing down from the Committee next year. She will hand over and guide the new Committee member until they settle into the post. Meanwhile Sandy will be taking on a worthwhile role in MABS who supported her so well through her recent illness.

Travel: Penny Brighton read the Travel report

- Gandia trip was a great success and enjoyed by everyone who went on it
- Travel Group sponsored day trip to Zenia Boulevard shopping centre at Orihuela Costa on 22nd November. www.zeniaboulevard.es gives all the details of the stores
- Sponsored day trip to Alicante 11th December
- Trips in the planning stage are March 2014 to Caves at Canalobre with lunch and then visit to Valor chocolate factory in Villajoyosa, 3 or 4 days to Quenca and Toledo
- Still working on a 10 day visit to St Petersburg and Moscow for 2014.
- Penny reminded everyone going on the cruises to use the crew for any queries they may have rather than the travel team as it is their holiday too. Tickets were distributed after the meeting.

Culture and Publicity: Rod Anderton reported

- After a plea from Mary at the last meeting 4 men and one lady had joined the choir. They will be taking part in Songs of Praise on 14th December
- Carol Concert by the choir: tickets are on sale now
- Calpe and Benissa Lions are opening a new shop in Calpe in Calle Pintor Sorolla (near Correos) which will be mainly selling books, nearly new and homewares. Christmas Concert on 4th December at which the Costa Blanca Male Voice Choir will be performing. Tickets 10 euros proceeds to local charities

- Charity Shop Calpe Christmas event 21 November 4-6pm selling cakes, jewellery, books etc
- Footlights South Pacific: tickets available.

Membership: Val reported 12 new members today who were invited to a coffee afterwards.

AOB: Members were again asked to put forward any ideas they may have to enhance the running of the U3A.

NEXT MEETING:

- Our AGM on **November 21st** will be at the **Casa de Cultura**. 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. Don't forget to bring your Limerick!!

The meeting closed at 12.15

Janet Bond, Secretary
19th October 2013

Proposed: Rose Somerfield

Seconded: Keith Cherry

Signed: John Pickford

Date: 23 January 2014