

**MINUTES OF THE U3A GENERAL MEETING
HELD ON THURSDAY 8TH OCTOBER AT THE SOL IFACH HOTEL, CALPE**

John Pickford welcomed everyone to the meeting and made a special welcome to the new members who joined today.

INTRODUCTION OF SPEAKER:

Our speaker today was Andrew Johnson who gave a most fluent and well illustrated talk on the ill-fated Gallipoli Campaign in the Great War. This campaign is commemorated each year on ANZAC day and 2015 was the centenary. Andrew's talk ended with a really moving video around 'Waltzing Matilda' which literally had several members in tears!

APOLOGIES FROM THE COMMITTEE: None

CORRESPONDENCE:

The President advised the members present that we had received correspondence that we needed to air and apologised that this would take up valuable time but for the sake of completeness, fairness and for reasons of transparency it was important that we do it this way.

For the record **the Committee had acted with one voice on this matter**, as trustees and with the interest of the members' funds and our U3A financial records being kept correctly and properly presented at the centre of these actions.

Janet Bond, Secretary, referred to the fact that we had received correspondence from Tina Wallis's lawyer and had now seen copies of her handout given to members outside the September meeting in the foyer of the hotel. The Committee commented on the numbered points raised in Tina's handout.

To date Tina had still not activated the Grievance Procedure having been offered this option on three separate occasions and since this matter had now dragged on for many months a deadline of 15th October was set and after this time the issue would be considered to be closed and final.

When asked if there were any comments there were none from the members but Tina did voice her displeasure in the way in which she considered she had been treated.

It was pointed out to Tina that she had ample opportunity to meet with the Committee to discuss matters but instead chose to escalate matters by engaging a lawyer, which she refuted.

MINUTES OF LAST GENERAL MEETING 18TH SEPTEMBER;

The minutes of this meeting were proposed by John Bridge and seconded by Keith Wildman

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE LAST MEETING:

Much of this is covered under Correspondence.

PayPal PayPal issues have now been resolved. We are still waiting to see if Kutxabank can let us have a credit card and John is actively pursuing this option as we think it would be the preferred method of electronic payment, allowing members to make payments using their credit cards.

Newsletter A gentle reminder to send your articles to Janet who will include them all including your photos.

NEW BUSINESS:

The Award The most exciting news for Calpe U3A was that we were to receive the Premier Award from the Town Hall for this year. This is the Jaume Pastor 1st Medal Award. Some groups had been involved in the filming of a video to be shown on the night of the presentation and we will receive a copy which will be shown at a future date. The Award was to be presented the following evening at the Casa de Cultura auditorium and members who wished to attend were invited to do so.

AGM We have given the statutory notice that the AGM will be on 19th November and is for paid-up members only. Members were reminded of the need to bring either their membership card or some form of recognised photo ID. The nomination forms for Committee posts had been tidied up and are on the website as well as being available at the meeting today.

GROUP REPORTS:

Groups Diane had updated the Groups List and in addition Roger Milsom spoke about 2 groups. Tennis now has space for beginners as well as more experienced players and the next Mens' Dining will be at Ambiente. Joy Lally returns from holiday this week and so bridge will be available to beginners.

Travel Ellen thanked everyone for their participation in the recent Elche trip which had been well received and reported upon in the newsletter.

Everything is in order for the cruise and will depart from Esmeralda at 10 am.

The Christmas shopping trip to Madrid is fully booked with a waiting list.

The Valencia trip on 22nd January is filling fast: usual drop off points to do as you please for the day.

Finally Ellen thanked the whole travel team for their efforts during the year.

Publicity and Culture:

Rod has received thanks from Father Marcus for sponsorship for his sky-dive when he received 450 euros from U3A. Rod reminded everyone about his Cultural Interest Group which received early information on events in and around town when often timing is of the essence to obtain tickets in time. New members especially were invited to add their names to this list.

Items to note were: Gillian Kennard has tickets for the 'guitar whisperer': proceeds to the Chaplaincy, The Charity Shop in Calpe invites groups to a private opening on 5th November: details on web, Costa Blanca Male Voice Choir on 10th in Teulada at 7 pm, Costa Barber singers 14th Dec in Jalon Church (8.15 pm), Annie (Footlights) at Casa 25th/26th.

Membership: Teresa confirmed 560 paid up members and 5 new members today.

Treasurer: Edith reports a healthy balance and her report will be filed with these minutes.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING:

AGM 19th November after which there will be cava and cake which was popular at the September meeting.

No meeting in December

The Speaker for January will be Father Marcus talking about his recent trip to India and giving us an insight into life there.

MEETING DATES FOR NEXT YEAR: We are awaiting written confirmation from the Ifach to our proposed dates and they will be widely published as soon as we have them.

PROPOSED: Mary Anderton

SECONDED: Penny Pearson

DATE: 21/01/16