

**MINUTES OF THE U3A GENERAL MEETING
HELD ON THURSDAY 20TH OCTOBER AT THE SOL IFACH HOTEL, CALPE**

The President, John Pickford welcomed everyone to the meeting including nine new members. Normally new members would be invited to have a coffee with David and Maureen Elford after the meeting but they were away dealing with a problem in the UK. David and Maureen will be at the AGM when they will invite new members for a chat afterwards.

Our speaker today was Mike Rendell, historian and author who specialises in the 18th Century. His topic this time was on 'Kings, Courtesans and Celebrities and Mike explained that the ex-curricula antics of certain members of our present Royal Family paled into insignificance when compared with the 18th Century. Mike's presentation was well researched, beautifully illustrated and most importantly held the audience's attention for the full 45 minutes. Well done to Mike and a very good end to our season of speakers for 2016.

APOLOGIES FROM THE COMMITTEE: Gordon Green, David and Maureen Elford

CORRESPONDENCE: Letter from Steve Mable which he wished to be brought up under AOB.

MINUTES OF LAST GENERAL MEETING SEPT 2016:

The minutes of this meeting had been circulated as usual and copies were available for those without email along with various other items of paperwork. Proposed by Marion Fisher, seconded by David Shute and signed by the President John Pickford.

MATTERS ARISING SINCE THE LAST MEETING:

We mentioned at the June meeting the subject of committee posts for the coming year. President, Vice President and Secretary all intend to stand down next year after many years' service. Our Constitution dictates that these Officer posts must be filled if our U3A is to continue. Also several of our Ex Officio post holders are intending to stand down and we do need a committee of at least nine to function properly and share the load although we can juggle the ex officio posts depending on the skills and wishes of the persons who apply for them.

So please, especially any of our newer members who could inject some new blood into this small committee please consider whether you would be willing to stand for election. Any member of the existing committee would be pleased to show you the ropes and assist you to get started. Committee application forms were available on the front desk and nominations close on 28th October.

One item of good news was that Edith Watson has been co-opted to take on the role of Asst Treasurer/Travel Treasurer following the standing down of Teressa Pickford for health reasons. Edith does not wish to be a committee member but will liaise fully with Gordon our Treasurer and our thanks go to Edith for this.

NEW BUSINESS:

Future of the Newsletter: Members had been made aware of the decision to discontinue the Newsletter in its present form with effect from this month. This was mainly due to lack of input from Group Leaders and Members. We hope that the new on-line Notice Board page on the website that will also include up to date news items will attract more interest and participation. For those members who do not have access to a computer we will be printing a notice board news sheet as a hand out at general meetings.

Number of Monthly Meetings: We discussed in a recent Committee meeting whether we have too many monthly meetings. We do not meet in December, nor in Jul/Aug. A show of hands revealed that the members present were content with the number of meetings.

GROUP REPORTS:

Press and Publicity: David and Maureen Elford are slowly making progress with the local free newspapers and have recently featured in The Post. In addition Female Focus has featured us as well and this will continue.

Social: Anne Melling reported that the Quiz is a sell out. She has produced flyers for the Christmas Dinner to be held on 10th December. Number limited to 120.

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

Groups and Sports: Diane and Keith only returned from the UK late the previous evening but she has updated her lists. Group Leaders must regularly update Diane on their group activities. Keith states little to report but did put out a feeler for someone to take on 'Walking Football'.

The Group Leaders' 'Thank You' dinner is arranged for the Gran Sol which should be a very pleasant evening.

Travel

- Honey Festival was a great success and enjoyed by those who participated
- 5th November: trip to a brewery fully booked
- Subsidised day trip to Murcia / Ikea 8€. We will put on another coach
- Pre-Christmas trip staying in centre of Malaga
- 22 Feb visit to Yekla winery and lunch
- Bilbao and Cantabria 1 week 3 different hotels
- Vietnam and Cambodia 1st May. Need 20 names: end October closing date
- All details on the website

The travel team organising a wine and cheese get-together in thanks for members who made several trips with U3a. 16 November Gran Sol

Membership: Helena reported that we have 637 members, 561 paid up and nine new today.

Culture: Rod Anderton mentioned a new Interest Group: Marina Alta Fine Arts Society of which he is the Treasurer. 8 monthly lectures on fine arts by renowned speakers. Venue Javea Parador starting January.

Footlights 'Variety Showcase' 3 November at the Casa de Cultura. Tickets available from Giovanna.

AOB: Item raised by Steve Mable. Steve had purchased a pass allowing him to play 7 days a week at Paraisomar Bowls Club when he is in Calpe. He considers it wrong that he should have to pay the U3A fee to play on their days as he has in effect already paid. The Committee had considered this dispute and concluded that Paraisomar had 'contracted' with U3A for their days so were not in a position to offer a 7 day pass and so U3A members on their days must all pay the fee. Steve did not accept this decision but the matter is now closed and the paperwork filed.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING:

AGM on 17th November. Wine and tapas afterwards. Paid up members only.

Members were again asked to give serious thought to joining the committee.

JANET BOND
Secretary

22 October 2016

PROPOSED: Marion Fisher

SECONDED: David Shute

SIGNED: John Pickford, President

DATE: 17th November 2016