

**MINUTES OF THE U3A GENERAL MEETING
HELD ON 13th SEPTEMBER 2012
AT THE BOLERO RESTAURANT, CALPE**

WELCOME: John Pickford welcomed over 132 members and 5 guests to this social meeting. It was the first meeting after the summer break and on behalf of the Committee John hoped everyone had enjoyed their summer either in the overwhelming heat and humidity of Calpé or in the rain in England!

APOLOGIES FROM THE COMMITTEE: Edith Watson.

CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED: None.

MINUTES OF THE LAST GENERAL MEETING (14th June):

The minutes had already been put on the website so that members could read them before the summer break. They were circulated at the meeting and Members declined the offer that the Secretary read them out. Acceptance of the minutes was proposed by David Osborne, seconded by Keith Wildman and signed by John Pickford, acting President.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE LAST MEETING:

John Pickford announced that Beverly and Ted Holder had sold their apartment in Calpé sooner than they expected and had now moved back to the UK. John praised and thanked Beverly for her hard work, especially having to deal with a couple of difficult issues and being thrust into the role of President when no-one else wished to take it on. We hope to see Beverly and Ted back as visitors when they return to Calpé for a holiday sometime next spring.

NEW BUSINESS:

- We are thinking now about elections to the various Committee posts at our AGM on 15th November. Nomination forms for the various positions were circulated and this will be repeated at the next meeting. We particularly are looking to recruit a Treasurer and Travel Treasurer (this latter being a non-committee post).
- As stated at the last meeting the Members' discounts pages on the website are being resurrected. Diane Putnam has volunteered to input the data and she will be pleased to have details any Member may have to add to the list. Now we have to try to obtain the best discounts from the various suppliers / retailers and Jan Newark has taken on this task of information gathering.
- Another new item is the formation of Health and Wellbeing pages on the website. This will contain useful data on this topic and Pat Spencer has kindly agreed to look after and update these pages with Diane Putnam's help and will be pleased to receive contributions.
- We are changing to a rolling membership and to this end have compiled a new database. Membership will run for a calendar year rather than everyone renewing in March. This will make it easier for those who come and go back to the UK or elsewhere and will avoid the hiatus in March. Reminders will be sent several times automatically when membership is due before it lapses. Members were asked to check that the Membership Secretary has their correct details including email address and telephone number.
- We now have a new style of Newsletter which we think has a more professional look. Thanks were given to Michael Scannell our Webmaster for setting up the template which will make it easier to input data from contributors. A plea was made for witty, newsy articles which should be sent to Enid Barton (bartonscalpe@hotmail.co.uk) who will collate them. Without these

articles there will be no Newsletter. Note that Joy Lally who has been editing the Newsletter of late will be on holiday from the end of October until mid-January.

REPORTS:

Travel : John Pickford stated that the Honey Festival and Galicia trips would be his last before handing over to Elizabeth (Liz) Sanderson. There are a few places left for both trips and those who are going were reminded of the deadline for payment. Liz then went through the travel calendar she had prepared for 2012/13 to include the following:

- Gibraltar 5 days December 9-13th with the opportunity to shop for Christmas as well as some wonderful Gibraltar excursions.
- Several day trips are planned including Murcia (Ikea/Primark), Alcalá del Júcar and cherry valley for March, April and May of next year respectively. Other trips are in the planning stage and will be announced later.

Culture and Publicity: Rod Anderton detailed several local events including:

- A multi-cultural festival in Benissa 28/30 September in support of EMAUS and the dog charity
- A musical in Benissa 26/27 September
- A Songs from the Shows concert by the English Choir in Alcalalí on 5th October
- The Bourbon Street Stompers at the theatre in Teulada on 12th October
- 'What the Dickens' by Javea Players on 16/20 October
- The ballet Giselle in Alicante on 17th October
- The Importance of Being Earnest in Alcalalí on 18/20 October
- A 2 night trip to Madrid to see the Lion King is planned for 14th November staying in the centre of Madrid at a cost of 225€ to include coach, hotel, meals and tickets.

Further information available from Rod.

Social: Tina Wallis reminded us of the forthcoming social events. Firstly the quiz on 12th October: teams of 6, 10€ to include supper and prizes. Christmas party on Saturday 8th December at the Bolero with a good choice of courses for which there will be more details next time: 18€ for members.

Groups: Sandy Bianco gave her lengthy report after the long break beginning with an apology for the size of the text on the Groups List owing to an over-zealous engineer who mended her computer leaving her no time to fix it!

- A new Group: ballroom dancing at Marcia's Dance Studio commencing on Thursday 20 Sept from 7.30 to 8.30. Cost 3€ per person payable 1 month in advance with a minimum of 30 people.
- A new Ten Pin Bowling group in Moraira led by Giovanna and Tina Wallis. Last Tuesday in the month starting 25th September. Cost 5€ payable in advance to include shoe hire and a prize.
- Badminton and Table tennis up and running.
- Liz Lodge will hold another craft workshop making cards for Christmas. Friday 2nd November with sign-up sheets and more details next month – 5€.
- Verity Waddell has had to disband the cycling group for the time being owing to ill-health.
- The next Mens' Dining will be on Thursday 20th September at La Marina on Calpé beachfront.
- The Walking Group start their autumn programme on 3rd October: contact leader Lee O'Neill for details.
- Jan Newark has kindly volunteered to take back the job of coordinating the Spanish classes.
- Bowls from 1st October, Tuesdays time 2-4.
- Paula Martin's Solo + Group next meets on 6th October at La Pinta, Calpé
- Angelika's patchwork group will commence on 2nd November.
- JUGS: 4th October at La Mama Nostra 1 for 1.30. Contact Sue for menu choices.
- Peter Purvey introduced his New Discussion Group commencing on 27th September at his home.

Publicity: As stated elsewhere, Joy and Pete Lally will be enjoying a long holiday cruising their way around Australia and New Zealand as well as visiting Singapore and Hong Kong. We wish them a wonderful time but the penalty for this lengthy trip is that they will have to write it up for us when they return! Joy has handed over her 'publicity' duties to Rod Anderton in the meantime.

AOB: We were reminded that the food bank would still welcome donations of foods such as pulses, cereals, chocolate powder, rice, tinned goods etc.

Norman Westworth is volunteering to organize 'Christmas at Guardamar' along the lines that Jean Laikin did so successfully for many years. It was noted that this is not an official U3A trip, but we are happy to promote it and full details can be obtained directly from Norman and payment made to him.

NEXT MEETING: Thursday 11th October at the Casa de Cultura.

After the meeting we all enjoyed a glass of wine and tapas with music provided by 'Retro'. John Pickford on behalf of the Committee thanked everyone for coming and asked that the date and venue of the next meeting be well-publicised among our friends and neighbours. Thanks to Christian at the Bolero for hosting us.

Janet Bond, Secretary
15 September 2012

Proposed: Rod Anderton

Seconded: Liz Sanderson

Signed: John Pickford

Date: 13 September 2012