

**MINUTES OF THE U3A GENERAL MEETING
HELD ON 19th SEPTEMBER 2013
AT THE SOL IFACH HOTEL, CALPE**

John Pickford welcomed members to this first meeting of the autumn period. He stated that he had a few health problems over the summer so was unable to conduct today's meeting. He had an appointment with his eye specialist so left the meeting early leaving Tina Wallis, Vice President to conduct the meeting.

SAD NEWS: After welcoming everyone Tina began by reporting the sad news that Anne Wells and Norman Westworth had passed away during the summer. Mary Anderton gave a brief tribute to Norman and later in the meeting Ann Wells' husband thanked everyone for their support after the loss of his wife.

INTRODUCTION OF SPEAKER: Our speaker this morning was Mike Stone who gave a most interesting and useful talk about 'Eyes and your Eyesight'. He reminded us with a slideshow of the importance of wearing good quality sunglasses especially in our climate and also gave us a quiz to be judged later. The vote of thanks was given by Bob McLean and Mike was presented with the customary bottle of brandy.

APOLOGIES FROM THE COMMITTEE: None

CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED: None.

MINUTES OF THE LAST GENERAL MEETING (13 June):

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 signed by Vice President Tina Wallis.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE LAST MEETING:

- Discounts Page: Members were reminded about the discounts page on the website and asked if they had seen it. One person had obtained a good discount from Specsavers and another had received a discount from her hairdresser. Members were asked to update us on any new entries to be made where they obtained discounts.
- New Bank: Following the closure of Barclays in Calpe we have opened new bank accounts with Kutxabank in the town. The bank is situated just off Calle Corbetta more or less opposite the side entrance to Galerías Aitana and next to the small supermarket Dia. We will put the last 4 digits of the accounts on the website for reference for members paying in money. All deposits have been transferred from Barclays and both accounts show a very healthy balance.
- We again asked for volunteers to join our photography rota. You do not have to be a high standard photographer and it really helps Rod Anderton with his publicity brief as the newspapers are more likely to include us if accompanied by a photo or two.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Next Year's Committee Two committee members are standing down at the AGM in November. We will be seeking a 'Groups Coordinator' and someone to look after social events. Information on the duties of these posts can be obtained from either Joy Lally or Sandy Bianco or any Committee member. Anyone wishing to contest the other posts is welcome to do so and nomination slips are available now from the Secretary.
- 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.

- **Competition** At the AGM we have decided to have a Limerick competition. Members who wish to should write a Limerick to be put on the stage. They will be judged by the Members who will put a small value coin beside their favourite. The winner will be the one with the most coins which will be given to charity. If the competition is popular we will do others from time to time.

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

Social Joy reported on the success of the summer lunch at the exotic and also the summer picnic. The next events will be:

- Quiz night at the Bolero on Friday 18th October. Cost of supper €10 with teams of 6 competing
- Christmas Dinner-Dance on 5th December at the Diamante Beach hotel. This event will be subsidized for members and entertainment provided by Duo Intermezzo. More of this event at the next meeting.

Groups Sandy Bianco presented the Groups report.

- With effect from 23 September both bowls groups will revert to the winter time of 2-4
- Table Tennis commenced on 10th Sept 9.30-12.30
- Canasta weekly on Thursdays from 2-4
- Resolutions Weight Loss on hold until October
- Flower Arranging commences 23rd September
- Dance/Fitness will commence in October
- Ten Pin Bowling 2 meetings in the next 2 months on Thursdays
- Board games temporarily suspended due to Keith being in plaster in the UK
- Paula's Dance Group will reconvene in November after the cruise. No beginners please
- Lee O'Neill's walking group will recommence on 2nd October. He is desperate for someone to take over leadership of the short walks and will give help and support where necessary
- Guitar lessons going well: there is room for more beginners
- Swimming pool closed so swimming group will cease. Contact Nicola Martinez for refunds on vouchers
- Mens' Dining 26 Sept at El Ambiente, Avenida Europa
- JUGS 3 October at Ardennes
- Badminton postponed while the council work on the floor in the sports hall
- Yoga has a new venue – the So What Bar in Avenida Europa commencing 2nd October 10.30 – 12.00
- New Mosaics Group is up and running under leadership of Audrey Coleman. Wednesdays at 10.30 at her home

Members were advised to check the website for the latest timings.

Travel: Tina read the Travel report for John Pickford

- Both Cruises – John has the cabin allocation and will be contacting Members
- Gandia day trip 27th September full: pick up from Esmeralda 8 am
- 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
- Still working on a 10 day visit to St Petersburg and Moscow for 2014.

Culture and Publicity: Rod Anderton reported that he is still emailing the Cultural Interest Group with details of future events. He sends reports fortnightly to the local press accompanied by photos where possible.

AOB:

- Mary Anderton made an appeal for more choir members. The choir is a fun activity and you do not have to be an accomplished singer. More male members especially are needed and if more members do not join the choir will unfortunately have to cease its activities as Mary does not wish to run an all-female choir when the U3A is a mixed organization. Rehearsals are for 1 ½ hour every Tuesday followed by liberal flowing of wine and a lot of fun.
- We have been advised by the President of U3A Vall de Pop of a website containing a petition to the UK Government about the cessation of the Winter Fuel Allowance and also the duty of the Government to pay UK pensioners in line with other EU countries. These websites are <http://epetitions.direct.gov.uk/petitions/52121> and <http://epetitions.direct.gov.uk/petitions/51449>. We will put both these sites on the web in due course.
- **NEXT MEETING: Thursday 17th October** at the Ifach Hotel, Salon Marenostrom. We will not be having a speaker but we have invited the Maite Boronat School for the disabled to come along with Carole Saunders. They make articles to raise money and they will have a table to offer these goods in return for a donation (they are not allowed actually to sell their items).
- Our AGM on **November 21st** will be at the Casa de Cultura as we have to have a venue large enough to hold all our members – should they turn up! 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 11.55

Janet Bond, Secretary
19t September 2013

Proposed: Jan Newark

Seconded: Marion Fisher

Signed: John Pickford

Date: 17th October 2013