

**MINUTES OF THE U3A GENERAL MEETING
HELD ON 18th September 2014
AT THE SOL IFACH HOTEL, CALPE**

John Pickford, President, welcomed 137 members to the meeting and 20 new members

We were very sad to announce the death in the UK of Valerie Trundell. She was involved in several organisations apart from the U3A but Joy Lally spoke of her sadness on behalf of us all in the U3A and especially the Bridge Group. Val helped Joy in the teaching of beginners, never lost her temper with anyone no matter how slow they appeared to be and she was sorely missed when she and her husband had to return to the UK owing to the ill-health of both of them.

INTRODUCTION OF SPEAKER:

Our speaker today was Wilhelmina (Willee) Hardy who is a very busy lady wearing several hats and was already known by many in the audience. She spoke firstly about her work with the Alzheimer's Society explaining the wonderful work done by the Day Centre in Teulada to help sufferers and their families and then went on to tell us about one of her other activities which is arranging concerts by the Curtis Institute and others in such places as the Teulada Auditorium, Altea, Valencia and Alicante.

A vote of thanks was given by Pat Spencer and Willee was presented with a potted plant.

APOLOGIES FROM THE COMMITTEE: Diane Putnam, Edith Watson, Rod Anderton.

CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED: We have received a letter from HELP of Denia requesting assistance in trying to find a permanent secretary for their organization. The current secretary has been trying to resign for several years but although the audience was sympathetic no-one was forthcoming either to take this on or able to recommend someone who could be approached. Members were asked to think about it and present names to Janet Bond.

MINUTES OF THE JUNE GENERAL MEETING:

The minutes which had been circulated were accepted without comment, proposed by Mike Warnes, seconded by Sandra Llewelyn and signed by John Pickford.

MATTERS ARISING SINCE THE LAST MEETING:

- **Newsletter:** Giovanna Wallis has done sterling work in putting together a Newsletter for this month despite the long summer break and few articles forthcoming. She is dependent on Members' input for this task.
- **Visit to Ciudad Patricia:** Unfortunately despite combining with AFPO we had very little take-up for this visit and so we have cancelled it. Asked whether Members present wished to combine with other local U3As only 8 or 9 responded 'yes' so the trip has been abandoned but Members may always arrange to make their own way there after agreeing a date directly with the organization which has an excellent website showing contact details.

NEW BUSINESS:

- **The results of the quiz questions in the Newsletter:**
 - Female ducks are the only ones that quack
 - The 4 real creatures currently used as names of pedestrian road crossings in the UK are zebra, puffin, pelican and toucan. (Panda was an original crossing in the early 60's but was done away with in the same decade). Pegasus is an equestrian/people crossing
 - What solo singer released the album '25' in 2006 to celebrate their ¼ century in the music business: George Michael.

- **Raffle:** Members were each given a raffle ticket for 4 prizes: winners were Lee O'Neill who won a bottle of wine, David/Diane Farmer won a trip to Novelda and John Walker who won 2 tickets for trip to Novelda. A potted plant was also a raffle prize
- **Committee for Next Year:** Several members of the Committee have stated their intention to stand down next year and so we will be looking for some new Committee members. If anyone would like to consider joining please talk to any Committee member who will be delighted to tell them what is involved in the various posts. All posts are available for election: it is not a closed shop. We would be delighted to see some of the new members apply to maybe bring some new ideas into the Committee
- **Possible Members/Committee Liaison Person:** Apparently Moraira has such a person who interacts between the Members and the Committee. Asked whether we should consider this for our U3A there was little enthusiasm so the idea was dropped.
- **John Pickford** asked if anyone would like to participate in a 'Halloween Cake' competition on the lines of the Great British Bake-Off. The suggestion was received with little enthusiasm!

REPORTS:

Social: Report by Tina Wallis:

- Arrangements for the annual quiz on 24th October all in hand. 12€ to include supper and prizes. 6.30pm meet with start time of 7 for the meal and 8 for the quiz. A few places left
- Christmas formal Dinner Dance to be held at the Ifach. Tina has sampled the food on offer and she detailed the menu which was met with great enthusiasm. This will be a fun event with a great party atmosphere. Bookings starting to be made with payment and menu choices from next month.

Groups: Diane was not present owing to Keith's surgery in the UK but she sent a report which had been circulated previously. Other items which arose during the meeting are below(not in any order): It is worth noting that several GLs were present today and having put out sign-up sheets they attracted new members to their group so this practice should be encouraged

- JUGS: 9th October at Restaurante Internationale
- Bridge: now Tuesdays
- Petanc: Del Haynes reported that the Group has been challenged by Altea to a match on 12th Oct at 12 pm
- Spanish Classes: Jan Newark is returning to the UK in November and Manuela has agreed to take over as co-ordinator of the classes
- Dance Classes: Giovanna's Dance fitness is starting again, Sequence dancing and Tea dances being arranged by Dave Stockton.

Travel: Report by Penny Brighton who on behalf of the Travel Team and the Members thanked John for his hard work over the past 4 years

- John Pickford announced his intention to stand down as Travel Group leader and this task will be taken on jointly by Penny Brighton and Ellen Mitchell with immediate effect
- Cartagena, 26/28 Sept. This trip will go ahead but places still available
- Novelda in October. Day trip with guide in the morning, pm bodega visit with wine tasting and lunch €35 pp. Very well supported, 8.15 start from Esmeralda
- Valencia, 2 day 1 night 10/11 Dec.

Details of all trips and how to book are shown on the website.

Culture and Publicity: Rod Anderton was unable to be present owing to a funeral but Jenny O'Neill gave his report saying that throughout the summer reports have been sent to the local press about our activities. He was very pleased that David Stockton has been sending quality photographs of recent trips and Rod also appealed to Members to send photos of their Group activities now that they have resumed after the summer break.

- Choir concert for 3rd October tickets were available today at cost of 5€. Anyone wishing to have their name added to the Cultural Interest Group should send their name to Rod
- 12/13 Nov Half a Sixpence at Casa performed by Footlights
- Alicante November 12th Swan Lake and also Nutcracker (Rod has details)

Membership: Val Osborne reported 20 new members today.

Treasurer: Edith was unable to be present but reported a healthy balance of around 6K.

AOB:

- Malcolm Saunders pointed out a thesis being written by a friend at University of Valencia on 'Why people are returning to the UK' The website for this is <http://bit.do/ukresidents> if Members wish to be part of a survey on this topic
- The Town Hall is promoting 2 items: 21 September: a Mobility Fiesta and Monday 22nd September is 'World Day Without Cars' and for this from 16.00 to 20.00 hours Gabriel Miró will be closed from Calle Benidorm to Calle Málaga.
- Tricia Adams reminded everyone about the scrapbook and she also told of a delightful musical evening at Jacaranda which was a tribute to the memory of Nick Green
- Pat Spencer reminded us about MOFTAG which meets on 1st Wednesday of the month with lunch at el Barco and also to check out her Health and Wellbeing pages which contain important information for us all.

NEXT MEETING:

This will be held at the Ifach Hotel on Thursday 16th October 10.00 for 10.30.

Janet Bond, Secretary
19th September 2014

Proposed: DAVID STOCKTON
Signed: John Pickford

Seconded: PETER PURVEY
Date: 16 October 2014