

**MINUTES OF THE U3A GENERAL MEETING
HELD ON 18TH SEPTEMBER 2015
AT THE SOL IFACH HOTEL, CALPE**

John Pickford welcomed everyone to the meeting which included 155 signed-in members and six new members. Another near record turn-out!

INTRODUCTION OF SPEAKER:

Our speakers today were several of our own members telling us about their various activities.

Ted Marshall (aka Yogated) runs one of the Yoga Groups in the U3A but today wished to publicise the AVL Language Exchange Group which encourages pairings between English/Spanish for conversation to improve the language skills of both parties. Participants in the scheme meet up in bars or cafes at times to suit them both. Anyone wishing to obtain more information may log in to calpeavl@hotmail.com.

Ted also told us about the Cribbage group, ably assisted by Betty. Cribbage is the oldest surviving card game and very good for keeping the brain going. They meet at Juan's bar on Mondays. Ted explained the set up of the evenings, pre-designated partners, prizes for highest and lowest, tapas to end the evening and a great way to make new friends.

Ian Coleman, our U3A computer expert, then talked to us about staying safe on the web especially about all the scams to part us from our cash. Calls pretending to be from Microsoft offering help with your computer should always be ignored by just hanging up and emails from so-called friends and family asking for money again should be ignored. A member asked about 'cookies' and Ian suggested that if you wish to get rid of them to contact him and he will help. Ian then informed us of a new charity to help children in care which he and his wife are setting up and plan hold a rastro in March. They welcome any bric a brac we may wish to donate.

Mary Anderton made an appeal for an accompanist for the choir. Mary manages to play and conduct for their rehearsals but this is difficult and she really does need an accompanist especially for their performances. They also appeal for a digital piano. All proceeds from choir events go to charity and next time it is the Red Cross Calpe.

Finally, on his 82nd birthday (congratulations Peter) Peter Purvey who runs our discussion group told us a fascinating story about the most valuable coin in the world – an 1804 US dollar. It was a lengthy story, but in brief the set of coins were given to the King of Siam who gave them to Anna (of The King and I fame) and they eventually turned up having thought to be lost, handed down to the grandchildren.

APOLOGIES FROM THE COMMITTEE: None

CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED: None

MINUTES OF THE JUNE GENERAL MEETING:

The minutes had been put on the website and circulated. They were proposed by David Farmer seconded by Marilyn Fisher and signed by the President John Pickford. Once again a hard core of members did not receive their email package and these members were asked to ensure we have their correct address in the database. The signing in procedure was explained. This is a health and safety requirement for insurance purposes.

MATTERS ARISING SINCE THE LAST MEETING:

- **Answers to John's Trivia Quiz:** Aztecs wore cloaks made from **Hummingbird pelts**; cats and other animals used in genetic research gain the ability to **glow in the dark** and the world leader who kidnapped a film maker to remake the film Godzilla was **Kim Jon Il**.
- **Matter concerning Tina Wallis:** Tina has not activated the Grievance Procedure and if she wishes to do so at this late stage she and her supporters can request a meeting with the Committee to discuss matters. It came to light during the meeting that she had distributed a paper to selected members stating her case but members of the committee did not receive it and so it is inappropriate to discuss it here. If Tina does activate the Grievance Procedure we will obviously revisit the case.
- **Newsletter:** Janet Bond is currently undertaking the task of co-ordinating the items for the Newsletter before sending them on to our U3A Webmaster to produce it. If anyone has items they wish to offer which will make the Newsletter more interesting please send them to Janet (thebonds14@hotmail.com) and she will include them at the first opportunity. We are particularly keen to include your feats of excellence on the sports courts, news from your group activities, stories from your travels, recipes etc. Remember it is YOUR newsletter – so please help us out with articles if you wish it to continue.

NEW BUSINESS:

Kutxabank: Members were again reminded that if they open the two accounts required to qualify for a refund of their fees by the bank the offer still applies and to inform our Treasurer Edith. We have been looking into the possibility of a credit card for U3A through Kutxabank and are pleased to announce that they will be able to offer us this facility. This arises owing to major disruption concerning PayPal throughout the summer which took many hours and days of negotiations and reams of paperwork by our team and which has only just been rectified convincing them that we are a fully registered Association, not a business.

Next Year's Committee: As mentioned in the Newsletter we are beginning to think about Committee positions for next year especially as several of your current committee will be standing down. John Pickford, President said he would prefer not to stand for another year but would reluctantly do so. The main requirements of the committee members are computer literacy (Word, Excel, email as appropriate), discretion and the ability to work as part of a team. We would like to see some new blood on this small Committee and look forward to receiving nominations.

REPORTS:

Social: Anne Melling was introduced to members. She is kindly looking after social for the time being.

- Quiz: 17th November at the Tennis Club. posters put on chairs to sign up teams of 4 and booking starting today with the last date being the next General Meeting. 3 courses with wine, water and bread, prizes, cost 14 euros for members, guests 16 euros.
- Your Committee has booked the Marisol Park Hotel for a dinner dance on 27th February. Timewarp are confirmed to be our Group, cava reception, full menu, wine, beer and soft drinks also included and a raffle with prizes etc. Full details of this event should be available at our October meeting.

Groups:

All group details and news are on the website. Items of note are:

- Papercraft workshop November 5th, 10 till 1 pm Christmas cards. 5 euros, pay in advance.
- Mountain Walking: restarts 30th September 9.30 for 9.45 start
- JUGS Manuela taking names as Val was away. La Bas, 1st October 1 for 1.30
- Mens meal: 24 September, call Roger for details. Numbers limited to 16
- Peter Purvey's discussion group: 24th September with addiction being one of three possible topics

- Bridge: Joy Lally is on holiday but bridge is continuing on Tuesdays for experienced players. Beginners/improvers will resume on 13th October.
- Canasta: Sandra Llewellyn's phone number has changed – 96 628 6474.
- Hilary Hare has room for more in her painting group. Restarting 21st September.
- Chess: Diana Farmer has 8 names so far for chess and will follow this up in November.
- Petanq: Sundays 4-6 end of Levante beach.
- Diane has copies of a Liability Release form to be used for members in groups. Members do sign this when they join U3A but time may have passed and they may have forgotten about it

Travel:

- 24 September: day trip to Elche – do as you please
 - Med Cruise in October. Tickets will be given out on coach and hopefully an on-line check-in will speed things up. Reminder to take passports and credit card
 - Christmas market break in Madrid: 3rd December fully booked
 - 22nd January 10 euros day trip to Valencia for shopping or do-as-you please
- All complete trip details are on the website and there is a suggestion box available at the travel desk.

Culture and Publicity:

Rod continues to update the CIG on a regular basis. 29th September Songs of Praise in la Merced church where the U3A choir will be singing: all welcome. The Casa de Cultura is running a course for pensionistas.

Membership: Teresa reported 576 paid up members and 6 new members today. Teresa is emailing 'overdue' members on a regular basis.

Treasurer: Edith reported a healthy balance of just under 6,000€.

AOB:

Crista said a few words about a petition concerning reopening the local rail lines and leaflets were available.

Mary Anderton very kindly offered thanks on behalf of the members to the hard working committee. This gesture was very much appreciated by the Committee.

NEXT MEETING:

As stated in the Newsletter the October meeting has been changed to 8th owing to a clash of dates with the cruise.

The President then invited everyone to cava and cake which the hotel set up outside in the wonderful autumn sun.

Janet Bond, Secretary
20th September 2015

PROPOSED : John Bridge

SIGNED : John Pickford
President

SECONDED: Keith Wildman

Date : 8th October 2015