

# **Annual General Meeting 15<sup>th</sup> November 2018**

## **Presidents Report**

It is with much pleasure as President of Calpe U3A that I present to you my report and overview of our activities for 2018.

This is the end of my first year as President, and what a year it has been! There have been many problems and a great deal of time and work put in mostly behind the scenes. Many times I have felt I had a full time, unpaid job. Changes in various laws have had knock on effects for us and administrative matters which could easily be ignored in the past now must be dealt with and what complications this has caused.

I have no intention of listing all the administrative problems but the biggest and most complex has been the dreaded Digital Signature, something that has been brought in Nationally throughout Spain. We need this in order to book the Casa de Culture and, eventually, all sports facilities. It is relatively easy to acquire for an individual but then you have to pay the full cost for facilities. To obtain this for an organisation is complex, all groups are having difficulties, but with it we get facilities very cheaply. We have been working on this since Jan 2018 and have been led up the garden path a number of times.

To apply for this Digital Signature we need various documents, one from the Associations Office in Alicante naming the current committee. Thankfully our U3A was registered by our original President and Secretary (many organisations were not). Mary Anderton is the registered President and Jean Watson Secretary, both of whom need to sign to hand over to the present committee, simple? No, Jean moved away and it is understood she passed away. As we cannot produce both signatures, or a death certificate, we are waiting to see what happens. This is a simplified version of only one problem, I won't bore you with any more.

A NEWS UPDATE has been emailed to all Members at approximately 3 month intervals. This has been welcomed and provides Members with some extra information. If you have not received a copy then we do not have your correct email address on the database, you need write it down, along with your name and membership number and give to Membership.

Peter Purvey, our Vice President has agreed to continue for one more year, however we do need to find someone to take his place. Anyone interested could work alongside Peter as Joint Vice Presidents. Nor do I want to continue as President indefinitely and would like to feel that there was someone waiting in the wings to take over, maybe once all behind the scenes administrative problems are resolved.

We are still without a Social Secretary, this does not have to be a Committee post. Maybe someone would like to organise just one event? If you would like to organise a social event please contact any member of the Committee.

Our website is OK but would be better if we had our own Webmaster to deal with all minor changes, lots of help would be given by the paid website manager. We did have a volunteer to take on this role Grethe Appel who very sadly passed away shortly after. Unfortunately no one has yet come forward to help. Meanwhile our Facebook pages U3A Calpe and U3A Travel Calpe provide a means of instantly adding a range of information and I believe they can be viewed even if you are not a member of Facebook.

The outgoing Membership team have done much work on our database correcting errors and recording Data Protection signatures. Everyone should have ticked the Data Protection and Email Authorisation boxes when they joined or renewed their membership. This is very important, if you have not done so, please complete a form from the Membership Desk, or print it off the website and post or email to Membership. The Committee request that Memberships are renewed promptly otherwise you have to join as a new member and issued with a new membership number. This is unavoidable if your membership lapses for too long.

All the committee have worked hard to good effect, generously giving their time and taking on many extra tasks when the need arose. To all who have served on the Committee, thank you for your contributions to our U3A. We have had a very good team and I am confident that after the AGM with some minor changes in roles and personnel that we will have a very good year in 2019. I wish to extend a warm welcome to two new Committee members, Pam Phakey who has offered to be Groups coordinator and Vocal 1, and Michelle McNickle Vocal 2. Terry Buxton Secretary, Penny Brighton and Ellen Mitchell Membership(formerly Travel) are all standing down after many years as committee members. Their contributions have been enormous and full appreciation for all their work will be shown at the AGM.

I also wish to thank all the non-committee helpers, the Meet and Greet team, helpers on the Membership desk, those who help on Travel and the many others without whose help our meetings could not run so smoothly. Many thanks also go to our Group leaders who put in enormous time and effort sharing their knowledge and skills to provide educational, sporting and creative interests. Without doubt the past year has been very successful in providing a wide variety of activities for our members' interest and enjoyment, your efforts are truly appreciated.

Above all, it is you, the Members, who are to be acknowledged for your attendance, participation and contribution to another successful year in the life of Calpe U3A. Thank you.

VERITY N WADDELL  
President  
U3A Calpe

#### **POSITIVE THOUGHT**

Weak people revenge, strong people forgive, intelligent people ignore  
(courtesy of Greatham Parish magazine)