

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

This year, it should be more rightly called the Vice President and Acting President's Report! In past years this has been posted on the web or sent out individually to the membership, but as many of you may not have seen it or had access to a computer, I am going to break with tradition and read it. So I am probably going to bore the pants off you for the next five minutes.

I have to tell you that this has been a most difficult year, both for myself and the Committee. Following the last AGM when there were no nominations for President or Vice President, the retiring President, John Pickford, warned that the February 2017 meeting would likely see the demise of U3A Calpe because we were unable to field a legal Committee and therefore we would be in breach of our Constitution. I am very sorry to say that this warning brought no results.

Before the February meeting John introduced us to Liam McKervy, who seemed to have all the requirements, he was younger and with enthusiasm and ideas. At this point I volunteered to become Vice President. This meant that we had a legal Committee and could therefore continue. Unfortunately, for personal reasons, Liam resigned four months later having set in motion a change of Web Master and a closer association with nearby U3A's. I felt that I did not yet have enough experience to take over the role and Netta Tyler became Acting President and together with Betty Gower worked on the establishment of our new web site. At the same time they were overseeing Membership following Helena's earlier resignation because of other commitments.

Unfortunately, circumstances arose which caused them both to resign. This was a great blow to me as they were valuable members of the Committee and a possible future President. At that point I became Vice President and acting President, a role which I did not seek and for which felt totally inadequate. I hope that you will not look too harshly on my tenure, but certain things had to be brought to the attention of the members or there would be another possibility of closure.

It's usual for one or two of the Committee to wish not to stand again, but, this year has been exceptional. It has meant finding Nominations for President, Treasurer, two Vocals, a Membership secretary, Groups Coordinator and Publicity. Most importantly, three people to take over all the Travel side of the Organisation, otherwise we would have to suspend all Travel activities, one of our most popular features. To me, it seemed an almost impossible task, possibly leaving us without a legal Committee and in the same position as last year.

I think that I can now safely say that by the close of this AGM, Calpe U3A will have a legal Committee, although there are still several important positions that need to be filled, especially in the Travel and Publicity teams. This has only been achieved by a joint effort by your Committee whom I cannot thank enough. Much of the finishing and on-going work on the web site was done by our Secretary Terry Buxton, who is not in the best of health, and who has literally held everything together for what has been a traumatic year.

The full Annual reports of the Committee Members may be summarised as follows --- The Treasurer reports that we have a healthy bank balance of five thousand two hundred and twenty eight euro at the bank, oh,--- and 48 euro cents, I'm sure they'll come in handy somewhere! Our membership is just over the seven hundred mark. Our Travel Team have organised 6 splendid days out for us and two more that required overnight accommodation. All our Group Leaders', whose efforts are often overlooked, now offer such a huge range of pleasure, sport, entertainment and interest that is now available for the enjoyment of all the members.

In addition, there are those who help organise the meetings so that they all run smoothly, find speakers, and often supply the refreshments and organise social activities. They are all the very backbone that enable your U3A Calpe to function. This is why it is essential for us to have volunteers ready to offer their help for times when others are away on holiday or ill. Please, all of you, bear this in mind that it is your organisation that needs your help.

I offer my sincere thanks to you all for helping to make 2017 another year of outstanding service and enjoyment for us all.

Peter F. Purvey, (Vice President and Acting President)