

**MINUTES OF THE U3A GENERAL MEETING  
HELD ON APRIL 12TH 2012  
AT THE CASA DE CULTURA, CALPE**

**WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS**

106 people signed into this meeting but one of the members counted only 83 actually sitting inside the auditorium. Some people had been seen signing in and after paying their subs they went away which is OK except that the signing in sheet is intended as a guide for the Town Hall in case of fire. We need to address this issue because if there were a fire the fire brigade would be looking for people from our records who in fact were not in attendance. There were 3 new members listed: a special welcome was extended to these with an invitation to join the committee for a coffee and a chat afterwards.

Janet Bond, U3a Calpe Secretary acted as President for the meeting and she opened the meeting by explaining that Beverly Holder, the President was having emergency treatment for a wisdom tooth and regretfully was unable to be present. The speaker for the meeting, David Shute, was then introduced. David and his wife Jane are founder members of Calpe U3a and have been permanent residents in Calpe for the past 11 years. David is a journalist by profession starting his career in Bristol and later went on to become the Senior talks Producer at BBC Pebble Mill studios. He made broadcasting history when he was the first person to broadcast live to the nation whilst flying through the sound barrier. His most interesting talk for us today entitled 'Going Foreign' took us back to his days as a reporter out on the road and was interspersed with recordings and humorous anecdotes from his BBC reports mainly for the Today programme.

The acting President, after thanking David, presented him with a bottle of wine from the membership.

**APOLOGIES:** Beverly Holder, John Pickford, Tina Wallis, Edith Watson. The acting president offered get-well wishes on behalf of the membership to those who are currently indisposed.

**CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED:** One letter in respect of the trouble at the last meeting saying how dismayed she was at the level of animosity and thanking the President for intervening in the way that she did.

**MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING 8<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2012:**

These were read and were approved without comment by the membership. The minutes were proposed by Rod Anderton and seconded Liz Lodge. They will be kept for the President to sign as she had presided over the meeting.

**MATTERS ARISING FROM LAST GENERAL MEETING:**

- Pending motion from the floor from the last meeting. The acting President stated President Beverly Holder had wished to read a statement concerning the disruption at the last meeting and that as she was not at this meeting it was felt inappropriate to put this forward at this time. There was no comment from the floor.
- Buddy System. We still need volunteers to help those without computers to access the website. It is not an onerous task and we ask for volunteers to organize and run the scheme. A sign up sheet was again on the stage and will be put on the web also.
- Food bank. MOFTAG are collecting enthusiastically and we also wish to do our bit to help this worthy cause. Donations can be taken direct to the sports hall if members are able to do this

or put it behind the stage where we will collect it. Mary Anderton updated the meeting with the latest information from the Town Hall stating that packages should be about a kilo in size or 1 litre of oil or juice. Large packages are not advised as they are difficult to allocate to those needing them.

- **Exhibition.** Joy Lally (leading the sub-committee with Tina Wallis) updated the meeting on the progress to date. There has been a slight change of venue within the Casa de Cultura which Joy explained. Some Group Leaders have responded to requests for exhibits such as paintings, mosaics, quilts etc but more are needed to make a truly representative exhibition and to be even better than the previous one held 3 years ago. There is a rota for manning duties which people were invited to fill in as the room has to be supervised when it is open. Response to this has been good but members are also asked to spread the word to publicise the event. A poster has been produced which will be put around the town and we hope also to have a translation into Spanish (so that the Town Hall can see what it gets for its generous allowance of free accommodation) and also into German. Joy invited would-be exhibitors to get in touch with herself or Tina ASAP.
- **New Grievance Procedure.** This proposed procedure was read out at the last meeting and was proposed (by Mary Anderton) and seconded (by Ted Holder) but owing to an interruption it was not voted upon by the members. Owing to the absence at today's meeting of both the President and Vice President this item was held over to the next meeting when it will be voted upon and if agreed, become Calpe U3A policy.

## **REPORTS:**

**Travel and Culture :** In the absence of John Pickford, Rod Anderton reported on both Culture and travel. The 2-day trip to Cartagena is on as it is well supported, Ibiza, 4 days in May has only 11 people subscribed and so will probably be cancelled. The subsidized Valencia trip is well subscribed and Galicia/Portugal has 19 out of 55 places taken. There are a couple of new trips being offered, 1 to Valor and Caves of Calobre costing 25 euros with a lunch and also something different – the Honey Festival at Ayora in October bookings for which will close in June. All details are on the website.

On the culture side Rod spoke of the G&S Society production of the Mikado on 25/26 May (8 pm cost 12 euros) and also Mary Anderton publicized a Jubilee Choir concert probably on 5/6 June (TBC) at the Casa where she is aiming for plenty of audience participation to sing all the old pop favourites. She hopes attendees will wear a red/white/blue themed outfit to add to the sense of occasion. Tickets for this will be on sale at the next meeting and, as usual, all proceeds will go to charity.

**Groups:** Losers is 'resting' at the moment but may start up again later in the year.

Hilary Hare is starting a Watercolour group at her home on 18<sup>th</sup> June at 3 pm.

Members Wendy and Craig McGuinness have made a very generous offer of their finca as a venue for groups. It is about 10 to 15 minutes from Calpe station with beautiful views and would be most suitable for painting or it is also ideal for a walking base or for discussion groups. Sandy has details of the address.

Sandra Llewelyn is starting knit and natter again on Mondays at 2 pm and anyone wishing either to learn knitting or crochet, or just knit for themselves or for charity would be welcome. More needles and wool is needed and will be supplied if knitting for charity.

Petanc has gone to 4 pm on Sundays at the usual place.

Liz Lodge is holding another card workshop: cards for men all materials supplied for 5 euros.

Zumba classes take place at the Bar Med in Benitachell but it is hoped to start another group at Saffy's. The first session will be free as a trial to see if you like it.

We hope to start JUGS (ladies' luncheon group) again and are looking for someone to co-ordinate the numbers, menu choices etc so please contact Sandy if you would like to do this.

**Social:** On 2<sup>nd</sup> June there will be a Jubilee Garden Party in La Fustera. Bring a plate of food and drinks of your choice (liaise with Joy Lally for the food if you can) and also folding or plastic chairs. There will be a charge of 2 euros per person to cover quiz prizes, disposable plates and glasses etc.

As it is a Jubilee Party there will be a red/white/blue theme and you are asked by Tina to wear these colours if at all possible.

We have been advised by the Lions that they are holding a tea party at Marnes Iris Garden on 8<sup>th</sup> May where they will be selling tea and home made cakes for charity. Entry is limited to protect the tranquility of the gardens but tickets are on sale from any Lions member.

Also for charity, the Lions have been given permission to pick the oranges from the trees in Gabriel Miro and they will be making and selling marmalade (3€ a pot). They welcome empty pots and orders are available now from any Lions member.

**AOB:**

The only item under AOB is a reminder about the Inter Cambio Linguistico language exchange which is organized by Tom Suddards and Liz Evans. They have a waiting list of 18 Spanish persons who would like English partners and theirs was a plea for more people to come forward to help in this and improve their Spanish at the same time.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 11.45.

**DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING:**

Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> May at the Casa de Culture, 10.00 for 10.30: note this is the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday in the month, not our usual 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Proposed: Rod Anderton

Seconded: Miren Viar

Signed: John Pickford

Date: 17th May 2012