

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

John Pickford welcomed everyone to the meeting and made a special welcome to the six new members who joined today.

INTRODUCTION OF SPEAKER:

Our first speaker today was Dr Thomas Hoffmann, a specialist in internal medicine from Clinica Benidorm. He gave a talk about 'how to prevent infections' and also invited interested members to take a behind the scenes look at the new facilities in Calpe. Anyone interested in taking this tour may sign up at the March meeting. There is also a possibility of the Clinic offering member discounts which will be shown on our website page.

Our second speaker was Noel Jackson, one of our members and member of the interpreting team and the Calpe Salud. Noel gave a brief snapshot of his childhood forever on the move with his family. Unfortunately we had to cut Noel short in his presentation which was a pity as it was not only most interesting but also delivered in a light-hearted and amusing way. Perhaps Noel will come back for more at a later date?

APOLOGIES FROM THE COMMITTEE: Helena Hutchings, Ellen Mitchell, Penny Brighton

CORRESPONDENCE:

A card from the family of Barbara Livesey thanking the U3A for the good times she had with the U3A over many years.

MINUTES OF LAST GENERAL MEETING JANUARY 2016

The minutes of this meeting had been circulated as usual and copies were available for those without email. Proposed by Joy Lally and seconded by Dennis Alba.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE LAST MEETING:

Suggestions Box Pleased to say that we received three suggestions and the committee will discuss these at their next meeting.

Scrap Book Tricia Adams who has been looking after the scrapbooks has returned them for safe keeping in our room at the Ifach. Anyone wishing to look at them may request to do so. Tricia was thanked for her work on this task.

PayPal We have held meetings with Kutxabank about the new U3A credit card facility which will include a card reading unit for use on the travel desk. PayPal has proved difficult for us owing to financial limits involved.

Possible new Committee Meeting Room We have been looking into the possibility of finding a meeting room to hold our committee meetings which could possibly

also be used as a 'drop-in' centre where members could meet up for coffee and a chat.

Dinner Dance Everything was in place to ensure a fun-filled evening at Venta la Chata. There had been a slight unforeseen hiatus over the menu partly owing to our increased numbers as all the food is freshly cooked and not microwaved. Details of the bus pick-up times were announced.

NEW BUSINESS:

Trip to Alicante

An invitation has been received from Calpe's Alcalde to visit the Diputacion of Alcante for a guided tour. We will be greeted on arrival, given a tour of the chambers with Hilde and Michele from the Town Hall acting as guides and interpreters for the visit.

They will then take us to the MARQ museum, free entry included after which we go on to lunch. The cost of lunch (€25) is not included but the rest of the day is free of charge.

Trip details: 14th April, depart Calpe Bus Station at 0830, return to Calpe 17.00. We have a sign up sheet, maximum number of members 54. Anyone wishing to go send names to Janet Bond (thebonds14@hotmail.com) and the sheet will be available at the March meeting.

Committee Change

Rod Anderton has expressed his wish to stand down from the committee which has been accepted. Rod will continue to be the focus for Cultural Issues. The committee thanks Rod on behalf of the members for his work over many years.

David and Maureen Elfed have been co-opted onto the committee to be our Press and Publicity Officers. During a very short introduction they explained some of their new ideas for promoting our U3A, attracting new members and feeding information about us around the town without relying totally on the local press. One member questioned the need for increasing our funds and was told that we use any money for the benefit of all our members enabling us to give treats from time to time.

GROUP REPORTS:

Treasurer Gordon reports that we have a healthy bank balance.

Groups Diane had updated and circulated the Groups List.

- Denise Kelly has volunteered to run a new photography group focussing on the fun side of photography
- JUGS Hydra at the far end of Levante beach 3rd March
- Mens meal Grizzlies 25th Feb

- Choir now rehearsing for a concert on April 13: always looking for new members especially men

Thanks were given to all group leaders without whom we would not have a successful U3A. A more tangible thank you will be arranged probably in April.

One point raised again was the subject of Membership. All U3A's are autonomous. We have visitors from a UK U3A who attend our activities over the winter period and they are very welcome but have to join as members. Some such visitors over the last month were surprised to hear this but were still happy to join. Anyone wishing to go along to a group activity as a 'taster' is welcome to do so on a one-off basis but after this they are expected to join. Diane stated that in her part of the UK they cannot attend their local U3A without joining and this is fair to all our members.

Sports: The Ayuntamiento has indicated its willingness to support the U3A sports group and is budgeting to improve the petanc grounds and have also indicated they are willing to consider building us a new bowling rink at the sports ground. Keith Cherry, sports coordinator, will submit ideas for consideration.

U3A have been invited to use the 8 petanc lanes near the football ground that are in daily use mainly by Belgian ex-pats. Unfortunately there is no shade in summer so this is a consideration. We will liaise with the sports hall managers.

Travel

- Spaces still available on the Murcia trip which now sadly conflicts with the date chosen by the town hall for the trip to Alicante
- Other possible trips include a cruise later in the year

All details on the website.

Membership: Helena was not present but will catch up with her records immediately on her return from the UK.

AOB:

At the January General Meeting a member asked the question under AOB why Mrs Wallis's grievance was dragging on. In response we had said we were not holding it up and were awaiting confirmation that we could proceed.

To show this matter was receiving our full attention the Vice President read out details of an offer made by the committee as a gesture of goodwill that had been extended to Mrs Wallis as an olive branch to show willingness that the committee was working on an amicable end to Mrs Wallis's grievance. This was a reading of an earlier email sent to Mrs Wallis on 15th February. We received no response to that email which we hoped would have been accepted gracefully.

There were some interruptions and nasty exchanges at this point, causing disruption to the meeting and putting undue stress onto the Committee. Due to this the meeting was then closed by the President.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING:

Thursday 24th March. We have a speaker lined up: more information will be given in the Newsletter.

Please note the date of the April meeting has had to be changed to 28th April owing to complete refurbishment of the public areas of the Ifach Hotel

JANET BOND
Secretary

22 February 2016

PROPOSED: David Stockton

SECONDED: Barbara Turner

SIGNED: Diane Putnam

DATE: 24 March 2016