

**MINUTES OF THE U3A GENERAL MEETING
HELD ON THURSDAY 22 SEPTEMBER AT THE SOL IFACH HOTEL, CALPE**

The President, John Pickford welcomed everyone to the meeting including seven new members who were invited to join Maureen and David Elford for coffee afterwards.

The President opened the meeting with the sad news that Jan Mitchell, a very active former member and travel group leader, had passed away following an operation in the UK. Tributes to Jan have been put on our website and in the Newsletter and our condolences go to Arthur, her husband, and their family. We also learned of the sad news that Annie Welton too had passed away recently.

Our speaker today was our member David Shute who gave us a most interesting talk about his time at Pebble Mill dating back to the time when the new studio opened and was a big departure from the way programmes had been broadcast up to then. He had many stories from behind the scenes and was warmly thanked and presented with a bottle by David Elford in his vote of thanks.

APOLOGIES FROM THE COMMITTEE: Diane Putnam, Keith Cherry, Teressa Pickford.

The President announced that his wife Teressa had reluctantly left the committee owing to continuing health problems and that Treasurer Gordon Green would be finalising the travel accounts ready for the independent audit.

CORRESPONDENCE: None

MINUTES OF LAST GENERAL MEETING JUNE 2016:

The minutes of this meeting had been circulated as usual and copies were available for those without email. Proposed by Dennis Albus, seconded by Anne Melling and signed by the President John Pickford.

MATTERS ARISING SINCE THE LAST MEETING:

We mentioned at the last (June) meeting the subject of committee posts. We needed to bring this up again as several of the current committee plan to stand down at the AGM in November after a number of years service. Constitutionally the U3A may not function without these Officer positions being filled (namely President, Vice President, Treasurer and Secretary) and the other Ex Officio positions too must filled to share in the workload and make for a rounded committee. So an appeal was made to everyone, especially newer members who would be able to inject some seriously needed new blood to consider standing. Help to get started and know the ropes would of course be forthcoming from existing members. We had application forms at the meeting - closing date for nominations would be 28th October.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Following a meeting with other local U3A Presidents we have decided not to continue with Red Star Groups. The other U3As do not have them so we are following suit. The Group Leaders have been informed of this.
- The Committee has decided to withdraw and remove the 'Grievance Procedure'. However, in the event of a dispute from today's date we will in future rely on the Statutes to resolve any issue that needs a resolution.

GROUP REPORTS:

Press and Publicity: David and Maureen Elford have continued their publicity initiatives. They had an article in Female Focus during August, are working on an article re the choir for October with a follow-up in December. They aim to do a Sports activity in November and are also trying for some promotion in RTN.

Social: Anne Melling has produced flyers for the annual quiz at the Tennis Club on 28th October. Arrangements for the Christmas Dinner in the pipeline but not yet finalised but the date is fixed for 10th December.

Treasurer: Gordon reports that we have a healthy bank balance of around €5000 which is the amount we like to keep in hand for emergencies which may occur.

Groups: Diane and Keith are on holiday at present but she has updated her lists. Group Leaders must regularly update Diane on their group activities so that she can provide a cohesive report: several arrived to the meeting today with late information.

Items notified were:

- Papercrafts workshop in November (Liz Lodge)
- Mens dining 29 September
- JUGS lunch 6 October La Brisa Andaluz
- Hilary Hare has resumed her art group
- Joy Lally has resumed bridge
- Peter Purvey could do with more philosophers
- Flower arranging (Tina Wallis) commences 3 October
- Dance Fitness (Giovanna Wallis) starts again on 27 September

In addition Tina Wallis and Giovanna Wallis were seeking help with Footlights running the Great Britain tent at the Benissa Multicultural Festival 30 September and 1st/2nd October.

We are actively looking to organise a Group Leaders 'Thank you' event in early November. Group leaders present were asked to give to Diane their ideas on what they would like as a function.

Sports: Nothing to report as Keith is away. Members will remember the council advising it was going to build new sports facilities near Lidl and U3A Calpe would be at the head of the queue to make use of them. Unfortunately they are not yet started as the council tells us they are trying to get a grant to pay for them!

Travel

- Honey Festival departs 0900
- 5th November: trip to a brewery, lunch in Xativa, visit to castle. Depart 0830
- Subsidised day trip to Murcia / Ikea 8€
- Pre-Christmas trip staying in centre of Malaga
- Possible cruise next year and trip to Vietnam and Cambodia and other trips being worked-on.

All details on the website

The travel team will be organising a wine and cheese get-together in thanks for members who made several trips with U3a. Date to be notified but members present encouraged to show their interest.

Membership: Helena reported that we have 634 members, 529 paid up and seven new today.

AOB: No items had been raised as per the new procedure.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING:

20th October when the speaker will be the historian Mike Rendell. He has been to us before, is a very entertaining speaker and this time his topic will be Kings, Courtesans and Celebrities based on his interest in the 18th Century.

After a vote from those present it was decided that we would have wine and tapas (rather than cava and cake) after the AGM in November

JANET BOND
Secretary

23 September 2016

PROPOSED: David Stockton

SECONDED: Marion Fisher

SIGNED: John Pickford

DATE: 20/10/2016