

President's Report November 2015

It's been quite a momentous and successful year for Calpe U3A. The highlight was the U3A being given Calpe's top award, the *Jaume Pastor i Fluxia* prize at a presentation ceremony held on the night of the 9th of October in the *Casa de Cultura*. A record of this event, including a video, can be viewed on the U3A website.

We are now very well established in our general meeting headquarters at the Ifach hotel. Our meetings held in the hotel's *Salon Mare Nostrum* are well received by members, who tell me they have enjoyed listening to the talks from our varied invited guest speakers.

The U3A website has been continually updated throughout the year and some new features such as the members' "items for sale" page can now be accessed.

One thing I'd like to point out is that **all areas of the U3A Web site** are available for members to browse and use. You do not have to have a username and password to do this, it's only if you wish to contribute or make a comment that you will need them.

The Web site's PayPal payment system is under review. This is due to a hiccup that the travel treasurer encountered a few months ago, now resolved. We are trying to replace PayPal with a credit card payment facility and are currently waiting for KutxaBank to arrange this.

The U3A bank facility, KutxaBank (BBK) in Calle Corbeta, has extended its offer to all U3A members by offering to credit your membership fee if you open both a current and savings account with them and pay in your membership fee at the same time. The bank's staff all speak good English and are extremely helpful.

The U3A database is continually being updated. This allows delivery of the newsletter, groups list and other important information to reach you electronically by email straight to your inbox. We will still provide those members without a computer printed copies of the newsletter and other associated paperwork at all the general meetings.

The U3A Group Leaders continue to function very successfully, running their groups. Members are always telling me how much they enjoy participating in the various activities they offer. Our dedicated group leaders spend many, many hours working to ensure you can enjoy their group activity that is open and offered to all members. These are very popular, judging by the numbers that attend their sessions.

As President, along with your committee, we would like to thank them for all their hard work and dedication. You really are very much appreciated: without you U3A would not function. The committee would also like to extend a big thank to all the

Volunteers and Helping Hands, especially at the times of our general meetings, when your support to the committee is welcomed and invaluable and ensures that meetings run smoothly.

Your committee has been concerned about former members, who are overdue renewing their membership fees, still continuing to go along to group activities. This is not fair on those members who are paid up and are in effect subsidizing them. We have tightened up on this and in future they will not be allowed to participate in U3A group activities until they pay their due. The membership secretary regularly informs all members in good time when they need to renew their subs.

I have enjoyed the support of a very competent and hardworking first-class committee, my thanks go to all of them .

Edith Watson, U3A treasurer, and Jenny O'Neill, U3A travel treasurer and assistant treasurer, are stepping down after many years of dedicated service. We will miss you both and thank you both very much for your hard work.

I am delighted to have retained the trust of the membership as President and would like to thank the membership for their continued support and have deemed it an honour to have been elected to this role. Thank you all.

John Pickford.
President U3A Calpe.