

University of the Third Age Moraira-Teulada

Minutes of the General Meeting held on 5th July 2010 at the Salon de Banquettes, Teulada

The President Ann Colclough welcomed everybody to the Meeting and especially the 16 new members that had signed on today, and four people who had renewed their membership.

Ann said that normally new members find it very hard to come through the door for the first time if they are on their own, so in future we will have New Members Table where the new members can head for and be welcomed by current members. Ann asked for volunteers from the members to chat to the new folks, explain a bit about the U3A and make them feel welcome.

At the last General Meeting on the 7th June 2010 there were about 250 people in the room. After we had a five minute break there were only 79 members left, who Ann thanked those people for staying, to listen to the Speaker. Ann said that she was amazed that two thirds of the members must have all had urgent appointments. She continued that the Committee felt very embarrassed about asking anyone to come and speak to us and that also it must be humiliating for the speaker concerned. Therefore, it has been decided that in future we will have no speakers at the general Meetings for the foreseeable future.

The synopsis from the Minutes of the 7th June 2010 was then read by the President. This was proposed as accurate by Dave Goodings, seconded by Sue Bradley, and were then ratified by the Members with a show of hands.

Reports

Treasurer. Audrey Coleman reported that since the last Treasurers Report on the 7th June 2010 we have had expenditure of €210.70 and income of €2665.90 of which €1960 represents ticket sales for the Summer Ball.

The accounts for FunDay have now been audited and Audrey has signed them off as a true and accurate representation. Audrey continued by saying that the subsidy from general funds for the FunDay totalled €175.70. Having voted on a larger subsidy the Committee was delighted that this had been kept to a minimum. Audrey went on to thank Margaret Roberts for her diligent housekeeping skills and the way in which the accounts had been presented to her, as it had made her work a lot easier.

Therefore, as at 4th July 2010 we have balances of €13465.06 in the current account of which €4445.00 is being held as deposits for payments for the Summer Ball and the allocation to the HELP organisation. We also have cash in hand of €99.30, and of course the deposit account holds €3000.00.

As usual Audrey offered to share the figures with any Member requiring a break down of income and expenditure.

Group Coordinator. Shirley Baehr said that her report today is going to include a lot of pleading for some of the projects that are under way.

Every month Shirley always says she is looking for new groups to be started and she has been approached for a Debating Group, a Scrabble Group, and also we have some novice guitar players who would appreciate being lead by someone with more experience.

Unfortunately, next season, four groups will be without leaders these are, Gardening, Dining Out, Yoga and Line Dancing. As these Groups are already up and running it would a shame if they were to fold and Shirley appealed for members to come forward and take over their administration.

Brian Nicholls, the Deputy Group Coordinator, is retiring and Shirley wanted to pay personal thanks for his assistance and hard work over the last two years. Shirley urgently needs someone to come forward and help her as Deputy.

A U3A Open Day is being planned to take place on the 19th October 2010 at La Senieta where we hope to have displays and demonstration of some of the Groups as well as a chance to enrol. Shirley said she will give more

information about this in September, but once again she needs help with the setting up and organising on the day.

There have been over 150 replies from Members wishing to join Spanish Groups. These replies are in the process of being finalised, and we will be able to offer a full schedule of classes from beginners to advanced standards. Linda West has agreed to help Shirley to be the Spanish Groups Coordinator. When more information is known about the classes, Shirley will let all interested members know. It has been decided that each class will be about one and a half hours long and the charge will be €4 per lesson payable one month in advance.

Shirley said that she would be available at the end of the meeting or by email if anybody can offer help in any of the above areas.

Ted Adams who is the Alternative Wine Group Leader said that he now has 120 people listed in the Group and during the past year they have sampled some excellent wines and had demonstrations from different bodegas, Ted commented that as he only buys wine up to a maximum of €3 per bottle, even if it is not to your taste you won't have wasted much money. Ted is now concentrating on finding local bodegas who will deliver direct to your home. He then gave details of the next wine tasting which is on the 7th July 2010 from 5/7pm at the MAPA building in Benitachell. Entrance fee is €4 per person, but this will include nibbles.

Travel Notes Anne Cattle gave the report for the Travel Group and said that last month the day trip to Bogairent and Albaida was very successful. Everyone had had a great time and there is a full report on the website including photos.

Both trips to Salamanca in September and October 2010 are fully booked.

Paul Pruden is organising a Treasure Hunt in Altea on 7th October 2010 and a second Treasure Hunt is scheduled to Benissa in November 2010.

Paul is also going to arrange another visit to L'Albarda Gardens, which was very popular trip last time and can be thoroughly recommended.

Carol Mantle and Anne Cattle are proposing a shopping trip to Valencia for the first week of November 2010. Ann commented that the shopping is not compulsory and people could use the coach for transport and explore Valencia on their own.

The trip to Italy in May 2011 being organised by Norman Peterken, has had a lot of interest and many people have paid deposits. Places have been allocated to other U3A's, but as they have not had meetings yet these allocations have not yet been taken up. Norman is taking names for a reserve list and these Members will be offered places if the other U3A's do not take up their allocation.

Carol Mantle is also organising a trip to Córdoba from the 8th – 11th May 2011 with an overnight stop in Granada. The trip will include visits to the Mezquita, Granada and the Alhambra.

In June 2011 Anne Cattle is organising a trip to La Palmera which is a small village on the Albufera Lake, near Valencia, and this will include a boat trip on the Lake to see the incredible wild life there, as well as one of the old fisherman's houses.

In the planning stage there is trip to Toledo in September 2011 and more details will be announced about this at the next meeting.

Also in the planning stage is an overnight trip to Cartagena for September/October 2011. Anne appealed for any information or recommendations regarding Cartagena to help her to finalise the planning.

Anne reminded Members to keep looking at the Travel page on the Website for further information on any trips.

Cultural Events. Angela Chantry reported that on the 24th July 2010 at La Senieta Moraira, there will be a concert performed by two people from Hungary who play the Harp and Trumpet. Apparently this combination works very well and people who have heard them say it is a very good concert. It begins at 7.00 pm and entry costs €10.

On the 18th September 2010 the Cameo entertainers are performing another of their Cameo Oscars Shows at La Piscina Restaurant in Parcent. The tickets are €16 which includes a three course meal with wine. The meal will be served from noon and the show starts at 3.00pm.

On the 27th August 2010, also at La Senieta, there will be an evening with Lynda Bellingham. Lynda is the Patron of the Costa Blanca Samaritans and has offered to do a fund raising event for them whilst she is here on holiday. This is being administered by our U3A, and all the tickets have been sold.

As always Members can contact Angela by email regarding any of the above events.

There were no Matters Arising from the reports.

Any Other Business

There was none from the Members.

Ann Colclough welcomed Eric Olverson who is back from his 12000 km bike ride around Africa in support of an Orphanage. Apparently his journey was amazing with lots of adventures. Ann said that we are eagerly awaiting the book!

10 Minute Break

After the break Ann introduced Des McGillicuddy from the Shamrockers, who thoroughly entertained the members with varied songs including Beatles numbers and finished with Achey Breakey Heart. The members were singing, clapping their hands and dancing. Des said that that for that time of the day it was amazing.

Pamela Kershaw thanked Desmond, and said he had given us the perfect send off for our summer break. The Members gave Des a resounding round of applause.

The President ended by wishing everyone a wonderful summer and said she looked forward to seeing everyone in September.

The meeting closed at 12.00 pm

Proposed as a true and accurate record of the Meeting held on the 5th July 2010

Proposed bySeconded by.....Date.....

The next meeting will be held on the 6th September 2010 at Salon De Banquettes, Teulada.