

## Asociación Social de le Tercera Edad de Jávea

### Minutes of the Annual General Meeting

Held on March 30<sup>th</sup> 2011 at the Parador de Jávea

**PRESENT:** President: Shirley King  
Vice President: Paul Wessendorff  
Treasurer: Geoff Milnes  
Secretary: Jeni Oldfield  
Membership Secretary: Wilma Stevenson  
Communications Officer: Carol Pilgram

**APOLOGIES:** Groups Coordinator: John Bellinger-Smith

**Shirley** opened the meeting by welcoming everyone and reading the minutes of the last meeting which were proposed by Betty Milnes and seconded by Angela Chantry.

Before the AGM itself Shirley presented two cheques, each of 500€, to representatives of our chosen charity, Caritas. The two representatives were from both the pueblo and the port and thanked us very much for our generosity.

Thanks were offered to Group Leaders whose groups had had to close, these being:

Alan Ewins on Getting the most from your i-pod, Derek and Valerie Guyet on Postcards, Barbara Garrard on Scrap-booking, and Gordon Edwards and Robin Race on Sailing. All were presented with a thank you gift of wine.

Other groups had had a change of leader and the outgoing Group Leaders were also presented with thank you gifts of wine and flowers, these being: Foodies – Barbara Cottam-Craven, Tuesday Lectures – Alan Oliver, Backgammon - Bob Denton, History – Sally Wells, Petanque – Lin and Terry Jones and Angela Chantry for Solos and Care & Share.

Shirley also thanked the outgoing secretary, Jeni Oldfield, for the work she had done for the Committee and presented her with a bouquet of flowers.

The meeting continued with the President's Annual Report, found in full with these minutes. There followed annual reports with Power point presentations from the Vice President, Treasurer, Membership Secretary, Groups Coordinator, and Communications Officer. The Accounts for 2010, having been detailed by the Treasurer in his report, were offered by Shirley and accepted by the membership. Details of voting for these are in the voting table.

There being no other business for the current Committee the election of Committee Officers for 2011/2012 took place. Shirley King and Jeni Oldfield left the Committee table along with the rest of the Committee until the results were read out. The results of voting can be seen in the voting table:

- President - Paul Wessendorff
- Vice-President - Peter Allin
- Secretary – Tom Stevenson
- Treasurer – Geoffrey Milnes
- Groups Coordinator – John Bellinger-Smith
- Membership Secretary – Wilma Stevenson
- Communications Officer – Carol Pilgram

The new Committee took their places at the Committee table.

**Paul** presented the outgoing President Shirley with two gifts, one from the membership and the second from the committee.

He then outlined the Committee objectives for 2011/2012.

Questions were invited from the meeting. Tim Ladd asked if the level of monies donated to charities was commensurate with our associations' aims. Paul responded that this was not U3A money, but comes from charity events and is held in the U3A accounts. A further question was raised on whether there would be an electronic referendum of members on the level of subscription fees. Paul replied yes, but first the committee have to decide what is feasible.

Betty Milnes asked for help in arranging flowers for the May Ball. Several people responded, and Paul requested that they see Betty after the meeting.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 12.38pm.

There followed a hunt for Easter egg tickets, found under the chairs of lucky people.

Proposed .....

Seconded .....

# **Asociación Social de la Tercera Edad de Javea**

## **Annual General Meeting**

**Wednesday 30th March 2011**

### **President's Annual Report**

My report this year starts with a review of the objectives that were set at the AGM last year.

### **Objectives 2010/2011**

#### **Accommodation**

Over the last couple of years many hours have been spent by members of the Committee looking at the various options for accommodation available to groups for meetings and events. A presentation was given by the President in November outlining the findings of these investigations, which concluded due to the high cost, renting or buying a premises was not viable, therefore a review of accommodation available for use by our Society either free of charge or at minimal cost to members would be carried out. Our Groups Coordinator John Bellinger Smith is currently undertaking this review and will report back to the members when completed. Sally Skelton at the Ayuntamiento has been extremely helpful in identifying various premises owned by the Ayuntamiento that can be made available to our Society. These will be included in John's review.

#### **Statutes/New Committee Structure and Job Descriptions.**

The revised Statutes were approved by the members at the last AGM, following that meeting they were submitted to Alicante for approval. I will not bore you with the long detail but Alicante has a year long backlog of this type of work, of three people that work in the office responsible for approving these documents two are on long term sick leave and the other one either is on holiday or nowhere to be found. At the beginning of February I received a note from Alicante advising that one of the laws referenced in our Statutes had been updated so we were requested to amend this paragraph. This was done and new signatures obtained from Committee members and duly sent to Alicante where they now sit at the bottom of the pile awaiting their turn again. I would reiterate this is the edited version, Spanish bureaucracy at its worst.

Due to the delay the Committee made the decision to publish the revised Statutes both in English and in Spanish on the website with the word uncertified embedded in the document. As soon as they are approved this word will be removed. The committee will advise members when they are approved.

#### **New Committee Structure**

The new committee structure was implemented following the AGM and has worked extremely well. Paul Wessendorff Vice President has volunteered to take over as President this year which ensures continuity on the Committee. Next year we hope that a couple of the deputies will volunteer from the Non Executive to join the main Committee when other Committee members have to step down in accordance with our Statutes.

Twice a year the Non Executives are invited to join the Committee meeting to be kept upto date on what is happening behind the scenes and are able to voice any concerns and ask questions. Again this has been very successful and appreciated by the non executives.

The biggest threat to our Society is the reluctance of members to put themselves forward to serve on the Committee or to become Group Leaders. Carol and John were new members to the Society when they volunteered as were Paul and I. With almost 1000 members it is regrettable that more people do not volunteer. Many times I have heard "I could not do it, I have done my time on committees when I was working, or I am only here part of the year", none of these reasons should really debar anyone from stepping forward to fill a role on the

Committee or elsewhere in the U3A structure. The Societies aims are to encourage the lifelong learning and friendship for those no longer in employment by members exchanging skills learnt over a lifetime and passed on to those who wish to continue to learn and have fun. If everybody puts into the Society as much as they get out it will continue to thrive and grow.

### **Communications Officer**

It took some while to find someone willing to take on this role and we were very pleased to find Carol Pilgram. Carol's background in IT and management is ideal for this role and Carole nearly did not volunteer as she had only been a member for a short while. Since taking on the role Carol has taken over the production and editing of the Newsletter, where she has made some changes and introduced new features. Carol has also worked with Sam on some technical aspects of the website and also with Tom Miller to raise the profile of the Society in the Community. Carol has more plans for this year which she will tell you about a bit later on when presenting her end of year report. On behalf of the Committee and members our thanks go to her for stepping forward and taking on this role so effectively.

### **Charity**

This year we adopted the Charity Caritas and through a couple of fund raising events held by members, a raffle at Christmas and contributions from Brenda Bates from the book swap we have raised over 2000€ a 1000€ of which was given to Caritas at Christmas and another 1000€ today. We have also organised food donations here at the Parador and will continue to do so as the situation with people in dire circumstances is getting worse in Javea and in Spain in general as well as in many other countries. Your generosity is much appreciated.

### **Area U3A Meetings**

Paul and I attended the annual area meeting of U3A's including Denia, Calpe, Oliva and several others including from as far away as Torrevieja. Following the meeting Javea hosted two specific area meetings one on Travel and the other on Insurance.

It would appear that due to the economic climate many Travel Groups including Javea are experiencing problems with filling trips. The outcome of the meeting produced a process and procedure which enabled trips to be offered to other U3A's in the event they were under subscribed. Only a couple of U3A's decided not to adopt the new procedure this included Moraira which was disappointing, particularly as we have successfully run joint trips in the past and it will no longer be possible to do so in the future, Addendum, if these are not run in accordance with the guidelines which we have adopted, and which were written and agreed by the majority of participating U3As. However, I am sure the new policy will work well with the other U3A's in the area.

With regards to insurance many other U3A's do not have insurance and were astonished when we advised why we had taken out insurance and many of them are now looking at taking out policies for the protection of all of their members. By working with other U3A's we have managed to reduce our cost of insurance which Paul will tell you about in more detail in a few minutes.

### **Events Organiser**

At last years AGM we announced the recruitment of Peter Speer as our Events Organiser and in September Peter, with a little help organised the Line Dancing Evening which was a sell out and enjoyed by all that attended.

Peter is now busily organising the May Ball which again is proving to be very popular so if you do not have your ticket please see Peter today as there are only a few left. More details of events planned for this year will be advised after the election of the Committee for 2011/12.

### **Monthly Meeting**

We have had a diverse range of very interesting speakers again this year which Paul has been responsible for organising and he has already booked many speakers again this year. Many members have said how much they

enjoy coming along to listen to the speakers who usually give their time for free. On very rare occasions do we pay for a speaker and usually we thank them by giving either a bottle of wine or flowers.

The November meeting was standing room only and I do not think it was because of the mince pies and sherry but maybe the male committee members presenting the Hungarian Cinderella. This was well received by those that attended and nearly as good as the previous year when the female members of the committee performed to Feliz Navidad.

### **Discounts**

Over the last year we have been approached by a number of companies offering discounts these are always welcome if they offer a genuine saving and service to our members. To obtain discounts it is essential you show your membership card. The Committee cannot guarantee that the discount or service offered is the best so remember Buyer Beware and check references and prices before parting with your cash.

### **Accounts**

Geoffrey Milne our treasurer has done an excellent job in keeping track of our finances and once again Ken Robinson has audited our accounts and found them to be correct and in order. We started the New Year with a very healthy bank balance up on the previous year, Geoff will explain the accounts in more detail in just a few minutes.

Since the accounts have been published we have had a few members complaining about some of the expenditure for instance the purchase of cutlery and crockery, these items will be self financing over the next couple of years. They were purchased with a view to renting them out to members as the availability of good disposal items is difficult in Spain, so far these items have been rented out on a number of occasions, and we are sure over the summer they will be in great demand.

We have also received complaints about the amount of money we have spent on gifts and flowers, as mentioned earlier we do not usually pay for speakers and to spend between 15€ and 20€ on a gift for them is not over generous and not unreasonable. We also spent less than 100€ at the November meeting on mince pies and sherry, something that seems to go down very well amongst members and encourages people to stay after the meeting to socialise.

The last complaint is about the amount of money spent on Groups, sadly due to circumstances beyond our control and the unwillingness of anyone to take on the role as Groups Coordinator last year there was not as much support for Groups as the Committee would have liked. We believe that Group Leaders are aware that if they need equipment to run their group the Committee would view such requests favourably. It has been the policy of the Society that all groups are self funding and we do not finance consumables. Equipment is only purchased if it is available for use by members for group activities.

A number of people have complained about our fees, I would start by saying that 12€ is not a huge amount of money to most members. We are aware that Moraira and Denia have reduced their fees, but both of these U3A's have considerable support from their local Ayuntamiento which we sadly we have not. This is not for lack of willingness but because the Ayuntamiento have no premises suitable or large enough in Javea. As you can see from our accounts the largest part of our income goes on paying for the Parador to house our monthly meeting.

Last year we advised we would not drop our fees in case it became necessary to use the money to pay for accommodation and as reported in November we shall not be taking on our own premises at this time. It will be up to the incoming committee to decide if lowering fees is an option but please remember every organisation needs some money in the bank because you never know what expenditure is going to be needed in the future.

For some while we have been trying to change our Bank Account to a bank that will allow members to pay their fees on line, sadly due to the bureaucracy and delay in getting our papers back from Alicante this is taking longer than expected or liked. It has been extremely frustrating and time consuming, but we believe we are nearly there and a change maybe made in the next couple of months.

## **Membership**

Wilma Stevenson has been doing an excellent job as Membership Secretary and through her work the Committee have had a much greater understanding of where our members live and how many attend the Parador meetings. The open meetings and November meetings are also well attended.

Our membership appears to be settling down to around 1000 members on average through the year. Sadly this year we have heard of many people returning to the UK or relocating to other countries as the financial situation has continued to cause hardship. Having said this we are still getting new members joining every month as the word spreads what benefits can be had by joining and paying their 12€.

## **Groups**

Sadly due to family circumstances Nick Winter had to step down as Groups Coordinator in the middle of the year and it took sometime to recruit a replacement. John Bellinger Smith volunteered and we are pleased to say he has hit the deck running and we are sure in his capable hands or for those that attended the November meeting his magic wand; the groups will be receiving full support. John apologises for his absence today he has had to return to the UK for a few days to sort out some family matters.

The Committee apologises to Group Leaders and members for any lack of support they may have felt, but our thanks go to Jenny Wessendorff who has held it all together and arranged the open meeting last June and she was also very involved in the organising of the January meeting.

## **Secretary**

Last but not least the Committee wishes to extend their thanks to Jeni Oldfield who is stepping down today as Secretary. The Secretary's role is so important both to ensure good governance of the Society and to keep the President on the straight and narrow. "Shirley have you signed the minutes yet" is a common question. On a personal note Jeni thank you. I know that even though on many occasions you have been in pain and even when admitted to hospital, the minutes have always been produced and circulated on time. We wish you well for the future (flowers).

VOTES CAST

Total entitled to Vote 979

Votes Received (296)

SECTION A Committee

President Paul Wessendorff

Vice President Peter Allin

Secretary Tom Stevenson

Treasurer Geoffrey Milnes

Groups Coordinator John Bellinger-Smith

Membership Secretary Wilma Stevenson

Communications Officer Carol Pilgram


Yes	No	Abstain	% Yes	% No
289	0	7	97.6	0.0
284	2	10	95.9	0.7
290	0	6	98.0	0.0
278	7	11	93.9	2.4
287	0	9	97.0	0.0
289	0	7	97.6	0.0
286	0	10	96.6	0.0

Section B Approvals

Accounts 2009

Yes	No	Abstain	% Yes	% No
271	2	23	91.6	0.7

NAME S.J.S. Wells  
(Webmaster)

Signed 

DATE 30/3/2011