

# **Minutes of the U3A Vall del Pop General Assembly held on Thursday May 2nd 2024**

**Venue: Polivalent, Murla.**

## **1. Introduction**

Chris welcomed 95 members to the May GA.

## **2. Minutes of the General Meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> April 2024**

These were agreed as accurate.

## **3. Matters Arising.**

Chris thanked Peter Sockett, our former Press Officer, for his valuable contribution to the U3A VDP and presented him with a card and restaurant voucher.

## **4. Correspondence.**

Paula advised that there had been no correspondence.

## **5. Committee reports**

*Treasurer's report.*

Roger submitted his report to the members in writing. Please find a copy attached.

*Membership Secretary.*

Barbara advised that at the last meeting we had 428 members. A further 16 members had joined this month and 8 today, making a total of 452. New members were welcomed by name. This is a great increase in numbers.

*Groups Coordinator.*

Teresa gave members an insight into the variety of groups on offer: card games, dining, active etc and encouraged people to consider joining them. They are a great way of meeting new people and making friends. She also encouraged anyone with ideas for new clubs they would like to run to contact her.

Richard Lightfoot gave a brief presentation on a proposed new group, Wine Appreciation, whereby members would visit a restaurant, possibly at lunchtime, for a light lunch and sample 3-4 wines. The cost would be approx 25 euros, the group would meet monthly in different venues. Richard asked for a show of hands as to who might be interested and 12 members expressed interest.

#### *TCET.*

Paula (in Sonia's absence) advised re the following trips:

12<sup>th</sup> June to Biopark/IKEA tickets still available

27<sup>th</sup> Oct there will be a trip to Benidorm Palace to see Bon Jovi. The last trip to see ELO was a sell out so don't miss out on tickets.

27<sup>th</sup> Nov Christmas shopping trip to La Zenia

24<sup>th</sup>-27<sup>th</sup> Dec Christmas trip to Albir. The deadline for deposit to be paid has been extended to early July. Please book asap. Minimum numbers are required.

#### *Goodwill.*

The summer bbq party on 11<sup>th</sup> May is sold out with a waiting list.

There are still a few tickets available for the afternoon tea/live music/clothes sale on 29<sup>th</sup> May which promises to be a super event.

The Goodwill team is honoured to offer a fabulous evening with The Entertainers on 28<sup>th</sup> June at Los Arcos in aid of Cancer Care Javea and in celebration of our dear friend Sandra Welham. This should be a fantastic evening and is sold out.

Finally, Paula explained that the end of life/hospital bed purchased with the generous donation by Caixa bank and the Goodwill team in Sandra's memory was already in use in the community by a person living in Benidoleig. Paula acknowledged that members had made this possible due to their generosity in supporting our events and offered our sincere thanks.

Paula thanked members for the generous donation of household goods for Caritas which will be distributed to families in need in local villages.

#### *Sharing and Caring.*

Brigid explained the role of Sharing and Caring and encouraged anyone who needed help, support or a friendly ear to contact her. Sally then explained that we would like to raise the profile of Sharing and Caring and find more volunteers so we can offer more services, and she and Peter had been working with Brigid to start this

important piece of work. We hope to collate useful information on the website and in a booklet/directory by September.

From Sept there will also be a dedicated S&C desk at GAs. Brigid is planning a visit to the Colina Club which is the only local residence where guests can rent.

#### **AOB.**

None

Our visiting speaker, Rhett Groom, a local cycling enthusiast, then gave a captivating and inspiring talk about his taking part in the last two Tours de France in aid of Cure Leukemia. With his team they raised over 2 million pounds to fund research in centres within the UK and Rhett gave a fascinating and emotional insight into the benefits of their fundraising.

He then decided to ride across the Andes in South America this January (as you do!) to raise more funds for children's leukemia and has been accepted to ride in the Spanish Vuelta next year for charity. His talk demonstrated sheer motivation, dedication and commitment and you could hear a pin drop in the room, such was the power of his talk.

We then had the first of a new idea Chris Barrett has introduced called "meet a member". Every member has a past and stories to tell, be they a career, hobbies, travel etc and the concept is to ask a volunteer to take part in a 5 minute fun and entertaining question and answer session to learn more about the person and their experiences. Our first "volunteer" (with slight persuasion!) was Vince O'Brien whose career was as a Contact Lens Optician.

Who knew that the concept of a contact lens was discovered by Leonardo de Vinci in 1508, the first lens was made in 1887 to medicate the eye, in 1929 a mould could be made of the eye and in 1936 a plastic lens was made, and so lenses have changed, developed and improved.

Vince advised that during his career he had been called into an operating theatre to fit lenses to a newborn baby with defective eyelids, and had also supplied lenses to a thalidomide victim with no arms who successfully inserted lenses using her toes. He also diagnosed a pregnancy via a patient's eyesight problems!

An excellent and fascinating chat and we are hugely grateful to Vince for leading the way and being the first victim! We welcome more volunteers.

#### **6. Date of next Meeting**

Our next GA will be on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> June at which our speaker will be Tony Grande from Make a Smile, a fantastic charity that supports vulnerable children locally and to whom the Goodwill team made a donation earlier this year.

Following the success at this GA the Goodwill team will be holding another plant sale and welcome any donated plants and cuttings. The plants usually sell out quickly so don't miss out!

We will also have a sale of home-made sausage rolls and vegetarian savouries, always popular.

Bill White has kindly agreed to entertain us on his keyboard with some summer style songs. We love Bill's playing!

Graham Higginson will be there with his book stall.

Janet Evans and Sue Stephenson will kindly demonstrate line dancing and no doubt we will have the chance to join in! Sounds fun!

Finally, Sue Holley will be our "meet a member" guest. Sue has had a fascinating life in the entertainment industry and has lots of fun stories to share.

Chris thanked members for attending and the team for their help in setting up the meeting and the meeting closed.

Goodwill raised 255.30 euros from the cake sale, plant sale and preloved sale today. Thank you so much for supporting us and Caritas.