

Asociación Social de la Tercera Edad de Jávea

Minutes of General Assembly Meeting 22nd February 2017

Committee Present:

President:	Eric Atkins
Vice President	Guy Marriott
Secretary:	Roy Brown
Treasurer:	Mick Cox
Groups Coordinator:	Karen White
Membership Secretary:	Sheila Giacomelli
Communications officer:	Ian Rogerson

Apologies

None

Location:

Parador, Jávea Arenal

The meeting commenced at 11.00am

Welcome

Eric welcomed everyone to the meeting, especially new members and summarised the membership changes for this month - 22 new members, 92 renewals at the desk today, plus 52 by bank transfer since January's meeting.

Eric asked if anyone had read the minutes of the previous meeting (from last October!), and received an unexpectedly positive response. He then asked if they were approved and received unanimous agreement. Willing volunteers had been found in Mai Boulton and Marisa Blanco to propose and second the approval of the minutes which were thus duly signed off to a round of applause..

President's Report

Charity: A cheque for €1321.21 was presented to two representatives Meike and Neus from the Jávea Red Cross ambulance service, the nominated charity for 2016.

Eric announced that the committee had decided that the charity for 2017 would be Make a Smile, which met with general approval from the assembly. Even though this is a Costa Blanca wide charity, rather than just Jávea, the work they do for disadvantaged and abused children was felt to be a very worthwhile cause.

Group Leaders: Eric thanked all the group leaders for their efforts throughout the year

After a lot of trial and error the story unfolded that Lorely Griffiths, the daughter of Gill Birch who had run the discussion group and who sadly died last year (Christine English subsequently took over the group leader position) has now taken over the family history group for established members – the first second generation group leader we have had in the U3A. At the same time Jean Miller, who had previously run both established and beginners family history is now concentrating on the beginners group only.

New Groups: Proposed new groups are Investment (Peter Burke), homeopathic medicine (expert needed) and ballroom dancing (expert needed). Watch the website for the start of activities.

New VP: Eric Introduced Guy Marriott as the new Vice President, saying that he was hopeful of keeping him for a while, having carelessly lost the previous two.

Travel: The trip to Asturias is now full.

May Ball: Over 100 tickets sold so far – the venue limit is 300 so you need to sign up promptly, especially if you want to take the bus. The €30 ticket price is fantastic value.

Volunteers: We are still looking for volunteers in all areas, so please don't hold back if you are able to offer any help at all.

Voting: Eric mused that clearly there is little incentive to vote as there is no opposition, but we, the committee, would appreciate the vote anyway as an indication of membership support for the work we do. It could be construed that not voting is in itself a vote of no confidence so we urge all members to cast their vote before the cut-off date (20th March)

Roger Barkley, the election auditor, reminded everyone that there are still some three weeks to go, but to date only 85 votes had been cast. Eric remarked that from a membership of 1300 this was not very good – were the 1200 or so non-voters trying to give us a message?

Post Meeting Note – the current count (7th March am) stands at 126, better but not brilliant.

Treasurer's Report

Mick started with further "paraprosdokian" examples, culminating in "no matter how much you push the envelope – it's still stationery"

He then went on to explain that the committee had decided he didn't have enough work to do. The thinking was that a simple bank balance gave the impression that we were rolling in money, so we have changed the presentation to give the projected balance at the end of the year. As of this morning (not including today's payments) the figures were:-

Projected new member income	€3000
Projected membership renewal income	€6000
Received to date	€6351
Current Bank Balance	€37293
Budgeted annual expenditure	€19500
Money held for travel etc.	€14858
Giving a projected end of year balance of	€5500

This shows that we are positive at the end of this year's activities, and hopefully gives a better understanding of where the money is coming from and going to.

Mick finished with a plea that all bank transfers are accompanied not just by the name and membership number but also the event reference code, so he knows what it's for.

AOB

It was remarked that the on-line voting system does not work with AOL – the recommendation is to switch browsers to IE, Chrome etc. where the system functions correctly. Betty Guinness also pointed out that the system does not work with Android devices.

Eric then introduced our:-

Guest Speaker, Angela Chantry

Angela gave a very interesting insight into the development of the U3A from its inception in France in 1968 to the worldwide organisation it is today. After covering the many initiatives developed by the U3A now available in the public domain, she concluded with one specific example of other initiatives (not U3A) available via the web – a virtual conference lasting a week, comprising 30 minute segments purported to change the way you think about the rest of your life, starting on Sunday 5th March. We then all joined the Barnsley U3A who sang about the many reasons for joining the U3A to the tune "the answer is blowing in the wind" - possibly very apt.

Angela proposed that those who wanted links to the world wide U3A organisations should e-mail her, or better still she would send them to Clive to publish on the website if that was OK. Clive agreed, and the links are now available on the website

Thanks

Eric thanked Angela for her talk, and presented her with a gift of (strangely Eric's favourite) wine.

Eric thanked the assembly for coming and looked forward to seeing everyone at the AGM next month.

The meeting closed at 12:11pm

Proposed by (print name) OLGA ATKINSON

Signed 

Seconded by (print name) ROGER GASTBY

Signed 

President.....

Secretary

Asociación Social de la Tercera Edad de Jávea

Minutes of General Assembly Meeting 29th March 2017

Committee Present:

President: Eric Atkins
Vice President Guy Marriott
Secretary: Roy Brown
Deputy Treasurer: Sally Rush
Groups Coordinator: Karen White
Membership Secretary: Sheila Giacomelli
Communications officer: Ian Rogerson

Apologies

Treasurer: Mick Cox

Location:

Parador, Jávea Arenal

The meeting commenced at 10:30 am

Welcome

First Calling

At 10:30 Eric called the assembly to order and explained that as this was the statutory AGM and one third of the members were not present, the statutes required that the meeting be reconvened after a 30 minute delay. The first calling was then disbanded.

Second Calling

At 11:00, Eric welcomed everyone to the meeting again, especially new members. Eric asked if anyone had read the minutes of the February meeting and received general assent. A motion to approve the minutes was proposed by Olga Atkinson and seconded by Roger Gentry. The motion was passed unopposed and the minutes were duly signed by the proposer and seconder.

Treasurers Report

Eric explained that the treasurer was unable to be with us today, hence the report would be given by the deputy treasurer, Sally Rush.

2016 Accounts

Sally read out a summary of the 2016 accounts that had previously been published in greater detail on the U3A website following the auditor's approval in early February.

A motion to approve the 2016 accounts was proposed by Jacqui Rogerson and seconded by Val Dromgoole. The motion was passed unopposed.

2017 Budget

Sally then presented a summary of the 2017 budget, viz:-

Current balance €37,661

Committed expenses €27,536

Budgeted spend for 2017 €19,500, of which €4,500 already spent, so €15,000 remaining

This would leave a year-end balance of €5253, however, as we still have a projected subscription income of €1400 over the remainder of the year this gives a projected end-of-year balance of around €6,500

A motion to approve the budget was proposed by Angela Chantry and seconded by Diane Ord. The motion was passed unopposed.

The traditional treasurer's joke was then substituted by a Sally Rush financial one-liner (concerning money in the kitty), followed by an amusing news article spotted by Eric whilst sitting on a roof (he was not specific about whose roof, or why he was sitting on it). In summary, street prostitutes in Barcelona had successfully lobbied the council to withdraw the operating licence from the premises of a hugely successful brothel on the grounds that they were facing unfair competition.

Committee End-of-Year Reports

Vice President, Guy Marriott

Guy explained that Eric had asked him to take on the post of VP last October as he (Eric) had somehow lost the previous two incumbents. Having been promised that the post involved little or no work, Guy accepted, and was then told there were actually some tasks which a VP was expected to carry out, viz.,

1. Organise the speakers for monthly meetings.
Before the summer recess we have Peter Atkinson in April (Anglo French relations over the last millennium), Ray Edmonds in May (tales of the snooker circuit), John Deacon in June (Spanish Classical singers – with recorded clips). Guy appealed to the membership to let him know if they, or anyone they knew, had suggestions for future speakers.
2. Manage the discount list.
The discount list can be found on the u3ajavea.org website. It had been culled from the largely obsolete list that it was at this time last year and all businesses now listed are current. If anyone has had good service from a local business or service, please let Guy know and he will contact the entity to see if they would be prepared to offer a discount to U3A members.

Membership Secretary, Sheila Giacomelli

Sheila reported that today we had 14 new members and 29 renewals. There were still some 200 members who had not renewed this year to date, though most were expected to do so. The total membership at present stands at 1268.

Groups Coordinator, Karen White

Karen stated that she has enjoyed the challenges of this role over the last year, even more so as (so far) none of the group leaders had shouted at her. She hopes that this will carry on for next year and that some new people will step forward to start new groups.

Communications and Publicity Officer, Ian Rogerson

Ian confessed that he is the responsible party for bombarding the membership with the various U3A emails. He also submits articles to the local (English Language) press for publication. He appealed to the members to reciprocate by bombarding him (communications@u3ajavea.org) with photographs, reports etc. that he can use for publicity.

He thanked Margaret March for her assistance in helping to set up the U3A Facebook page, and encouraged all who were not already members of the U3A closed Facebook group to follow the joining instructions on the U3A website home page. He also thanked his wife, Jacqui, for taking and managing the publicity photographs.

Ian emphasised that it was impossible for him to cover everything that is going on within the organisation via email, and encouraged everyone to visit the really comprehensive website www.u3ajavea.org which is constantly being kept up to date by the webmaster, Clive White.

Ian finished with an appeal for anyone who may be interested to volunteer their services as his deputy. He is the only person on the committee without one and is planning to be away for some time in the autumn. He pointed out that a journalistic background is not a prerequisite for this post.

Secretary, Roy Brown

Roy likened his induction last year to that related earlier by Guy, having been told that "it doesn't need much effort" when being cajoled into accepting the nomination. This turned out to be largely

true when it came to preparing agendas and taking minutes, however one aspect had been conveniently glossed over, that being the fact that the secretary has the legal responsibility for the compliance of the association with the requirements of the Generalitat de Alicante, and the Ayuntamiento de Jávea. This had proved a bit of a nightmare over much of the year, but we finally received documentation (in February) identifying the association as a legally registered entity in both locations.

President, Eric Atkins

Eric thanked the committee for their support throughout the year. He was especially grateful that he now felt more secure in the knowledge that the risk of being placed in handcuffs for running an illegal institution has receded. He summarised some highlights of the activities over the year as:-

- Reinstatement of the Care and Share initiative
- Hugely successful May Ball
- Most enjoyable summer barbecue at Quo Vadis
- Excellent barn dance at Venta la Posa
- Introduction and nurturing of the U3A Facebook closed group
- A wealth of Activity Groups, currently numbering 67, but room for more
- Well supported book swap at every general assembly meeting
- Excellent travel group trips

Eric then presented a bottle of his favourite wine to Joni, who is retiring in June, with a comment to the effect that he always gives his favourite, as, being his favourite, he can then live in hope that one of the recipients may invite him round to help drink it (A ploy which has so far failed abysmally).

Election of Executive Committee

Roger Barkley, the election auditor, summarised the results of the combined paper, show of hands and on-line votes and declared that all members of the existing committee had been re-elected. The signed results are appended to these minutes.

The auditors were then redeployed to prepare sherry and biscuits for those gathered before being released from their duties.

President's closing remarks

Firstly he would like to thank the old committee – saying that he has been very impressed with their work and hopes that the new committee will do an equally good job

Upcoming key interest talks

Travellers' tales – Asturias & Avila – Mike Frost next Tuesday.

History group 100th talk - Moros y Cristianos – Peter Atkinson on 14th April

Upcoming trips

6 day trip to Asturias leaving on May 11th

Trip to Avila 6th -8th June

Trip to Cuenca in September

Sunset Cruise from Jávea port in June

Dire Straits tribute band show in September

River cruise on the Guadalquivir in the Autumn - TBA

Upcoming events

May ball – fantastic value at €30 – 25th May

Hog roast at Quo Vadis on July 6th

Charity support

Eric commended the "Make a Smile" charity, a really worthwhile cause, saying that we raised €1300+ for the Red Cross ambulance last year, and hope to do as well or better for "Make a Smile" this year.

In conclusion Eric thanked everyone for their continued support with Caritas donations.

The meeting closed at 11:36 am

Results of the Committee Elections

This page contains the results of the voting from the current Committee Elections.

The table below shows the number of votes cast for each of the nominated Candidates. Candidates that are no longer members are excluded. Votes from people that are no longer members are also excluded. Validation of the Candidates and the members' votes is performed using the online copy of the Jávea U3A Membership Database. The online copy is brought up to date just after the beginning of each month.

Committee Role	Candidate	Votes
President	Eric Atkins	139
Vice President	Guy Marriott	136
Secretary	Roy Brown	135
Treasurer	Michael Cox	137
Groups Coordinator	Karen White	139
Membership Secretary	Sheila Giacomelli	137
Communications	Ian Rogerson	136

Total number of votes received	146
Number of voters no longer FULL Members	0
Total number of Candidates nominated	7
Number of Candidates no longer Valid	0
Total number of Paper Votes received	1
Number of Paper Votes from FULL Members	1
Paper Votes from Members with Email Addresses	1

Voting report produced on Sun 26th Mar 2017 18:04.

Election Auditor: Roger Bankley. Logged in username: eAuditor

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Total online and paper votes received before AGM 146
 Members votes for committee at AGM 20

 Total votes cast 166

Confirmed by Election Auditors,

J. Charlesworth.

Irene Charlesworth.

29/03/2017.



Roger Bankley

29/03/2017.

Asociación Social de la Tercera Edad de Jávea

Minutes of General Assembly Meeting 26th April 2017

Committee Present:

President: Eric Atkins
Vice President Guy Marriott
Secretary: Roy Brown
Groups Coordinator: Karen White
Membership Secretary: Sheila Giacomelli
Communications officer: Ian Rogerson

Apologies

Treasurer: Mick Cox

Location:

Parador, Jávea Arenal

The meeting commenced at 11.00am

Welcome

Eric welcomed everyone to the meeting, and apologised for the absence of Mick Cox and for the impending rain.

Eric then gave a one-time only address regarding fire regulations, the main theme of which was, to paraphrase corporal Jones of Dad's army, – Don't Panic! He summarised that if there were to be a fire situation he would stand up and tell everyone to calm down. We have enrolled 5 volunteer fire wardens to guide people to the exit points and provide mobility assistance where required. There are two fire extinguishers in the room and a fire alarm button behind a glass panel situated on the wall by the entry stairs. Eric suggested that for future meetings everyone should perhaps equip themselves with a small hammer with which to break the glass.

Eric emphasised the key issues are don't panic, don't spend time collecting goods and chattels and DO NOT exit via the route by which you entered. There are four exit doors to the meeting room and you should use the nearest of these to access the lawn outside the building, where everybody can chat amongst themselves whilst waiting for the Parador staff to give permission to re-enter the building.

Eric asked if anyone had read the minutes of the previous meeting, and, of course everybody had. There being no objections he then asked willing volunteers in members Vivian Sullivan and Betty McKimm to propose and second the approval of the minutes which were duly signed off.

President's Report

Facebook Page

Now grown to well over 200 members, and most posts receive more than 100 visits. There is a link to this page on the website, and its basic purpose is to allow members and group leaders to communicate proactively. Recent posts include valuable information on various U3A events, a warning about bogus gas men, and many photographs of recent U3A activities. Eric thanked Margaret March, Ian and Jacqui Rogerson for their efforts in getting this page up and running.

Cuenca trip

This also includes Ciudad Encantada, Zaragoza and Belchite. There is a serious shortage of travelling couples on this trip – there are no single rooms remaining but double rooms aplenty. At the moment there are insufficient numbers to make the trip viable, but there is another meeting in May and deposit payments may of course be made by bank transfer.

May Ball

Now over 200 and bookings are closed, though last minute bookings can still be accepted – see Val. There is room on the bus as a second bus has been added.

Membership

17 new members plus 12 renewals today so total membership now stands at well over 1300

Hog roast

60 tickets sold today, so only 40 remaining. Bookings are now open on line. Should there be any spaces left by then, they will be available in the May meeting.

Volunteers

A thankyou gathering will be held after this meeting in the room behind the bar (upstairs)

Deputy Treasurer's Report

Sally repeated the explanation given in the AGM for the revised method of reporting our accounts for the benefit of those who missed the AGM. This revised reporting gives a more accurate indication of the financial situation and allows us to reasonably predict the balance at the end of the year in a rolling monthly fashion.

Currently, the figures are:-

• Current bank & cash balance	€49,272
• Money held for travel, events etc.	€29,781
• Available balance	€19,491
• Balance of budgeted annual expenditure	€13,891
• Budgeted predicted membership income	€1,100
• Projected end-of-year balance	€6,700

Sally signed off with the mandatory treasurer's joke, the subject being theft of money!

Eric then introduced our:-

Guest Speaker, Peter Atkinson

Peter's presentation was entitled "entente not so cordiale", 1000 years of Anglo – French relations from The Battle of Hastings to Brexit. Peter treated us to a wonderfully entertaining bout of superbly researched French bashing, supported by many quotations and photographs from throughout the ages. He finished by pointing out that the French motto on a UK passport means "Shame on you who think evil of it", the "it" in question referring to Edward III's claim to the French Crown. He suggested that you point this out to the next stropky French passport official who tries to give you hassle.

Thanks

Eric thanked Peter for his talk, commenting that the Jávea U3a probably has a longer life span expectancy just now than the French nation, and presented him with a carefully selected gift of French rosé wine (Eric's favourite). Eric thanked the assembly for coming and looked forward to seeing everyone at the next meeting in May.

The meeting closed at 12:05pm

Proposed by (print name) BOB JOHNSON

Signed [Signature]

Seconded by (print name) VALERIE JOHNSON

Signed [Signature]

President [Signature]

Secretary [Signature]

Asociación Social de la Tercera Edad de Jávea

Minutes of General Assembly Meeting 31st May 2017

Committee Present:

President: Eric Atkins
Vice President: Guy Marriott
Secretary: Roy Brown
Treasurer: Mick Cox
Groups Coordinator: Karen White
Membership Secretary: Sheila Giacomelli
Communications officer: Ian Rogerson

Apologies

None

Location:

Parador, Jávea Arenal

The meeting commenced at 11.00am

Welcome

After some teething problems with the sound system Eric finally welcomed everyone to the meeting, particularly new members, and remarked that he had been criticised for lack of coordination that morning because his glasses did not match the rest of his outfit (such are the trials of being president).

Eric went on to say that it has been a fortnight now since the Manchester terrorist atrocity. We have all had time to reflect, and have probably attended functions where a respectful silence was called for. He was not calling for a silence today but is sure that the assembly will join him in expressing our sorrow and support for the victims of this outrage.

In that regard he would like to also express our gratitude to Mayor José Chulvi who came out incredibly promptly with an expression of sympathy and support for the Manchester victims. Eric is sure that we all appreciate the great support being regularly given to the expat community by Mayor Chulvi.

More sad news then followed. A long time active (active in all the groups loved by Eric) member of the U3A, Ted Meux, had passed away. There will be a celebration of his life in the Jalón crematorium at midday on Friday June 2nd.

Eric asked if anyone had read the minutes of the previous meeting, and, once again, there was a universal positive response. There being no objections he then asked members Robert and Valerie Johnson to propose and second the approval of the minutes which were duly signed off.

President's Report

Asturias Trip

Eric reported that he had recently returned from the U3A trip to Asturias, which was fantastic, and thanks were due to Charo for organising such a wonderfully diverse experience, as thanks are always due to the members of the travel team who work so hard.

Orihuela Trip

Bookings for this trip are currently 12 short of the ideal number.

Cuenca trip

This also includes Ciudad Encantada, Zaragoza and Belchite. This trip still has a few places, but not for single travellers because of accommodation limits.

Spanish Culture & Cuisine trip to Archena

This is fully booked

Concert by Dire Straits tribute band in September

Tickets are still available

May Ball

Eric reported that this was fantastic. He had already presented Shirley with a bunch of flowers and a big kiss (she wanted the flowers) but congratulations were also due to the massive input from the helpers for this event, viz., Husband Richard, Diane & Ross Ord, Barbara Gorrod, Mike Oxley-Brown, Val Dromgoole, & Karen White. Eric noted that it was nearly always the same group of helpers whose names were read out, and expressed the wish that more of the remaining members of the association would become involved.

Hog Roast at Quo Vadis, July 6th

This is now sold out.

Halloween Party, October 31st

Reservations will be taken at the next meeting.

Membership

23 new members plus 11 renewals today so total membership now stands at well over 1300 – back at last year's numbers and still rising

Next meeting, June 28th

John Deacon will be presenting a talk on Spanish opera singers, with a wonderful sound system to replay excerpts from some of their performances.

Facebook Page

Membership of the closed group has now grown to well over 250 members, and most posts now receive more than 100 visits.

Upcoming concert in the caves at Benidoleig

Roy announced that the Costa Blanca Male Voice Choir was holding a concert in the Cueva de las Calaveras in Benidoleig on the 30th June. Those in the assembly who were interested were urged to get a ticket as soon as possible as they were selling fast (PMN – the event is now sold out). Details could be found on the choir website and in the local English language press.

Treasurer's Report

Eric extended his thanks to Sally Rush who had so successfully held the fort whilst Mick was away, then proceeded to outline in (possibly dubious) detail what Mick had been up to.

Mick thanked Eric effusively for opening this window on his private life, and then went on to report that Pat Robinson had just donated a cheque for €110 from the DVD swap table – the largest donation ever from this enterprise. Pat expressed her gratitude to all the volunteers who had helped her since last September.

Without going into details, Mick gave the current bank & cash balance as €19,500, which after allowing for budgeted spend and monies still held for travel and events gave a projected end-of-year balance of €6,721

Mick signed off with the mandatory treasurer's joke, the subject being an astute Irish attitude towards donating money to the church.

Eric added that the May ball tombola had also raised €1203 for our nominated charity, meaning that we have already raised more than last year with events still to come.

Eric then introduced our:-

Guest Speaker, Ray Edmunds

Ray embarked on a review of his personal history as an amateur snooker champion, with various anecdotal snippets of his experiences with some of the well-known characters of the snooker circuit, both from before and after the professional game became popular with the BBC. He finished with the famous commentary line "for those of you watching in black and white, the pink is the ball behind the blue".

Thanks

Eric thanked Ray for his talk, and presented him with a gift of wine. Because the speaker had overrun the assembly dispersed rapidly with nothing more being said.

The meeting closed at 12:18 pm

Proposed by (print name) DAVID McAULAY

Signed 

Seconded by (print name) MORAG McAULAY

Signed 

President.....

Secretary

Asociación Social de la Tercera Edad de Jávea

Minutes of General Assembly Meeting 28th June 2017

Committee Present:

President:	Eric Atkins
Vice President	Guy Marriott
Secretary:	Roy Brown
Treasurer:	Mick Cox
Groups Coordinator:	Karen White
Membership Secretary:	Sheila Giacomelli

Apologies

Ian Rogerson

Location:

Parador, Jávea Arenal

The meeting commenced at 11.00am

Welcome

Eric greeted everyone and commented that this is the last meeting before the summer break, somewhat reflected in the numbers present, but it was lovely to see those who are here as they will experience a great presentation later.

Eric asked if everyone present had read the minutes of the May meeting – everyone had!

He then asked if there were any objections – there were none.

He therefore asked two previously chosen but willing volunteers, David & Morag Mcaulay, to sign off the minutes which were duly approved. David asked if there was a fee for doing so, but had to accept that this onerous task was purely voluntary.

President's Report

Eric thanked all the volunteers who do such a wonderful job.

He remarked that there have been three wonderful trips recently, to Avila with Mike Frost, Spanish Culture & Cuisine to Archena with Angela & Tony and to Orihuela with Barbara Gorrod

Future trips include one to Cuenca, Ciudad Encantada, Zaragoza and Belchite. Eric believed this is now fully booked, though unconfirmed on the travel website

Joni is organising a trip to the "Make a Smile" farm at Relleu later in the year

Charo is organising a trip to Galicia, including Santiago de Compostela, in May and a repeat trip to Asturias in September

Joni Hills had announced her retirement earlier in the year, but she is still here. There are a number of new volunteers in the travel group but as yet no one has volunteered to take over as team leader when Joni does manage to retire, hence an appeal for a travel group leader. Eric tried unsuccessfully to convince the audience that a competent organiser and keen traveller would not find the job terribly onerous, a little bit, but not terribly.

Eric reported that the lady who runs the quiz night at Digby's, Dianne Beschizza, handed him a €94 donation to the Make a Smile charity last Monday.

17 new members enrolled today, plus 3 renewals. The membership now stands at 1338, close to a record for the Jávea U3A.

Treasurer's Report

Mick said he thought he had been ostracised by the committee as he had been seated alone on the far side of the screen. Eric commented that he was actually in the posh seats.

Without going into details, Mick gave the current bank & cash balance as €20,031, which after allowing for budgeted spend and monies still held for travel and events gave a projected end-of-year balance of €7,725

Mick signed off with the mandatory treasurer's joke, the subject being tales of the confessional.

Eric then introduced our:-

Guest Speaker, John Deacon

John proceeded to run through with incredibly well researched historical detail an audio presentation of the development of opera and the succession of brilliant performers in Spain over the last 150 years, finishing with resounding rendition of La Bohème.

Thanks

Eric thanked John effusively for his talk, and presented him with a gift of (Eric's favourite) wine.

The meeting closed at 12:31 pm

Proposed by (print name) *A. Deacon*

Signed *[Signature]*

Seconded by (print name) *E. Deacon*

Signed *[Signature]*

President.....

Secretary

[Signature]

Asociación Social de la Tercera Edad de Jávea

Minutes of General Assembly Meeting 27th September 2017

Committee Present:

President:	Eric Atkins
Vice President	Guy Marriott
Secretary:	Roy Brown
Treasurer:	Mick Cox
Groups Coordinator:	Karen White
Membership Secretary	Sheila Giacomelli
Communications Officer	Ian Rogerson

Apologies

None

Location:

Parador, Jávea Arenal

The meeting commenced at 11.00am

Welcome

Eric greeted everyone and commented that it was nice to see everyone after the summer break, nice to get our town back from visitors, cars and gridlock, but equally it was a shame to say goodbye to the chiringitos.

Eric then handed over to Mick Cox to say some words regarding the recent demise of Ken Robinson, who had been our auditor for the last 7 years. Mick said that, despite what everyone thinks about accountants, Ken was a gentleman, a kind and calm individual, always there to find the reason why if on the odd occasion a trial account did not balance, and he did this in a calm and friendly manner. Mick, along with many others, had attended Ken's funeral service the day before and he will be well remembered by all that knew him, particularly Mick for all the help he had been given.

This led on to the fact that the U3A now need an auditor for the accounts. This is a once-a-year requirement around the end of January. If anyone here has, or knows of someone, with the necessary credentials to carry out an audit, we would very much appreciate some help. Mick then passed the microphone back to Eric.

Eric reaffirmed the condolences from the committee.

Eric commented that the members present were traditionally a very dedicated group, and always read the minutes, so there was little point in asking whether this was the case. He did ask if there were any objections – there were none.

Two previously chosen but willing volunteers, Alan & Elizabeth Colquhoun were invited to sign off the minutes which were thus duly approved.

Eric announced that collection boxes for the "Make a Smile" charity would be sited on various desks today and in the future, following which he introduced Tony Grande, founder of that organisation, to make a short presentation.

Tony gave the following potted history:-

Tony's journey began some eight years ago when his business was asked to supply four mattresses to a children's home in Benissa. This was a life changing moment both for him and, he hopes, for the children as well – he found the eight children, from ages 7 – 13 were living in appalling conditions. Tony together with friends and support from the local community and businesses, totally refurbished this house over a five week period. Since

then the charity has grown to what it is today, operating 7 houses with 96 children between the ages of 3 months to 18 years. At the age of 18 the children must leave as they become classified as adult, and Spanish law prohibits adults from sleeping in the same accommodation as the children.

There is a broad conception that the children are orphans – they are not. The problem is that all these children do have parents, but all come from hostile backgrounds and have been removed from the family home by social services or the Guardia Civil. All the children have suffered horrendous abuse, every type of abuse you could think of and some that normal minded people would not or could not conceive.

Tony explained the situation with the former management group Emaus, which collapsed two years ago. Since that time, through the generosity of the community and hard work of volunteers the “Make a Smile” charity has supported the children to the sum of €250,000, and hence saved these children from the threat of being dispersed due to a total collapse of funding – neither the social services nor the government had any solution to this dilemma.

From last June a new national management company took over and some support is being received from the regional government, though this will cease at the end of this year. The future is still insecure - there is light at the end of the tunnel but we are not out of the woods yet. Everyone’s support is therefore still essential.

Because of the hostile background there is never any publicity, photographs or release of the addresses that the children live in. A majority of the abusing parents are still looking for their children (mostly because they have lost a source of income)

Charity is one, but not the only solution to our financial problems. These children need to learn how to work, and need to learn to stand on their own two feet. The Farm in Relleu is one way of doing this and currently there are 24 mentally challenged youngsters and a safe house for 12 minors there. At this moment the premises are locked down as a safe house by the new management company and public access is denied. It is hoped that a visit can be organised for later. The other way we raise money is by recycling, - donations of recyclable material are always welcome and a charity shop opened in Teulada last June to further this initiative.

Tony concluded by saying that Make a Smile continues to need volunteers, moral support and definitely financial support. However Make a Smile is a working charity and raising money through recycling and the farm helps in their aim to provide some work experience and self-reliance to the youngsters. He thanked the U3A for inviting him to the meeting and for all their help to date.

Joni pointed out that there are four large bags of donated material for Make a Smile ready for collection.

President’s Report

Eric thanked all the volunteers who had been working flat out in the lead up to the meeting.

The high level of programmed events now seen on the website is a clear indication of the work done in the background by the various group leaders. There are also two new groups starting up – see the website for details.

The November meeting is traditionally taken up with the Extravaganza, where the committee make fools of themselves, but this will take a new format this year as Sally Wells feels unable to continue following the death of her husband. We are very lucky that Shirley King has kindly volunteered to put together the program, which will involve known acts and some impromptu sketches. Eric requested that anyone with ideas for sketches should contact Shirley King.

Eric presented the traditional gift to Val Dromgoole, who had recently retired as the Rummikubs 2 group leader.

Eric went on to say that the candidate nomination period for next year's committee starts today. Roger Barkley and Irene Charlesworth had volunteered to be election auditors again. Irene has nomination forms for anyone who may be itching to share the fun of being a committee member.

Yvonne Brown, president of the Benitachell Bowls Club was invited to publicise their Autumn fair, to be held at the club on Sunday 22nd October.

There were 33 new members and 4 renewals today, taking the membership to circa 1400 – an amazing result at this time of the year.

Treasurer's Report

Mick said that there would be no joke today as a mark of respect for Ken Robinson. He reported that figures are good, as (even after his absolutely superb summer holiday) we are currently holding €35,453 and we owe 40.... no, we are holding for travel etc. €18,654 so it can be seen that the balance is positive and the end-of-year projection is good. Mick had nothing more to report.

Eric then introduced our:-

Guest Speaker, Peter Davies – Bill Gates, Steve Jobs and Me

Peter gave a fascinating insight of life at the top in the technology sector, based on his experiences as a company lawyer dealing with Microsoft and Apple, amongst others. Peter finished with a few examples of barrister courtroom gaffes, culminating with a defendant who was representing himself questioning a witness - "Did you get a good look at my face when I stole your handbag".

Thanks

Eric thanked Peter for his talk, and presented him with a gift of (Eric's favourite) wine and also thanked everyone for coming.

The meeting closed at 12:11 pm

Proposed by (print name) HEATHER MATIBURY Signed Hf Matibury

Seconded by (print name) JONN HILLS Signed JHills

President [Signature] Secretary RFBrown

Asociación Social de la Tercera Edad de Jávea

Minutes of General Assembly Meeting 25th October 2017

Committee Present:

President: Eric Atkins
Vice President Guy Marriott
Secretary: Roy Brown
Treasurer: Mick Cox
Groups Coordinator: Karen White
Membership Secretary Sheila Giacomelli

Apologies

Communications Officer Ian Rogerson

Location:

Parador, Jávea Arenal

The meeting commenced at 11.00am

Welcome

Following a small hiatus whilst the general hubbub died away, Eric welcomed everyone, and immediately got down to business by noting that the only committee apology today was Ian, the communications officer. He then went on to a bit of special business - Pat and Eric Johnson are retiring in December after 10 years of running the "dine and dance" group and Eric gave a small advanced presentation for them today, as this meeting is the last opportunity because of the special nature of November's meeting. David and Anne Watts will be taking over the group in the New Year.

Eric then mounted the podium to raucous cheers from the assembly, saying he was obliged to do so as there had been complaints he could not be seen when standing on the floor. He commented that there was dubious pleasure to be had from this, both on his part and that of the assembly.

Eric pointed out that Roger Dawes was in the hall selling poppies for Remembrance Day, and that there was a British Legion dance in the Parador on 30th November. Roy also commented that there was a remembrance service in the Anglican Church in Moraira on Saturday 11th at 5:00 pm.

Eric asked if everyone had read the minutes. After a pregnant pause everyone agreed that they had. As there were no objections or amendments the traditional "volunteers" were called into service, this month Heather Maybury and Joan Hills, to sign off the minutes which were thus duly approved.

Eric advised that the November meeting would be the last opportunity to register nomination as a candidate for any of the 6 executive positions on the U3A committee, and that competition would be welcomed. (He did suggest that to liven things up a bit one could secretly nominate a member without their knowledge)

President's Report

Eric extended a huge thankyou to the volunteers and group leaders who had been once again working flat out.

We have nearly 70 groups now and as the membership is constantly increasing new groups are welcome. All that is needed is to contact Karen, the groups coordinator with a proposal and we will support you in the start-up. Three new groups have been started recently.

The chiringuitas have gone, sadly, but the town is full this week because of the "all souls day" fiesta observed by most of the Spanish population in homage to their departed relatives. When this is over they all go home and we have Jávea to ourselves until Christmas (cheers).

Announcements

We are seeking sponsors for the Camino de Santiago walks. All sponsorship money will go to the "Make a Smile" charity. The first walk (stage 1 – Javea Port to Jesus Pobre) has been completed. Further walks this year are planned for the 8th & 22nd of November and the 6th of December.

The next U3A Quiz night is on 16th November

The history group have a presentation on 14th November by Alan Oliver on "The Vikings"

Peter Atkinson is giving a talk on Galicia at the JP studios on 10th November entitled "A tour of Spain's wet green far corner" on behalf of the Anglican Chaplaincy. For €10 you get a glass of cava plus a finger buffet lunch including wine and beer.

Jávea Players latest production "on Golden Pond" runs in the Gata "Union Musical" theatre from 7th – 11th November.

The gentle exercise group have been kicked out of Carol's kitchen and are now looking for a suitable venue in the Port.

There were 24 new members and 5 renewals today, taking the membership over 1400 – an amazing result for October.

Treasurer's Report

All is well with the accounts. We are currently €7052 ahead of budget with a bank balance of €17842.

The mandatory joke involved a talking horse and a frying pan.

Eric then introduced our:-

Guest Speaker, Duncan Campbell, crime reporter and novelist

Duncan spoke with great knowledge and authority about the public fascination with both fictional and real crimes. Duncan finished by reminding us that there are a lot of retired policemen to be found in this area, but also a lot of retired criminals, and invited anyone present in the latter category who wishes to identify themselves.....

As a final pun Duncan related a tale of conversations he had had with two infamous bank robbers. He interviewed Bobby King and found him reading Virginia Woolfe's "To the lighthouse". He later mentioned this in an interview with another bank robber who without hesitation remarked "not her best".

Thanks

Eric thanked Duncan for his talk, presented him with a gift of Côte de Provence wine (acquired totally legally) and thanked everyone for coming.

The meeting closed at 11:58 am

Proposed by (print name)	<i>Kevin Sheehan</i>	Signed	<i>Kevin Sheehan</i>
Seconded by (print name)	<i>JANETTE McLEWACH PRINCE</i>	Signed	<i>Jan Prince</i>
President	<i>[Signature]</i>	Secretary	<i>[Signature]</i>