



**MINUTES of U3A AXARQUIA GENERAL MEETING on 19 February 2016
Held at the Parquesol Restaurant/Bar, El Morche at 11.30 am.**

Present:	Andrew Boulton	President
	Roland Gillett	Vice President
	Andrew Henbest	Treasurer
	Helen Boulton	Registration Secretary and Venue & Events Manager
	Gerry Silwood	Members' Representative
	Linda Henbest	Secretary
Apologies for	David Galloway	Web Master
Absence:		

The meeting opened at 11.30 am.

The President, Andrew Boulton, welcomed everyone to the February General Meeting of the U3A Axarquia and thanked everybody for attending and had the following report:

The U3A Axarquia has been up and running since 2009 and continues to flourish. We now have 24 active groups and approximately 170 members. Any ideas for new groups are always welcome and can be discussed with the Committee.

All the group reports will be posted on our website after this meeting so members can get a full idea of what each group does. Many thanks to all the group leaders for their sterling efforts.

Unfortunately 3 of our members have passed away. Beryl Hollinrake, Group Leader and founder of the Painting Group and previously Secretary to our Group, Peter Goreham who was an active member of the Torre Petanque Group and Harry Jackson who was a member of the Painting Group. Our thoughts go out to Brian, Christine and Norma, their respective spouses.

We now have reports from committee members. This will be followed by a report from Adrian Wilkinson about the forthcoming Showcase event, scheduled for April 22.

1. MINUTES OF THE LAST GENERAL MEETING

These were accepted, as read. Proposed by Terry Brady; seconded by Norma Masip.

2. ANY OLD BUSINESS

Roger Martinez again brought up the point that strictly speaking we only need one General Meeting and an Annual General Meeting each year. All administrative business can be dealt with at these meetings and any other meetings we hold can be used to promote the U3A. This was unanimously agreed and seconded by Terry Brady.

3. ANY NEW BUSINESS

It was advised that in a letter sent out to members asking them to access the U3A website via a link in the letter, this link was not working properly as it led to the old U3A website which is now defunct. The members were advised that this matter will come up later in the meeting together with other website matters.

4. GROUP LEADERS' REPORTS

These all now appear on the website for members to peruse.

5. STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS FROM THE TREASURER

AH reported on the Balance Sheet for the period 18.09.2015 to 18.02.2016. Total assets amount to €5,103.74. There were no liabilities and therefore total equity amounted to €5,103.74. In the Profit and Loss Statement for the same period, AH reported Total income of €739.00, Total expenses of €50.80, making a Total profit for the period of €688.20.

6. WEB MASTER'S REPORT

The Webmaster had sent his apologies but not his report.

7. MEMBERS' REPRESENTATIVE STATEMENT

Nothing to report.

8. VACANCIES ON THE COMMITTEE

JG has resigned from this position. It was decided that the position did not merit a full time person and any problems encountered by Group Leaders or the setting up of new Groups could be dealt with by the Committee.

It was announced that DG, the Webmaster, would not be continuing in his role after May. It is therefore essential that we have a volunteer to take over from him. There will be an e-mail sent to the membership advising exactly what the position entails.

If there are no volunteers, plan B is to ask a friend of AB and HB (Nigel) to look through the website and point out what is required to be done and liaise with AB and HB or, if a member does come forward but needs advising in the first instance, then he would liaise with them and keep in the background pointing them in the

right direction and helping them to make amendments. Nigel is a professional webmaster; he would not be a member of U3A and we would have to agree a fee with him. It was agreed to keep the website in its present format but get it updated so that it is correct.

The point was made about confidentiality and what information exactly Nigel, not being a member of U3A, would have access to. If it were the case that Nigel was given access to the website and database for updating purposes then it would be made clear to him and he would sign to the effect that everything he saw would be on a strictly confidential basis. In any case, it was thought that being a professional he would be bound by law to keep matters confidential.

9. OPEN MEETING ON 22 APRIL 2016

An open meeting to attract new members is to be held on 22 April 2016. AB showed to the meeting the flyers Adrian Wilkinson (AW) had prepared. AW has the expertise and had kindly offered to help with this U3A Showcase. AW had also prepared the following note to the membership, explaining and outlining how the day would be run:

Good morning,

I am sorry that I can't be with you, but a last minute call to attend my Doctors surgery has had to take priority.

On Friday 22nd April this year U3A Axarquia will be holding 'The Showcase' where we will be inviting members of the public to come along & find out more about what we do, and talk to us about the various Groups that we have & that they might want to join.

The event will be held here at Parquesol from 11am to 3pm, and we are hoping that each of our Groups will be available to talk to people & display or demonstrate what their Group does & encourage people to join.

Each group will be allocated a space, where they can 'set-up' their wares. Tables & chairs will be available, or you can just make your own use of the empty space you are allocated in your own way.

What we want is as much 'action' as possible, certainly not the usual two people sitting behind a table doing their knitting!! (unless of course you are the Knitting Group!!).

There will be a cash bar facility & tapas (free!!) will be served during the day to encourage people to come along.

We are getting coverage in the forthcoming March & April English language magazines that publish along the coast, and some of you may have seen the article in last week's Euro Weekly News about the event.

There is a poster available to advertise the event, which I can email to you and hope that you will get it displayed in as many of your local shops, bars etc. to promote the event. You might also want to put one of the small posters in the window of your car, so that when you are parked up, people can see it and then attend.

There is a Facebook page for the event - www.facebook.com/u3aaxarquia - and people can sign up to say they hope to attend at - www.facebook.com/events/1517001561927955/.

There is also an email address to get more information or ask any questions at – u3atheshowcase@gmail.com

So, if you are a Group Leader you need to be thinking about what you are going to do on the day, and how to involve your Group members, and if you are a member of a Group, you need to be asking your Group Leader what you can do to help on the day.

If anyone wants any more information or wants a copy of the poster to run off on their printer, then I can be contacted on – u3atheshowcase@gmail.com – or by telephone on 952 516 152 or 618 640 128.

Finally, let's all work together on this event to make U3A Axarquia known to as many people as possible – not to get involved is NOT an option!!

Again, apologies for not being with you, and thanks to Andrew for reading this out to you on my behalf.

Adrian Wilkinson

AB then informed the meeting that Group Leaders should attend from 10.00 am and please remember to bring New Member Joining Forms with them in case anybody wishes to join there and then.

Three points were made by members:

- a) Is the word "University" in the title of the flyer offputting to people?
- b) Should there be a photograph or two of people enjoying themselves in their Groups; and
- c) The typo in "Art Appreciation" – ie there should only be 2 p's.

RG thought we should leave the flyer as it is for now and this was agreed.

LH should write to AW pointing out the typo.

AB passed a vote of thanks to AW in his absence for all his hard work in producing the flyer and his efforts in organising the Showcase.

10.ANY OTHER BUSINESS

1. Terry Brady announced he had recently visited the Caminito del Rey and wondered whether a combined Torre/Competa visit could be arranged there before April as it was due to become more expensive after that date. AH commented that tickets were difficult to come by due to hotels/travel agents buying tickets in large blocks.
2. There has been a growing amount of money in the kitty over recent months and members were asked what they would like to be done with it. HB said we cannot give it to charity as this would have had to be included in our constitution when the U3A was first set up. After some discussion, it was agreed that the joining fee for new members would be abolished with immediate effect. The 5 new members this year would be refunded. The subscription for a new member

would be €12 in January, reducing by €1 per month throughout the year, as is the case at present. The renewal subscription for existing members would remain at €6. The abolishing of the joining fee was proposed by Terry Brady and seconded by Marianne Cottier-Brown. The subscription rates for both new and existing members was proposed by LH and seconded by Michael Cottier-Brown.

3. First Aid Course – to be discussed at the next AGM. Should a speaker come in to give a general talk on first aid?
4. Notices of deaths within the U3A – AB had passed on the sad news of 3 of our members' recent deaths in his opening address and it was felt that we need a policy for dealing with this to take account of nearest relatives' wishes and the need for friends/acquaintances within the U3A to be informed of their passing away. The members were asked if they thought a quarterly obituary on the website would be the most appropriate way of passing on the information. In this way, people would be informed in a fairly timely manner without having to give details of the funeral time, place etc just in case families did not want lots of people attending. An e-mail would be sent to all members asking if anybody objects to this way of dealing with the matter.

11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be the AGM on 20 May 2016.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 12:55.