

**MINUTES OF A HELP MMM GENERAL MEETING ON TUESDAY THE
12TH JANUARY 2010 AT THE BIBLIOTECA (CCSMU)**

Apologies: Angie Carmichael, Vic & Doreen Hibbs, Marion & Stanley Finister, Lynda Buck, Sonia Cull, Megan Johnston, Eric Brew, Christine & Graham Travis.

The Minutes of the November 10th 2009 General Meeting were distributed and read by the members present, they were accepted as a true record, proposed by Sandy Saunders and seconded by Bill Saunders.

Matters Arising:

The new committee post etc. will be dealt with later in the meeting.

Gerry Sherry our new Press Officer is doing a wonderful job, many thanks to him.

New Members:

We have four new members, David & Susan Lundy, Balsicas. Carol Bent-Marshall, Los Belones. Rick Mulvany, Santiago de la Ribera. None of these new members were present at the meeting.

We still need office volunteers urgently.

President's Report:

Elaine advised the members for anybody not aware, our Assistant Treasurer, Adrian Bergamasco collapsed and died of a heart attack on Christmas Day. Adrian was a reliable and very well liked gentleman and will be sadly missed by us all.

The Car Boot sales on a Wednesday and Saturday at the Autocine have now been stopped by the Town Hall, we are hoping that we can have a stall on Fridays sometime in March but this is not definite.

When we had the normal three day weekly sales the income in November was €1876.22c but in December when we only had four Sundays we raised €526.33c. This means that we have lost 1/3 of our normal income. This money was needed to cover day-to-day running costs which include, office rent, electric, telephone, water, photocopier, etc. Expenses must be cut down wherever possible. We have 2 years of our office lease to run and it's most unlikely that the rent will stay as it is at the moment, we can expect a rise of at least €600 per month after that time.

On a more optimistic note, the Sunday Car Boot sales are up slightly.

We need larger premises and if possible incorporate a charity shop, but the expenses would of course be bigger. Maggie, Brian and Elaine will be meeting to work out a strategy which needs doing as soon as possible. We need our cash reserves for our future plans. Have the membership any suggestions or ideas.

We had a suggestion from Marion and Stanley Finister to charge our members €2 each when they attend a meeting, but the committee decided against this because when we asked for a donation for the magazine we were left with a lot of them.

Diane Dutton mentioned all the empty shops along the road coming off the motorway at Los Alcazares, Maggie Milne asked why didn't we ask the Council if they could help us and Sheila Merrett suggested the Cajamurcia Bank who have a lot of properties on their hands.

Treasurer's Report:

Eric Brew is now back on board and has compiled a report up to 31.12.2009 which is attached herewith. Unfortunately, Eric has had to attend the hospital for a check-up today. Norman Young proposed a vote of thanks to Eric for carrying on through his health troubles.

Office Update:

We have done nothing with the computer side of the office and we have only one fully operational computer. If anyone knows of a tower in good condition we would be glad of it.

The Savings Fund for the Spring 2011 Ball is now up and running, anyone wishing to join see Eileen or Elaine. The Constitution is still on target to report back for any alterations required.

Eileen has expenses owing to our volunteers here at the meeting.

Cancer Support Group:

Auction goods are required. The group have notified where their good causes money is being donated.

Caring Services:

Diane has been away for her Christmas holiday. Thelma told the meeting that the hospital visiting has been very quiet over Christmas and New Year mainly because Los Arcos have been admitting emergency patients only. Christine and Graham Travis have given up visiting Vilademar because they only have English speaking dementia patients there at the moment and talking to them apparently disturbs them. This home does not inform us when they have an English speaking patient admitted. We still require hospital visiting volunteers.

Fundraising:

Joan told the meeting that if and when we have a Friday spot on the Market, Gordon will be in charge of the stall, instead of Wednesdays. Janice Clark and Bernard Ash will run the Sunday Car Boot Stall as they have been doing. Bernard Ash is now a Fundraising Committee member.

Race Night at Bar Vitto in El Mojon on Monday 25th January, The tickets at €10 each includes a meal of chicken and chips. This Bar is running the charity night on our behalf and all the proceeds will go to HELP.

Thursday the 25th March Chris Hulme is organizing a Golf Tournament along with Café Golf of San Javier, details will be given at the February meeting.

Diane Dutton is organizing a Karaoke Night at the New Yorker Bar in February/March, details to follow.

On Thursday March 11th there will be a "Quiz with a Difference" at the Olympia Restaurant in Mil Palmeras, Tickets are €10 each and include chicken and chips. 7.00pm for 7.30pm start.

Joan is trying to sort out the collecting tins, Pat Brooke has compiled a list for her and this includes Mrs. Holyhead and Pat & John Walker who have collecting tins but nobody seemed to know them.

Joan brought some tins to the meeting and asked if anybody would take one to a nearby bar and be responsible for collecting the money every month or so. Two members agreed to do this.

Friendship Group:

We had sold 26 tickets for this event on the 19th/20th January, but unfortunately two friends of Sandy and Bill Saunders ordered tickets and are not able to get back from the UK in time, so there will be only 24 taking part. The hotel are charging a cancellation fee for these two tickets.

On Thursday the 11th February there will be an afternoon Beetle Drive in Dicey Riley's' Bar at Horadada. Tickets are €6 each and include a fish & chips lunch. The venue can only accommodate 40 persons.

We are hoping to arrange a trip to Alcantrillo and Archena Baths in March, this will be a full day event. More details at a later date.

Ceramics Painting – Janice can't get hold of Dorothy at the moment, but will inform us when she has managed to arrange things.

At the meeting on Friday the 29th January, Bernard has compiled a fun quiz for us. We are looking at a possible Shopping Trip to Murcia in May, further details later.

A.G.M. Details:

At the March A.G.M. we will have two positions vacant. These are the Vice President and a Committee Member to be responsible for Press and Publicity. We do not need a CV, but a letter of application outlining any experience you may have to offer. The closing date for applications is Monday, February 22nd 2010. The Annual General Meeting will be on Tuesday March 9th 2010 with the normal monthly meeting following.

Any other Business:

In December last year Barbara composed a letter of thanks to all the papers and magazines who had kindly advertised our events for us. Gerry sent this to all the papers and we have had a reply from Sol Productions TV who didn't know what work we did and have asked us to send a representative to be interviewed for their TV charities programme. Elaine has volunteered to go tomorrow the 13th January at Los Montesinas to answer the questions they will put to her. The raffle raised €40.

The speaker today was from "Students for Europe". The lady was asking for people to open their homes to young students from 18 years who wish to learn English.

The meeting finished at 1.40pm and 12 members stayed for lunch. The next meeting will be on Tuesday the 9th February 2010 at 11.30pm for 12.00pm.

Signed..... President

..... Secretary

