



December 2023

Dear Members,

What a fantastic Christmas Party we had after the formal part of the General Assembly. I was impressed with the dedication of members with all that was involved to create such a wonderful event. We sang our way through the party with guest soloists, Lets Sing Together and a musical quiz and a 'Closest To' thought provoking question.

So many had made a real effort to get into the Christmas Spirit with hats and costumes. The food spread was unbelievable and everyone left the assembly feeling very Christmassy.

On a business note we are preparing for the 2024 Committee and are working with our web provider and newsletter editor to make the website and Face Book interlink, easier to use and further improve our communications and attract new members.

Have a good Christmas with your friends and family,
and see you all in the New Year.

Bob





December 2023



MEMBERSHIP MESSAGE

Having just collected the Membership cards for 2024, it has reminded me that I need to let you know the arrangements for renewal in 2024. You can renew at the General Assemblies in January, February and March at the Polivalent in Murla. In addition, we will be holding Satellite Renewal Sessions at the following provisional times and places :

Monday, 22 January – Casa Claudia, Jalon

Wednesday 14 February – Citrus Bar, Orba

Tuesday, 19 March – JVA Animo Centre, Centro Civica, Alcalali

All sessions will run from 11.00am until 12.30pm

Alternatively, you can always renew through bank transfer, details of which can be found on the website. Please remember to include your Membership number(s) in the reference section. Also, as a reminder, any transfer made from a UK bank account into the U3A Spanish Account will incur a fee of at least €15, which will have to be charged back to the member. The renewal fee remains at €7 and the fee for new members remains at €12.

Please note that these dates, venues and times are provisional and any necessary alteration will be notified on the website, so keep your eyes peeled!!

The window for renewals will close on 31 March 2024. If you have not renewed by this time then, unfortunately, you will need to re-join if you want to continue being a member of the U3A Vall del Pop.

So, that's all the official stuff out of the way and it only remains for me to wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year.

Barbara Bentley
Membership Secretary





December 2023

Benidorm Palace

U3A Vall del Pop – Fun..tastic Evening at Benidorm Palace

On Sunday 19th November a coach full of U3A members travelled from Jalon to Benidorm Palace, to watch the ELO tribute concert.

There was a full house at Benidorm Palace, with all the tickets sold, for their one-night ELO Tribute show and the audience was ready for a night of music from the 80's.

From the opening song, they really lit up the place and received a wonderfully enthusiastic reception.

The vocalist and the rest of the band were absolutely brilliant and the hours of rehearsal ensured us a wonderful show of songs, which brought memories from shows and dances from our youth, or perhaps our “prime” years . The lady who played the violin was truly amazing and she got tremendous applause and standing ovation when she sung the operatic song “Rockaria”.



The hits kept coming thick and fast and some of the songs they played were Mr. Blue Sky, Living Thing, Confusion, Don't bring Me Down and when they started singing the song Telephone Line everyone switched on their mobile phone lights and waved them in the air. Magical.

The final song Rollover Beethoven had everybody singing and dancing in the aisle, including me and the other U3A members. It was an ecstatic evening for everyone.

A big thanks for Sonia Higginson who organized this event. Hopefully there will be another night at Benidorm palace in the Spring – can't wait.
Geraldine Beaver



December 2023

Christmas Shopping Trip

The big decision to make is whether to shop early for Christmas, and so miss the crowds, but risk your wife/family forgetting that you bought her/their Christmas present in November!! So having decided on shopping early, on Wednesday 29th November a coach full of U3A members travelled from Jalon to La Zenia, Torrevieja, shopping centre. For my annual shopping trip La Zenia was perfect, a collection of all the necessary shops in an open-air setting rather than the closed controlled environment of most shopping malls. On a beautiful sunny morning the carols were already playing when we arrived, but people were queuing to buy ice cream – strange, as a Brit ice cream/sunshine does not seem appropriate with Christmas.



So we dive in and start searching for that amazing gift that hopefully the recipient will enjoy and make good use of. By the second lap, on the basis you need to see everything before you buy anything, finally we start to identify what we should be getting. Many of our fellow U3A members are already carrying shopping bags of goodies – what are we doing wrong! After a couple of hours of searching my stamina is dropping when I hear the magic words – lunch.

Suitably replete and rested we are off again for the final two hours of action shopping before we head home. This time I found an interesting book shop and I was lured into Primark to get my new winter gardening clothes – my wife knows how to keep me motivated!! We round the visit off with a Starbuck's coffee before the team photo and the coach ride back to Jalon. By the number of bags stored in the baggage compartment of the coach we had all had a successful day's shopping.

Our thanks to Carol who had organised this trip as her first event as a new TCET member. Well done – where are we going next?

For me my shopping is over for another year – it's a tough life!!

Peter Sockett





December 2023

Christmas Glitz and Glamour Dinner

What a glitzy, glamorous night we had at the U3A Vall del Pop Christmas dinner and dance. This took place on Sunday 3rd December at the beautiful Vall del Pop restaurant in Lliber. If you haven't been there yet you are missing a treat, if you have you will know how special it is. It is worth a daytime visit to take in the stunning views as well as the delicious food.

We had the venue to ourselves and it was tastefully decorated for Christmas and lovely and warm and cosy.



Feliz Navidad



70 members were welcomed with a drink of their choice from the bar followed by a superb 4 course meal of 2 starters (yes, 2!), a choice of main course and dessert and accompanied by delicious wines which were generously unlimited. I lost count of the number of times my glass was refilled!!

Entertainment was provided by a duo, Forever Young, and many people took to the dance floor after dinner enjoying well known songs from our eras.

Sonia outdid herself with a variety of stunning lit hampers as raffle prizes. They really are incredibly generous prizes and the result of a lot of hard work on her part and much appreciated and enjoyed by the winners.

The feedback from the evening has been fantastic with many people loving the venue, the food, the service and the delightful staff and we are delighted everyone had such a great time. Sonia and I enjoyed making it happen and we wish everyone a Very Merry Christmas.





December 2023

Wreath Making

U3A Vall del Pop Christmas wreath making afternoon with cava and cake

What a lovely way to spend a Tuesday afternoon in December drinking cava, eating delicious scones and cakes and enjoying the incredibly talented Christine Brazier showing us how to make stunning floral arrangements for Christmas.



If you have seen Christine demonstrating her skill before you will know how easy she makes it look. Just take some greenery, some of which she had foraged locally, add a few flowers and candles and there you have a stunning door wreath or table centrepiece in a few minutes. Hmmmmn!! Not sure it's quite that easy but I'll give it a try! She certainly gave us lots of ideas and had us searching on line for oasis rings straight away!

Christine very generously donated all the arrangements she made as raffle prizes so 6 lucky members took home a beautiful Christmas floral arrangement.

In addition Marion held a raffle so there was no shortage of winners.

Our very own talented florist, Sally Ellis, had prepared some beautiful Christmas sprays which were available to buy. We have so much talent in U3A.

Thank you to everyone who supported the event and those who helped to host it. It raised the fabulous sum of 301euros for Goodwill Team.

We wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a happy and healthy new year.

Goodwill Team





December 2023



The OK band and U3A Goodwill team invite you to a fabulous musical charity fundraiser picnic party.
If you haven't heard the OK band before you are in for a treat!
Wear your dancing shoes! You won't want to miss this!!!!

Bring your own picnic.

A cash bar serving wines, beers and soft drinks is available.

Homemade cakes and sausage rolls will be available to purchase to top up your picnic.
There will also be a super raffle.

Saturday 20th January 2024
1300 – 1700

At the OK corral, Cami Benimallunt 68c, Partida Benimallunt, Benissa 03720
(the band's rehearsal studio and home)
10 Euros per person

Directions: take the CV750 from Jalon towards Benissa.

At the first roundabout turn right onto CV749 signed Pinos.

In approx 800 metres take small left turn.

It will be signed 68c OK. Look out for signs.

Follow signs to bottom of the hill. Parking on site.

The event is inside (so no problems re the weather) and tables and chairs are provided.

ALL proceeds from ticket sales and bar profits are donated to Goodwill team to support local charities.

Tickets available at coffee mornings and General Assemblies. Don't miss out!



December 2023

Wine & Cheese Call My Bluff

Gaberlunzie



Cockalorum

Wednesday 21st February 2024

7pm Pensionistas, Xalo

12 Euros



Book with a member of the Goodwill Team
goodwillevents2@gmail.com



December 2023

GROUP ACTIVITIES

Our activity groups meet regularly to pursue common interests, and most of them have room for extra members. You can learn new skills or brush up on old ones, and it's a great way of making new friends!

New Year, New Activity

Contact group leader to find our start date in 2024

If you lead a group and would like to be featured in a future Newsletter please contact Linda, Editor, at U3avalldelpopnewsletter@gmail.com. Updates of activities always welcome and deadline for next publication is 15th January 2024 for distribution on 22nd January 2024

Please find below and on the following pages current activities and groups with contact details to find out more information about when they meet and cost etc.

Come along and make new friends!

	Activity	Contact
	Allotment - We have a large 6m x18m allotment in Jalon. It is ready to go, having been ploughed. There is a shed and water on site.	SUE HARVEY & BRIGID REDMOND brigred4119@gmail.com
	Ballroom, Latin & Sequence Dancing - Whatever your level of fitness, ballroom dancing is a great way to exercise and meet new friends.	Duncan Thompson foskett54@btinternet.com Telephone: 634 33 46 89
	Bridge - The aim of this group is to provide an opportunity for people to play bridge in a relaxed and friendly atmosphere.	Wendy Sim wendy.sim1@hotmail.com Telephone: 711090516
	Canasta - The Canasta group is now up and running. New members would be very welcome to join us.	Mary Wood marywoodspain@gmail.com Telephone: 675 674 301

NEWSLETTER

U3a
Vall del Pop



December 2023

	Activity	Contact
	Card Making - We are a group who enjoy crafting and, in particular, creating beautiful greetings cards.	Carole Marten & Dee Adkins Dadkins1953@yahoo.co.uk Cvicary2@gmail.com
	Chess - New group starting soon. Contact Ray for further information.	RAY PIERROT raypierrot@btinternet.com
	Cinema - We aim to show a wide range of films in English. We ask for a contribution of €2 per visit. This will go towards annual licence and purchase of DVDs.	CHRISTINE BRAZIER justnanny@live.co.uk
	Digital Photography - We are now operating very definitely as a peer group with members bringing their skills and ideas to share with one another.	DAVID BROCK Davidandeileen50@yahoo.co.uk Telephone: 606 995 919
	Dining Experience - We visit different restaurants mostly within the valley. Members can recommend an old favourite that they enjoy.	DIANE HOLMES ondrakiri@yahoo.com
	Dru Yoga - A gentle but powerful workout. It calms and reduces stress, improves focus, physical strength, balance and energy.	SALLY MILLANE Sallysunshine436@gmail.com
	Game Addicts - We are a group that likes to keep those grey cells active, and pride ourselves on being a friendly, light hearted crowd.	GORDON RODMAN boneinjalon@gmail.com Telephone: 693 725 199
	Keep Fit - Warm up, low impact exercises, body toning, stretching and a relaxing cool down	JACINTHA HOOGEWERF familiehoogewerf@gmail.com
	Ladies At Lunch - We want to 'spread the wealth' so we plan these lunches at a variety of restaurants across our region.	SALLY ELLIS, LIZ MILLER SANDRA WELHAM, U3aladieslunch@gmail.com
	Let's Sing Together...For Fun - Love to sing anywhere, any place, when a tune pops into your head. We sing songs that we enjoy, are fun and lifts our spirits.	SANDRA WELHAM Sandra.m.welham@gmail.com



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	Activity	Contact
	Men Who Munch - What happens at "Men Who Munch" stays at "Men Who Munch" Come on Guys, join in with our get togethers at various local bars or restaurants.	GORDON SIM Thomassim007@gmail.com
	Mixed Media & Art - The group welcomes absolute beginners to the more experienced artists looking for a few hours to concentrate on a project.	CHRIS SINCLAIR Sinclairchristine72@gmail.com
	Mosaic 1 - We create decorative mosaics using glass and ceramics.	LIZ WILLIAMS Lizwilliams2008@live.co.uk Telephone: 684116089
	Mosaic 2 - We create decorative mosaics using glass and ceramics.	SUE WILLIS suewillis2@hotmail.com MONIQUE LECKIE monileck@aol.com ANNESLEY SINCLAIR annesleysinclair@gmail.com Telephone: 965730605
	Open Forum	
	Petanque	GERRY BACON Gerard.bacon@yahoo.com Telephone: 600 652 821
	Spanish Conversation - An opportunity to practise Spanish you have learnt in a casual conversation. Beginner, expert, or somewhere in between?	HEIDI MORGAN Mikeheidi123@gmail.com
	Spanish Lessons - The tuition is informal, in English, with plenty of opportunities for conversation and gaining confidence in a friendly and relaxed group.	CARMEN carmenmasfemenia@gmail.com
	Walking Groups - Make friends with others who enjoy exploring the excellent hill, valley and coastal walks. When possible we visit a local bar for refreshments.	JAN AND PAUL LENISTON pauleniston@hotmail.com Telephone: 651 633 198
	Yarn & Thread - Anything to do with yarn and thread is welcome.	LORNA BOTTEN lornabotten@gmail.com Telephone: 96 558 3484