

Minutes of the u3a Vall del Pop General Assembly and Annual General Meeting held on Thursday 5th March 2026

Venue: Polivalent, Murla.

1. Introduction

Chris was delighted to welcome 82 members to the March General Assembly and our Annual General Meeting having called the AGM 30 minutes beforehand. He was especially grateful that so many people attended despite the torrential rain.

He reminded members of the evacuation points in the event of an incident and thanked everyone for attending and the committee and helpers who had set up the venue, and Sally and Peter Ellis who saved the day by very kindly cooking the sausage rolls after Paula and his oven decided to stop working that morning!

Chris also thanked Sheanagh Mc Mahon and Sue Holley who had very kindly stepped into the breach when our planned guest speaker went sick and agreed to tell us about their fascinating lives.

Minutes of the General Meeting held on 8th February 2026.

These were agreed as accurate, proposed by Vince O ´Brien and seconded by Rhoda Millington.

2. Matters Arising.

None

3. Correspondence.

We have received a message of thanks from the Red Cross who were our guest speakers in February for the donation made on members' behalf from Goodwill funds. They are keen to work with us and offer support to our members.

Committee reports

Treasurer's report.

Please see attached.

Membership Secretary.

So far Barbara and her team have processed 383 membership renewals for 2026 and 33 new joiners which is great. She reminded members that the absolute cut-off date for renewals is 31st March 2026 after which members will have to rejoin at a cost of 15 euros so please don't delay.

There will be one further satellite renewal opportunity on 19th March at the coffee morning at Blanca bikes, Parcent 11-12

Barbara advised if anyone knows members who are not renewing their membership we would be interested to know why so that we can address any issues.

Groups Coordinator.

In Teresa Tilbook, Groups Coordinator's absence, Chris reminded members of the newly led Dining Experience group which is proving very popular and members who came to lunch at Kathmandu Indian restaurant in Moraira in February really enjoyed it. Please contact secretary@u3avalldelpop.com if you would like to attend future lunches. The Dining Experience Group is looking for a leader or two if anyone would like to run the group.

Chris advised that he and John Wardle will be taking over running the "Men who Munch" group from Gordon Sim who has kindly run it for several years. It will meet monthly and all men are welcome.

Gordon and Wendy Sim will still run the bridge group which now meets at the Cooperativa in Parcent.

The canasta group would welcome new members and they meet at 2pm on Tuesdays at Casa Claudia's in Jalon.

Please note details of all groups can be found on the website [www,u3avalldelpop.com](http://www.u3avalldelpop.com)

Travel and Entertainment.

Travel and Entertainment have an extensive range of trips on offer and being planned for 2026:

Xativa 10th March has places left

Ikea/Bonaire shopping centre 14th April places available

Novelda 12th May places left

An evening jazz cruise 28th July - places left - was a super night last year

Benidorm Palace 10th Oct 2026 to see The Eagles tribute band "Talon" only 1 place left

All are advertised on the website and can be booked at General Assemblies and monthly coffee mornings or by email. Many sell out quickly so don't delay once they are released.

In addition, Travel & Entertainment host the monthly coffee mornings held alternate months at Restobar Quixote, Orba, and Blanca Bikes, Parcent. All start at 11 am. These are a great way to keep in touch and to book and pay for trips. The next one is on Thursday 19th March at Blanca bikes, Parcent.

Goodwill.

On 3rd May we will be holding our Spring fayre/car boot sale on the rastro site in Jalon. All help gratefully received.

Friday 29th May we have an afternoon tea where Judy and Paul Corazzo will be entertaining us. Tickets are on sale for only 15 euros. Selling fast.

Thursday 18th June an evening with The Entertainers at the Polivalent in Murla. Only 10 euros. Bring your own picnic. Buy drinks from our 1 euro bar. Always a fabulous evening.

Friday 26th June a summer bbq with Forever Young entertaining us. Tickets are on sale only 15 euros. Selling fast.

The Friendship and Support Team.

In Brigid Redmond's absence, Chris reminded members of the fortnightly Friendship and Support coffee mornings held at My Mercat in Jalon at which everyone is welcome and are very popular. Relevant information is shared at these regarding health, legal and social issues. Start time is 10.15 and they take place on a Wednesday either side of the monthly coffee mornings i.e. the Wednesday before and after. The next dates is 11th March. These are a great way to socialise and find out useful information.

Members are reminded of the Friendship and Support assistance booklet which signposts available help and support in our community. Many members have advised how useful they find this and have also shared it with non-members, which is fine. It is available on our website www.u3avalldelpop.com under Friendship and Support. We hope to review and update this in due course.

Paula had previously mentioned she had met members recently who could not attend meetings or social events because they don't drive or drive in the dark. She had encouraged anyone to send a message if they require a lift and we will

try and match them up with someone who is willing to take them, or you can contact Jalon Valley Help and ask to use their minibus (if it is available) for medical appointments, but they do have a shortage of drivers. Please consider friends and neighbours who may appreciate the offer of transport. Plus, car sharing is sociable and good for the environment!

We are still collecting unwanted medication for the men's shelter in Gandia along with suitable clothing in good condition and toiletries so please keep donating these.

AOB.

Chris had previously pointed out that the padel court car park next to the Murla school is open for us to use although the gates are kept closed but not locked. Just slide the gate open to park in there. Please don't block the entrance.

Please note:

Both the Travel and Entertainment team and the Goodwill team would welcome new members to help plan and carry out trips and events. We have a lot of fun!

Please come and have a chat if you can help with any of the positions. Your committees need you!

We are always looking for members to take part in our Meet-a- Member slot. 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 5-10 minute fun and entertaining question and answer session, to learn more about the person and their experiences. Please don't be shy. We need volunteers please.

What this initiative has shown us is the range of fascinating things members have been involved in throughout their lives that we may not have been aware of previously. We are in awe!

4. Date of next Meeting

Our next GA will be on Thursday 2nd April 2026 which will be an Easter celebration with delicious homemade cakes on sale, Goodwill will have their preloved table and Graham will be there with his books.

Marian White will be delighted to receive any tombola and raffle prizes. At our Easter meeting we also collect household goods and toiletries for Caritas Murla and Benigembla who distribute them to families in need in the community. They are grateful for anything you can donate.

Our guest speakers will be Katherine and Don Henderson from EuroGoatTrekking, two good friends of ours, who run wonderful treks locally with their fabulous herd of goats. They tragically were at the centre of the horrendous forest fires that destroyed vast areas near Tarbena last year and have since started working to reforest the area with indigenous trees. They will tell us all about the flora and fauna in the valley and why they choose to work with goats. Sadly, they cannot bring any goats with them but I'm sure they will have photos to share. We walk with them often and they are all adorable! Our grandchildren got to carry baby goats on a trek when they were too young to walk far!

A reminder that Peter Ellis has kindly offered to assist anyone who is unsure how to access information on their phones, tablets or computers and he can give practical help at GAs. Just remember to bring your phone etc!

The formal meeting closed at 11.30am.

Following the AGM which followed on immediately from the General Assembly (see minutes below) Sheena McMahon gave a fascinating and entertaining account of her career as a Human Rights Advocate for women, as an election observer in 15 countries around the world, running women's rights projects in challenging countries and latterly as an interviewer of refugees seeking asylum in Ireland.

Wow. We were in awe and most of us agreed we could not imagine travelling as a lone female to many of the countries Sheena has visited and encountering the corruption she witnessed. We would certainly like to hear more of her stories and we will invite Sheena back very soon.

Sue Holley then regaled us with wonderful stories from her career as a ballerina with the London Festival Ballet and her travels around the world as a dancer. She performed in many famous ballets and in famous venues and worked with well-known people in the world of dance. She touched on her transition after some years to performing in the theatre and we have asked Sue to come back next month to tell us more about this chapter of her life.

Chris commented that in the week of International Women's Day, how impressive and appropriate that we should celebrate the amazing achievements of two of our own international ladies. We are sure many of our members have equally inspiring stories to tell.

Minutes of the u3a Vall del Pop Annual General Meeting held on Thursday 5th March 2026. Venue: Polivalent, Murla.

Note taker: Paula Barrett

Members present: 80

Meeting commenced at 11.30

1. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting March 2025

These minutes were approved as accurate, proposed by Sally Ellis and seconded by Margaret Staines.

2. Matters Arising: none

3. President's Report: Chris Barrett then gave his President's report for the past year. Please see attached.

4. Treasurer's Report. Roger Bentley then presented the Treasurer's report for 2025. Please see attached.

5. Election of new committee for 2026/2027

Chris advised that three members of the committee were stepping down: Paul Corrazzo, Sally and Peter Ellis. Chris thanked them sincerely for all their hard work and support and was delighted they are all willing to continue to help in other ways.

The Secretary, Paula Barrett, then led the process for election of the President for the coming year. Chris Barrett was proposed by Linda Burns and seconded by Phil Burns. This nomination was accepted unanimously and Chris took the chair for the remainder of the meeting.

Chris then asked members present to approve individually the proposed members of the new committee for 2026/2027. He was very grateful that many of the existing members had agreed to remain in position, and he thanked them for their continued hard work and support.

Position Nominee:

Vice-President Vacant

Secretary Paula Barrett

Assistant Secretary/PR Linda Burns

Treasurer Roger Bentley

Membership Secretary Barbara Bentley

Hospitality officer Gerry Bacon

Hospitality officer Mary Bacon
Groups Coordinator Teresa Tillbrook
Travel and Entertainment Carole Wardle
Friendship and Support Coordinator Brigid Redmond
Vocale Christine Rowland
Vocale Shila Skinner
Vocale Christine Brazier
Vocale Chris Wollaston
Vocale Jacintha Hoogewerf
All the above nominees were voted in unanimously.

Meeting closed at 11.55

Signed.....President

Signed.....Secretary

Any members wishing to comment on these minutes, please e-mail the
Secretary, Paula Barrett, at secretary@u3avalldelpop.com