

Minutes of the u3a Vall del Pop General Assembly held on Thursday 5th December 2024

Venue: Polivalent, Murla.

1. Introduction

Chris welcomed 82 members to the Christmas GA, our fun filled Christmas celebration, and thanked Bill White for playing for us.

He reminded us that the focus of last month's GA was the tragic floods in Valencia and was proud of how we had responded as an organisation to provide aid in the way of financial donations, food and essential items and bicycles. A total of 311 bikes left Jesus Pobre for Valencia, 37 of which were donated by members and friends.

Chris also reported we raised over 60 euros last month for the Royal British legion from the sale of poppies.

The focus of today's meeting was to celebrate Christmas. He was delighted with the success of our first ever Christmas fayre on 1st December and was looking forward to our Christmas dinner and dance on Sunday 8th.

Chris thanked everyone for their contributions to the wonderful buffet table which was as full as ever and to everyone who had contributed to the meeting in many ways.

2. Minutes of the General Meeting held on 7th November 2024

These were agreed as accurate, proposed by Gordon Sim and seconded by Sally Ellis.

3. Matters Arising.

Mary Stevens asked if we could accept any more bikes for Valencia. We will ask Project 4 All if they can deliver any for us as the appeal has officially ended.

4. Correspondence.

Paula advised that there had been a few items of correspondence:

She had received several very humbling thank you's in response to the donation of bikes by members to Valencia to help those who lost their mode of transport and also thank you's for the donation of food and essentials. A full write up will appear in the next newsletter.

We have also received lots of positive feedback regarding our Christmas fayre on 1st December from stall holders and visitors which makes the hard work worthwhile!

We received 2 beautiful thank you letters written by the Murla schoolchildren for the trampoline we bought for them, thanks to Pat and Sue who kindly donated it to Make a Smile, and Paula read these out.

5. **Committee reports**

Treasurer's report.

Roger submitted his report to the members in writing. Please find a copy attached.

Roger then presented the 2025 budget for approval which was proposed by Peter Ellis and seconded by Brigid Redmond.

Membership Secretary.

Barbara advised we had finished the year with 489 members which is an increase on the start of the year.

Groups Coordinator.

Teresa advised there is a delay in the allotment group restarting due to works being carried out on site.

The pétanque group has proved so successful it now meets on Wednesdays and Fridays and has a waiting list to join.

Travel and Entertainment.

Paula announced that the La Zenia shopping trip on 27th November was a huge success and very much enjoyed by many.

For 2025 two trips are planned so far and available to book:

A day trip to Valencia on 17th April

A day trip to Port Saplaya on 28th May.

We are delighted to welcome Carol Wardle back who will be leading the Travel and Entertainment team and has some great ideas for trips next year so watch this space. We are meeting next week to discuss so any suggestions are gratefully received.

Paula thanked the team members for all their hard work and commitment and providing some very enjoyable trips.

Goodwill.

The music and supper evening at Pepe's on 12th November in aid of the Valencia flood appeal was a fabulous evening thanks to Paul and Judy who provided the entertainment and Pepe's who looked after us so well. As a result, we raised 725e which will be used to purchase essential items for Valencia under the guidance of Project 4 All who visit twice weekly with aid.

The Christmas fayre and car boot sale on 1st December, the first event of it's kind for us, was a huge success with over 70 stalls, 2 live bands, catering, raffle, tombola, bbq and bar and glorious sunshine. In total we raised 2515e, an amazing achievement thanks to the hard work of the Goodwill team. This will be donated to local charities.

On Sunday 8th December 92 members will celebrate with a dinner and dance at the beautiful Vall de Pop restaurant in Lliber and we are very much looking forward to this. This is not a fundraising event but a non-profit event for members' enjoyment.

On 11th December we are holding a super Christmas floral decoration workshop at the Pensionistas in Jalon, where members can make their own Christmas wreath and table centrepiece. Please book if you are interested as places are limited. This promises to be a super day and thanks to Sally Ellis and Christine Brazier for imparting their skills.

We are delighted to advise that in 2024 we have raised so far 12,619.91 euros, an extraordinary amount thanks to the generosity and support of members and the hard work the team have put in.

Some has already been spent:

2500e was donated to Cancer Care Javea

373.35e was Goodwill's contribution to the hospital bed purchased with Caixa bank's gift of 1000e

365e was spent on essentials for Valencia in the 1st week after the floods

100e on the trampoline for Murla school

965.70 is in hand to spend for Valencia (proceeds from the evening at Pepe's and November's GA)

8000e will be shared amongst the 5 registered valley charities: ARC, Jalon search and rescue team, PAWS, Jalon Valley Help and Caring for Cats, the Alzheimers support centre in Teulada, a school in Javea for children with autism, the Volunteer bomberos, Project 4 All for the homeless and the Childrens' home in Benissa via Make a Smile.

In total 13 charities and organisations will benefit and we are so grateful to everyone who helped to make this possible.

Plans for events for 2025 are underway to hopefully include the following:

- A Spring car boot sale in April
- A summer Party in the Park with The Entertainers in June
- An afternoon tea with music
- A summer bbq
- Christmas fayre/car boot sale

For now we need a rest! Paula thanked all members of the Goodwill team for their amazing contribution this year.

Chris commented that not only have we raised the most this year that Goodwill has ever raised, but we have facilitated other charities to raise funds through

providing free stalls at our car boot and craft fayres. He stated he is proud that we work closely with and support other charities to everyone's benefit.

The Friendship and Support Team

Brigid explained this has been a busy year as more members have needed help and support.

She advised that the 2 weekly coffee mornings at My Mercat in Jalon are proving very popular.

There will be a Christmas get together on 19th December at La Palmera in Jalon (near Casa Claudia) serving tapas for those who would like to attend. Please contact Brigid for details and price.

Members were reminded to take a copy of the Friendship and Support assistance booklet which signposts available help and support in our community. Chris commented that he sees this as a very useful piece of work and is pleased to have received lots of positive feedback.

AOB.

Shela Skinner passed on thanks from Raquel, the head teacher at Murla school, not only for the trampoline but for all our support. Also Make a Smile offered their thanks for buying the trampoline from them.

Chris thanked everyone for the superb amount of Caritas donations which filled a table. He also thanked Marian for organising a fantastic free raffle with 28 prizes!

Paul lead the singing of happy birthday to John Redmond who celebrates his 94th birthday just before Christmas.

We are looking for members to take part in our Meet a Member slot next year. 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

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6. **Date of next Meeting**

Our next GA will be on Thursday 9th January .

Chris thanked members for attending and the team for their help in organising the meeting. He wished everyone a very happy Christmas and a healthy and peaceful new year and the formal meeting closed.

We then moved on to the fun part of the morning which commenced with singing a few festive songs lead by Paul and the Let's Sing Together singing group with members joining in.

Sally then lead us in a hilarious table rendition of the 12 days of Christmas which was undertaken with great enthusiasm by all!

Margaret Staines serenaded us with 2 wonderful solos of Silent Night and Once in Royal David's City accompanied by Bill White on keyboard. Her beautiful pure voice filled the room and was a joy to listen to.

Members had time to guess the weight of the Christmas cake and guess the number of sweets in the jar throughout the meeting and were then invited to partake of the buffet which was as generous as ever. Cava and orange juice was served and everyone seemed to thoroughly enjoy it.

A lovely surprise was the delivering of a piano at this point in readiness for a carol concert tomorrow evening and the mayor of Murla offered for their pianist to play for us. Margaret Staines and Carol West accompanied him to sing Silent Night.

The winners of the free competitions (Sheila Skinner and Sally Ellis) and table quiz were announced and the raffle was drawn. A prize was also presented to Gillian Woodward for the most festive attire. Congratulations to all winners.

Finally members joined in with the finale songs: Feliz Navidad and We wish you a Merry Christmas and Chris thanked members for attending and wished everyone a very Merry Christmas and a happy New Year.