

NEWSLETTER

u3a
Vall del Pop



December 2024



December 2024

President's Message

December is always a busy time of the year for our Association and this year was no exception. Our first event was the Christmas Fayre in Jalon on 1 December. This annual event has previously been run for many years by ARC, the animal rescue charity. They asked us to take over this year and generously shared their mailing list, signs and other items. When bad weather forced us to cancel the car boot sale planned for October, we decided to combine the two events on the same day. This had not been done before but the combination worked well, and it is likely that we shall do something similar next year.



This time we were blessed with good weather and plenty of people enjoyed the music from Forever Young and the Jukes, Santa's grotto and other activities, the BBQ and a wide range of refreshments. The event was organised by our Goodwill team, and we raised more than Euros 2,500 for their chosen charities. Other charities with their own stalls also reported a very successful day.



NEWSLETTER

u3a
Vall del Pop



December 2024

On 5 December we had our monthly General Assembly followed by the usual Christmas celebration, including carols, Christmas songs, a Christmas themed table quiz, free raffle, free competitions, an appearance by Santa and finally an excellent buffet of the lovely food brought by our members.

The hall in Murla was full and almost everyone arrived in festive attire, creating a lovely atmosphere. Members also contributed generously to our customary collection of items for Caritas, for local people less fortunate than ourselves.



On 8 December we returned for the second year running to the Vall del Pop restaurant in Lliber for our Christmas dinner. This was sold out well in advance with 90 members attending. Once again Elizabeth, Wout and their team served us an excellent dinner in this beautiful setting. Paul and Jude again very kindly provided the music after the dinner and had almost everyone up and dancing. All in all, a perfect evening!

Still to come at the time of writing is the wreath making day on 11 December kindly arranged by Sally Ellis and Christine Brazier. Although we already saw some examples of their creative skills at the General Assembly.

None of these extremely successful events would have been possible without a lot of hard work in advance and on the day. I am therefore very grateful to my fellow Committee members, to Paula and the Goodwill team and to the many other volunteers (too many to name) who work so hard on our behalf. A big thank you also to all the members who attend our events throughout the year. It is your support that makes all the hard work worthwhile!

With my very best wishes for the remainder of the holiday season and the New Year.

Chris



www.u3avalldelpop.com



December 2024

Membership Update

As 2024 rapidly draws to a close, I thought I should update you on Membership matters.

As most of you will be aware, the Committee have had to take the decision to increase fees for 2025 and these will be :

Renewals – Euros 10
New members/re-joiners – Euros 15

The renewal period will be from 1 January to 31 March 2025 and, apart from renewing at the GAs in January, February and March, I am trying to arrange Satellite Renewal Sessions in Jalon in January and Orba in February. There will not be a Satellite Renewal Session in Alcalali in March. Watch out for dates and venues if you wish to avail yourself of this service.

For those of you wishing to pay by bank transfer, could you kindly refrain from doing this until after 1 January, and for those of you who have direct debits/standing orders, please could I ask you to amend the amounts?

It only remains for me to wish you the compliments of the season and a happy, healthy and peaceful New Year.

Barbara Bentley
Membership Secretary



Shirley, Mary and Marian
with Father Christmas
at Salones Carrasco Christmas Fayre
Sunday 3rd November





December 2024

Valencia Fundraiser 12th November 2024

As most of you are aware the u3a Goodwill Team were due to host a Halloween Night at Pepe's Restaurant in Alcalali, on the 31st October. Our President took the call to cancel this event, in respect, of the unfolding tragedy in Valencia.

The Goodwill Team immediately started purchasing emergency items and distributing them through Project for All, to the affected areas of Valencia. However, we thought we could do more and give the members an opportunity to show solidarity with Valencia.

So, within a short space of time, we renegotiated with Pepe's restaurant and booked Judy and Paul for Tuesday, 12th November 2024, and created a fundraising evening For Valencia.



What a fantastic night it was, fifty members, friends and family attending, including the u3a Witches coven, I am pretty sure they cast a spell for a successful evening.

Thanks to Judy and Paul for entertaining us with some great sing a long and dancing tunes.

Helping us all to work off our dinner!

Thanks to the restaurant for their catering, hospitality and donation to the raffle.

A MASSIVE thanks goes to those whom donated and bought raffle tickets an amazing total of 725 euros was raised. I am sure there will be ongoing needs and requirements for Valencia and every cent will be gratefully received. The Goodwill Team will distribute this wisely.

Sally Ellis

www.u3avalldelpop.com



December 2024

Valencia Bike Update

You may be aware we recently responded to an SOS for bikes for Valencia to help those people who have lost everything start to get mobile again. Children needed them to get to school, adults to get to work and volunteers to get around. Over 120,000 cars were destroyed in the floods plus bikes, motorbikes, scooters etc.

When the appeal started there was a waiting list of 300 people. A team had set up a workshop and were ready to fix them up, sort out tyres and gears, oil them and make sure they were safe. They then matched bikes to riders and supplied donated helmets, lights etc.

We asked members and friends to donate any unwanted bikes and, as always, you came up trumps. We hoped to get a few, but Chris and I collected 37 bikes!!!! and delivered them to a halfway house in Jesus Pobre from where vans and lorries took them to Valencia.

The response was amazing and we cannot thank everyone who donated to this very worthy cause enough and also those who spread the word. In total over 311 bikes left Jesus Pobre for Valencia

What an achievement and to think, all were sat in sheds and garages not being ridden! I guess we all had good intentions but age and health decreed otherwise!

I wanted to share just a couple of responses with you to show how valuable your support is. It certainly is humbling.



NEWSLETTER

u3a
Vall del Pop



December 2024

Thank you ALL so, so much. I live in one of the affected áreas, although less so. It is wonderful all the help we are getting. Thank you.
xx



Thank you to the British people for helping our community (from the young lady on the til in Mercadona when we went shopping for food and essentials).

What you do and what you continue to do every day is truly heartwarming. Thanks to all involved



Borja usual metro route to college is still out of action with no end date in sight. Due to the generosity of this local community he can now cycle to college and return to his education.

You will be aware we also made a large donation of food and essential items soon after the tragedy on your behalf from Goodwill funds. We now have another almost 1000e which was raised at the November General Assembly and the music and dinner evening at Pepe's to spend on more help.

We are in touch with Project 4 All to ensure this is spent appropriately on goods that are still needed and will then go shopping. We will keep you informed as to what we spend it on.

Thank you so, so much. We are so happy and honoured to be able to help thanks to members' generosity and to be part of such a caring community.



December 2024

Walking Group



4 November – Alcalali to Parcent

This walk requires us to cross a dry river, which due to recent rain was not so dry. Most of us walked through the shallow water, getting the soles of our boots a little wet. The more adventurous opted for this more spectacular method

8 November – Group Meal Restaurante Pepe Alcalali

24 of us turned up for this month's meal at Pepe's in Alcalali. Hard to recognise some of them without their walking boots. Unfortunately Gary, who organised these meals, is moving south shortly. So I fear the popular monthly meals may come to a sad end!



11 November – Parcent to Col de Rates

Most months we do a more challenging walk than our usual valley rambles. This month it was Col de Rates, the mountain which overlooks the Jalon Valley. This is the first time we have done this popular walk with our group. 16 of us tackled the climb, and were rewarded with the extensive and impressive views





December 2024

Walking Group cont.



18 November – Jalon to Alcalali Ermita

The warm days continue, but we can now expect cold nights.

Many start each walk with an extra layer to counter the cooler mornings But that is usually removed when we

have our first water stop

Lovely time of year for walking, particularly on a sunny day

25 November – Parcent to Alcalali Mirador

The forecast promised cloud, but not rain

This did not deter the 23 who turned up for today's walk

The sky cleared and it was sunny for our after walk drink at the Cooperativa in Parcent



November was a sad month, dominated by the aftermath of the Valencian floods Meeting with friends to explore and enjoy the beauty of our lovely valley was a welcome relief It would be hard to find any better activity to improve both mental and physical health

If you would like to join one of our walks, or would just like more information, please send an email to pauleniston@hotmail.com



December 2024

Ladies at Lunch November 2024



Our November lunch took place at restaurant Cal Xixonero, in Xalo, where we enjoyed a specially prepared tapas style tasting menu. The restaurant was very obliging and catered for all our dietary requirements. Our wine, beer and soft drinks were all included too.

The staff were very efficient and friendly.

Of course the company was great, with some new faces too.
We all enjoyed good conversation and delicious and unusual food.

It was a nice change.

Next month's lunch is already booked and this will be at Victoria Station, Parcent, always an exceptional amount of tasty seasonal food. I will in due course send out an email with all the details and menu choices. I expect, as our Christmas lunch, this will book up quickly too.

The date is Tuesday, 17th December 2024

I look forward to seeing everyone soon.

Sally



December 2024

Christmas Fayre

On a gloriously warm and sunny winter's day which felt more like summer, Sunday 1st December, we held our first ever Christmas fayre and car boot sale on the rastro site, Jalon. The fayre had previously been run for the last 10 years by ARC and the car boot replaced the one that was rained off on 27th October. We took a chance combining the two and it paid off! What a fabulous day we had! Over 70 craft and car boot stalls were set up selling a vast array of fabulous craft items and general preloved items.



Santa and his elf captivated the children and everyone loved the 2 lots of super music and entertainment very kindly provided by The Jukes and Forever Young who were both excellent.



Yolanda, a new member to our u3a and a talented artist, very kindly organised a super Santa colouring stall and children enjoyed helping to create a wonderful Santa collage.





December 2024

Christmas Fayre cont.

The bbq, kindly provided by Shaun Smith, refreshments, teas and coffees and bar selling mulled wine and cold drinks went down a storm and most sold out by the end (well the helpers drank the dregs of the mulled wine and well deserved!)



The raffle consisted of 28 amazing prizes beautifully wrapped and displayed, many donated by local businesses to whom we are very grateful including; The Shack, Aleluya bar, La Solana restaurant, Blanca Bikes, Xalo bodega, El Taller, the Beauty Lounge, Mascarena garden centre, The Courtyard, Chunky Funky and Bodega Riko.



We also had a tombola stall which was well supported and in total we raised the amazing sum of 2515e! Every euro raised will be donated to local charities in need as is the purpose of the Goodwill team's fundraising. We are delighted to be able to help more people as a result of the day.

Thank you to everyone who came and supported the event. We received lots of lovely feedback so looks like we will have to do it again next year!!

A huge thank you to all helpers who helped to make it such a success. It takes a huge amount of planning and preparation for weeks, a very early start on the day and all the clearing up at the end, but a truly fabulous team made it all happen including friends and non u3a members. We are truly grateful for everyone's support.

Merry Christmas and may 2025 be a healthy and peaceful one for everyone.



December 2024

Christmas General Assembly Thursday 5th December

We were delighted to welcome 82 members to our Christmas General Assembly in Murla on Thursday 5th December. Fortunately, the weather was kind to us after a very wet November meeting and even heavy rain the day before! Perhaps a tad chilly until we worked out how to increase the heating!



As is a tradition, Bill White very kindly entertained us by playing wonderful Christmas favourites from the moment the doors opened at 10am, and I know how much members enjoy hearing him play, as do I! Thank you Bill. You set the tone for the morning beautifully.

Membership and Travel and Entertainment desk were open for those wishing to renew their membership and book and pay for trips. The formal part of the meeting commenced at 10.30am but, as is normal at Christmas, we did not have an external speaker or a Meet a Member slot, allowing lots of time to enjoy the festivities.

Paula announced this year's Goodwill charity fundraising total of an incredible 12619.91 euros and explained how the money has been and will be spent. This is only possible due to members' generosity and support and a lot of hard work by the Goodwill team and she expressed her thanks to everyone.

Not only have we been able to support the 5 valley charities as usual (ARC, Jalon Valley Help, Jalon search and rescue, Paws and Caring for Cats), but also the Valencia flood appeal, Cancer Care Javea, the volunteer Bomberos, Project 4 All for the homeless, a school for children with autism in Javea, the Alzheimers support centre in Teulada and the children's home in Benissa (via Make a Smile).

In addition, we donated a trampoline to the school in Murla and contributed towards a hospital bed that was purchased with a generous donation from Caixa bank. And we collected and delivered 37 bicycles for Valencia that members and friends kindly donated!

We still have nearly 1000e in hand to buy whatever is needed for Valencia.

We are incredibly proud and honoured to be able to support so many local charities and organisations as well as the Valencia victims, so a huge THANK YOU!



December 2024

Christmas General Assembly cont.

Throughout the morning members were invited to guess the weight of the Christmas cake and competition was fierce, being narrowly won by Sheila Skinner who got to take the cake home. Similarly, the competitive spirit came into play to guess the number of sweets in the jar, and Sally Ellis won these. Peter Ellis had kindly prepared a festive table quiz so members could put their heads together and come up with collective answers. The winning table won a prize of chocolates to share. Marian White held her usual excellent free raffle with some super prizes and 28 lucky members took home a gift. Thank you to Christine Brazier and Sally Ellis who made beautiful floral decorations as prizes. Gillian Woodward won the most festive attire competition with her Mrs Santa outfit, tutu and stripey elf tights! It was lovely to see so many festive jumpers, hats and outfits and the hall was a sea of red!

As is usual at Christmas and Easter, we collected toiletries and household goods on behalf of Caritas and, once again, members came up trumps, donating a vast selection of goods. Thank you on behalf of Caritas. They are always very grateful, and the goods will be shared amongst those in need in local villages. The wife of Francisco the caretaker came to collect them as the head of the local Caritas.



And then the singing started lead by Paul Corazzo and the Let's Sing Together group and all members were invited to join in. We sang an assortment of carols and festive songs which added to the warm atmosphere in the room, and it was super to see everyone joining in. Carol West, part of the singing group, took central vocals with her beautiful, clear voice and it was truly joyous.

We then all took part in a hilarious rendition of the 12 days of Christmas with each table taking a day! It was certainly sung with great enthusiasm!

Margaret Staines, accompanied by Bill White on keyboard, then showed us how glorious singing can be with her wonderful solos of Silent Night and Once in Royal David's City. It was magical to listen to and we are very grateful to Margaret for her special performance. For one day only!



December 2024

Christmas General Assembly cont.



We were paid a pleasant surprise visit as a piano was delivered ready for a carol concert tomorrow and the Mayor of Murla asked the pianist to play for us. Margaret Staines and Carol West sang Silent Night accompanied by him which was delightful.



After all this singing everyone was ready for the "bring a plate to share" buffet which looked and tasted wonderful. There was plenty of food for everyone and a huge variety, both sweet and savoury.



Thank you to everyone for bringing. The food was washed down with cava and orange juice, and everyone seemed to thoroughly enjoy their brunch!

Santa then presented the winners of the competitions and quiz with their prizes and the raffle was drawn.

The morning finished with everyone joining in to 2 special festive songs: We wish you a Merry Christmas and Feliz Navidad and taking home the remains of the buffet.

We hope all members enjoyed themselves. Thank you to everyone who came and to those who organised the meeting and those who took part.

We wish everyone a very happy Christmas and a healthy and peaceful 2025.



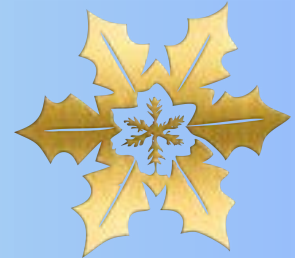


December 2024

Christmas Dinner/Dance

On Sunday 8th December 90 members got dressed up in their finest and prepared to be wined and dined and to party at the stunning Vall de Pop restaurant in Lliber. If you have visited there you will know it is quite special, a lovely old building in a beautiful setting, the stunning views best enjoyed from the terrace in daylight. But at night it is cosy and intimate, especially with the fire lit and beautifully decorated for Christmas.

On arrival we were offered a welcome drink and enjoyed the chance to chat and admire everyone's glamorous outfits. The ladies looked lovely and the men quite dashing! Background music and the Christmas decorations provided just the right ambience and the festive photo frame made by Marian White created lots of fun.



Once seated we were treated to a delicious 4 course meal of a choice of starters, soup, a choice of main courses and dessert, accompanied by plenty of wine, beers, water and soft drinks. Wout, the head chef, and Elizabeth his wife and front of house, are excellent hosts who pride themselves on the quality, freshness and presentation of their food and they did not disappoint us.

NEWSLETTER

u3a
Vall del Pop

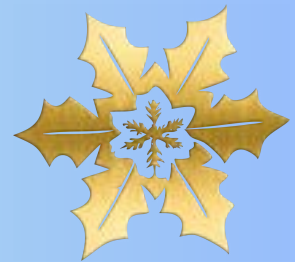
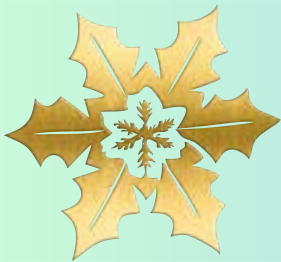


December 2024



All the dishes were amazing and most plates were cleared. They also catered sensitively to various dietary requirements and the service was excellent. Many people commented on how friendly and happy the staff were and nothing was too much trouble.

Just when you thought you couldn't eat any more there was a choice of homemade tiramisu or ice cream with red fruits.

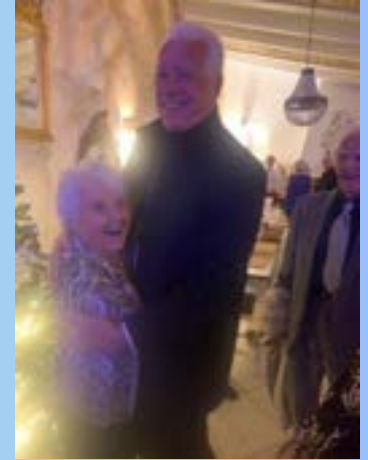


NEWSLETTER

u3a
Vall del Pop



December 2024



Paul and Judy Corazzo then took to the stage to entertain us with a fantastic array of well known songs that had the dance floor full from the first tune. They were simply fabulous and brought out some interesting dance moves by some! (Chris blames the red wine!).

They really are amazing entertainers and so kind and generous with their support to our events. We are very grateful indeed to them.

The raffle table looked very inviting with 2 hampers, bottles of spirits and champagne, a huge poinsettia and a generous voucher for dinner for 2 from Wout and Elizabeth from Vall de Pop restaurant. 12 lucky guests got to choose their prize with the voucher being the last to be won by Sue Holley. The proceeds of the raffle will go towards the Valencia appeal and Chris and I are off shopping with Arne Soeten from Project 4 All who will deliver as much as can be bought on our behalf to the villages of Paiporta, Alfafar, Algemesi, Catarroja and the surrounding impacted villages. Thank you for your generosity.



It truly was a wonderful evening full of friendships, laughter and fun and it was lovely to see everyone looking so glamorous and relaxed and letting their hair down. Many were sad when it came to an end and I am sure we will be back for future events. We are fortunate to live close by and visit regularly and have never been disappointed. You will always receive a warm welcome and great food.

A fabulous start to the Christmas festivities. Thank you to everyone who came and we wish you a healthy and peaceful Christmas and New Year.

NEWSLETTER

u3a
Vall del Pop



December 2024

GROUP ACTIVITIES

Best wishes for a Happy Christmas and thank you to all the group leaders for overseeing their groups this year.

There is a lot of work which goes on behind the scenes to keep a group running , so thank you once again.

Teresa Tillbrook, Groups Coordinator



Activity groups meet regularly to pursue common interests.

You can learn new skills or brush up on old ones, and it's a great way of making new friends!

The Group Co-ordinator is available to assist and advise in starting new groups or to help existing groups to recruit members etc

Teresa - Group Co-ordinator - activitygroups@u3avalldelpop.com

**If you would like to promote your group in a future Newsletter
Please contact Linda at news@u3avalldelpop.com**

	Activity	Contact
	Allotment - We have a large 6m x18m allotment in Jalon. 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.	<u>DUNCAN THOMPSON</u> dtheys14d18m@gmail.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 - We meet every Tuesday afternoon at Casa Claudia in Jalon. New members would be very welcome to join us.	MARY WOOD marywoodspain@gmail.com Telephone: 675 674 301

NEWSLETTER

u3a
Vall del Pop



December 2024

	Activity	Contact
	<p>Card Making - We are a group who enjoy crafting and, in particular, creating beautiful greetings cards.</p>	<p>CAROLE MARTEN & DEE ADKINS Dadkins1953@yahoo.co.uk Cvicary2@gmail.com</p>
	<p>Cinema - We aim to show a wide range of films in English. If you want to be included in the Cinema Group mailing list please contact Group Leader.</p>	<p>CHRISTINE BRAZIER justnanny@live.co.uk</p>
	<p>Digital Photography - Our aims are to develop our digital photography skills in a social and safe group setting; and importantly, have fun doing so.</p>	<p>DAVID BROCK Davidandeileen50@yahoo.co.uk Telephone: 606 995 919</p>
	<p>Dining Experience - We visit different restaurants mostly within the valley. Members can recommend an old favourite that they enjoy.</p>	<p>DIANE HOLMES ondrakiri@yahoo.com</p>
	<p>Dru Yoga - A gentle but powerful workout. It calms and reduces stress, improves focus, physical strength, balance and energy.</p>	<p>SALLY MILLANE Sallysunshine436@gmail.com</p>
	<p>Game Addicts - We are a group that likes to keep those grey cells active, and pride ourselves on being a friendly, light hearted crowd.</p>	<p>GORDON RODMAN boneinjalon@gmail.com Telephone: 693 725 199</p>
	<p>Ladies At Lunch - We want to 'spread the wealth' so we plan these lunches at a variety of restaurants across our region.</p>	<p>SALLY ELLIS U3aladieslunch@gmail.com</p>
	<p>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.</p>	<p>PAUL CORAZZO paulcorazzou3a@gmail.com Telephone 603717784</p>
	<p>Mahjong - RIU RAU Jalon, Friday at 2.30pm A game rumoured to be around 2,500 years old, that is similar to Rummy, played with tiles.</p>	<p>BERYL COMAR berylcomar@gmail.com</p>
	<p>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.</p>	<p>GORDON SIM Thomassim007@gmail.com</p>

NEWSLETTER

u3a
Vall del Pop



December 2024

	Activity	Contact
	Mosaic 1 - We create decorative mosaics using glass and ceramics. Join us to learn how to do this fascinating hobby. Contact group leader	LIZ WILLIAMS Lizwilliams2008@live.co.uk Telephone: 684116089
	Mosaic 2 - Group buys materials to share, and have all the necessary equipment to create Mosaics. Contact group leader for more information.	SUE WILLIS suewillis2@hotmail.com MONIQUE LECKIE monileck@aol.com
	Open Forum - We meet fortnightly to discuss a variety of different topics, both serious and light-hearted. We are all different but we are all equal here!	ANNESLEY SINCLAIR annesleysinclair@gmail.com Telephone: 965730605
	Petanque - We meet every Wednesday morning in Lliber	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 mike_heidi@hotmail.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. We meet on the 2nd and 4th Monday morning of the month in Orba.	LORNA BOTTEN lornabotten@gmail.com Telephone: 96 558 3484

NEWSLETTER

u3a
Vall del Pop



December 2024

Working in Collaboration with other organisations

SEASON'S GREETINGS

from

THE ARTS SOCIETY MARINA ALTA and JÁVEA PLAYERS

We look forward to Entertaining You in 2025



The Javea Players present 8th to 12th
January 2025
Wed to Sat at 7:30pm
Matinee Performance
Sunday 3.00pm
The Studio Theatre
Tickets €12.50
from
www.javeaplayers.com

LITTLE PANTO
ON THE PRAIRIE
By Richard Lock

Welcome to the wild, wild west and the town of Windy Boffom, the setting for Rich Lock's new, original, pantomime. Mayhem will ensue with every pun, corny joke, risqué comment and laugh possible.

E-mail marinaalta@theartsociety.org for a Free Subscription to TASMA's monthly WHAT's ON E-Journal on national arts news, local cultural and social scene plus Newsletter



More Info: WWW.ARTSOCMA.ORG

www.u3avalldelpop.com



NEWSLETTER

u3a
Vall del Pop



December 2024

Working in Collaboration with other organisations

Careline Theatre
Amateur Theatre with the Professional Touch

Careline Theatre
at BENIDOLEIG AUDITORIUM

Friday 17th, Saturday 18th & Sunday 19th
January 2025 at 8pm
Matinees on Saturday & Sunday at 3pm

SINBAD!
The Panto
Written by Alex Jackson
Directed by Candida Wright & Suzanna Mace

TICKET PRICE:
ADULTS 14€
CHILDREN 8€
(under 10yrs)

To reserve tickets email:
carelineboxoffice@gmail.com

www.carelinetheatre.net



www.u3avalldelpop.com