



# NEWSLETTER

u3a  
Vall del Pop



December 2025





December 2025



## President's Message

As I write this, we have just completed the busiest period in our annual calendar of events. This started with the very successful Jalon Christmas Fayre on Sunday November 30th, followed by the Christmas themed General Assembly on December 4th and our Christmas dinner-dance at the lovely Vall de Pop restaurant in Lliber on Sunday December 7th.

You may remember that our Association took over responsibility for running the Jalon Fayre last year, when the previous organisers decided to withdraw. By doing so we were able to maintain a popular local event. This year we were blessed with good weather, and the event was particularly well attended. People who came could shop at 110 craft or car-boot stalls while enjoying a range of refreshments and musical entertainment. You will find a full write-up and pictures later in this newsletter.

Our fabulous Goodwill team did most of the hard work ahead of the event and on the day and raised more than Euros 2,600 for our charity fund. Other local charities were given free stalls and also reported a very successful day. I feel proud that we are able to support our local community in so many different ways.

The general assembly and the dinner-dance were both well attended, with many members dressing up in style. Once again you will find write-ups and some beautiful photos later in this newsletter. One of the enduring pleasures of our u3a is enjoying such joyful occasions in each other's company. I am therefore very grateful to the committee members and many other volunteer helpers whose hard work delivered such memorable occasions!

Paula and I are now looking forward to Christmas and the New Year with family and friends visiting. Sharing Christmas with Paula's grandchildren is always a special pleasure. I hope that you will all find your own ways to celebrate and enjoy the holiday season and wish you all the very best for 2026.

Best wishes,  
Chris



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## General Assembly - December





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## U3A Monday Ramblers



### 3 November 2025 – Bernia Fort

Once a month we do a slightly more challenging walk, this month was Bernia Fort. This walk is only 6km, though it seems a lot more than that. It is a gradual climb from the car park to the fort, and the tracks are reasonably good. The views are spectacular, especially at the fort itself.



### 10 November 2025 – Jalon to Alcalali

The weather in November was more traditional, and most of us were still walking in shorts. It is a particularly nice time to explore the less well known tracks through the valley.



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## U3A Monday Ramblers



### 17 November 2025 – Alcalali to Jalon

A little more strenuous than our normal valley walks, this one included a section along the lower slopes overlooking the valley



### 24 November 2025 – Lliber River Walk

The temperatures dropped and for the first time since summer, jackets and even gloves made an appearance. It was still warm enough to have our banana stop on the dry river bed.

**If you would like more details about the group  
please send an email to [pauleniston@hotmail.com](mailto:pauleniston@hotmail.com)**



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## Ladies Lunch - November



On Tuesday, 18th November a group of sixteen ladies attended the monthly u3a lunch.

I booked a new venue, Il Mondo Trattoria, just off the Church Plaza in Jalon. In what was the Hotel Karmalet. I have since learnt that Massimo had a business in Windsor, England Well, what a lunch it turned out to be. Massimo and the team provided a substantial banquet of Italian cuisine all made with passion, from salads, homemade breads lasagnas to pizzas all to share. Accommodating vegetarian options and food intolerance. It was a feast! I think a few of us took our next day's lunch away too.

However, we were in for another surprise. We inquired about the music stand in the corner of the room and Massimo let out that he often performs at the weekends. He didn't stand a chance, he was soon persuaded to entertain the ladies and we were singing and dancing around the restaurant.

The day was completed by a sweet of Tiramisu and a selection of 'cellos' not the instruments but the pistachio, melon and lemon varieties.

In fact, we loved it so much that those present voted to have the Christmas lunch there too. This will be on Monday 15th December and correspondence has been sent to everyone regarding this. So, let's hope for a repeat of Il Mondo's hospitality and entertainment.

We will return to our usual third Tuesday of the month for lunches starting on January 20th 2026. Details will be sent out in due course.

In the meantime, have a really great Christmas and New Year and thank you for all your support.

Sally





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## Dining Experience - Attico, Javea



Sadly Diane Holmes who has previously kindly run the Dining Experience Group has had to step down, so Carole Wardle and I agreed to look after it on a temporary basis until a new group leader can be found. Who enjoys eating out and trying new restaurants? If so this could be an ideal group for you to lead. Please feel free to talk to Carole and myself. We don't want this group to close.

We decided to head out of the valley to Attico in Javea on Monday 24th November and 43 members signed up to come which we were delighted about.

The weather was kind, the setting is super overlooking the bay and Attico couldn't have looked after us any better. The food was excellent and plentiful with a tempter to start, then 3 starters, generous main courses of fish dishes, meat and vegetarian options then a choice of 2 delicious desserts.

The service was prompt and friendly and I think everyone will agree it was a huge success. Maybe one to repeat in future months.

Our challenge is to find special restaurants that offer great food and good value for money not too far away and we are happy to receive recommendations.

Our next occasion will be in January so watch out for an e mail and sign up quickly. Attico filled in 48 hours!



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## Christmas Fayre - Xalo



On what turned out to be a bright, mild winter's day after fears of rain, (it really does shine on the righteous!), we held our 2nd Xalo Christmas fayre on the rastro on Sunday 30th November.

Over 110 stallholders selling craft items and car boot "stuff" attended, the most we have ever welcomed, and we thank everyone for their support. There was a fabulous selection of goods to buy from Christmas decorations, art work, cards, knitted goods, toys, artisan breads etc. and all the stalls looked very festive. The home crafted items were very impressive and clearly a lot of time had been spent making and baking! We hope you all sold plenty and enjoyed the day.



The bbq, bar, tea and coffee stall and cake/savoury stall run by us did a roaring trade, the delicious mulled wine and Christmas cake being in great demand. We virtually sold out of everything, and a special thanks to our runner, Neil, who did an excellent delivery service to the stall holders which was much appreciated. The bbq was a treat and very popular thanks to Sean Smith.



We were delighted with the amount of visitors to the fayre, it was our busiest yet, and great to welcome all nationalities. Thank you all for your support.







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## Christmas Fayre -Xalo cont.



We were very lucky to enjoy 3 lots of super live music/entertainment from the fabulous Forever Young, the excellent Jukes ukele group, who raised 80 euros for us in donations, and Jo's Dutch choir who arrived in a stunning open top vintage car. All sang their hearts out and visitors clearly enjoyed all the music. We are so grateful for your support.



Yolanda kindly ran her free art table for children to colour in a fabulous Christmas canvas and lots of children clearly enjoyed this.





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## Christmas Fayre -Xalo cont.



Whilst the purpose of the fayre is to raise funds for our u3a Goodwill team to be able to donate to local charities in need, we also see it as an important community event for the valley and are proud to keep the tradition alive. We also allow local charities to have free stalls to raise funds for their own causes and we are pleased that ARC, Paws, Caring for Cats, Jalon Valley Help, Caritas, Calpe cat charity and Daadi were all present.



From those we have spoken to we know several thousand euros was raised for excellent causes which we are delighted about.

Santa was there as always with his helper elf and it was lovely to see the delight on children's faces. Santa and his elf were driven through the market in the car and were a very popular photo opportunity.

We raised the fantastic sum of 2666 euros which will allow us to be generous when distributing the 2025 charity funds to local charities in need.

A huge thankyou to everyone who very kindly helped at the fayre, (you are stars!), to everyone who came, supported, spent money and enjoyed the day. It makes all the hard work worthwhile. It is a huge undertaking but the Goodwill team and helpers are simply amazing!

Merry Christmas to you all and we wish you a peaceful, healthy and happy 2026.



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## u3a Vall Del Pop Goodwill Team



The u3a Goodwill team was established a few years ago to raise funds for local charities in need by way of holding fundraising events. It does not receive any money from members' or central funds.

These are managed by the Treasurer and are totally separate.

Each year the total raised by the Goodwill team is allocated amongst nominated charities, predominantly those charities based or serving the valleys.

During 2025 the team worked tirelessly hosting super events for members' enjoyment and providing refreshments and a preloved stall at GA meetings and raised a record amount of money, almost 11,000 euros. I hope you will agree they do a fabulous job, endlessly baking, making, organising and hosting, and I am very proud and grateful to them and to all our members who support their fundraising.

Every euro raised goes directly to charity and the charities below are who will benefit this year from the distribution of 2025 funds:



**Jalon Valley Help:** we are able to purchase 2 hospital beds for use in the community

**ARC animal rescue charity** who rescue abandoned cats in the area

**Project 4 All** who look after and feed the homeless

**Paws Xalo dog rescue** who rescue abandoned dogs in the area

**Benissa Children's home** via Make a Smile who care for disadvantaged children in care

**Caring for cats** who feed and neuter feral cats in the area

**Caritas Jalón/Lliber** who support families in need in the 2 villages

**Cancer Care** who support those living with cancer and their friends and families



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## u3a Vall Del Pop Goodwill Team cont.

In addition we have donated to the following organisations during 2025:

**Cancer Care:** a cash donation in memory of Magda Green

**Jalon Valley Help:** a hospital bed when supplies ran out

**Age in Spain:** who visited as a guest speaker at a GA

**No Nolotil campaign:** who visited as a guest speaker at a GA

**Royal British Legion:** who visited as a guest speaker at a GA

**Volunteer Bomberos:** a thank you for keeping us safe

**Caritas Jalon/Lliber:** when funds ran out to support local families

**Caritas Benigemblal/Murla:** household goods and toiletries collected twice a year

**Gandia mens' shelter:** clothing, toiletries and medication



We also invite local charities to have free stalls at our Spring and Christmas fayres so they can raise funds of their own and we are delighted to hear that they have enjoyed the benefit.

We have lots of great events planned for 2026 and we hope you will enjoy supporting them. Without you we couldn't help those less fortunate than ourselves. Thank you so much and we wish all members a peaceful, healthy and happy Christmas and New Year.



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## Annual Christmas Party



97 guests turned out in their finest for our annual Christmas party at Vall de Pop restaurant in Lliber. The ladies sparkled and the men scrubbed up well with an array of Christmas shirts, sparkly bow ties, tuxedos and full Scottish evening dress.

The evening commenced with a warming glass of mulled wine on arrival and gentle background songs from the fabulous Forever Young who were our entertainers for the evening.

Dinner commenced at 7.30pm with a super 4 course meal, all delicious and beautifully presented: a range of starters included parmesan croquettes, beetroot carpaccio and chicken vol au vent, soup and warm bread, a choice of main courses: duck, chicken, vegetarian and salmon and choice of desserts for those who still had room!



Straight after dinner was finished the dancing commenced and it was lovely to see the dance floor full until the last number. All the oldies (songs, not us!) and popular Christmas songs had everyone singing along, perhaps assisted by a few glasses of wine! A special moment was Paul Corazzo taking to the mic to sing "Just wanna dance the night away". Thank you Paul.

Members generously supported the raffle in aid of local charities. Thank you to Judy and Marilyn who kindly sold raffle tickets. 12 lucky winners went home with prizes including a voucher for a meal for two generously donated by the Vall del Pop owners, Elizabeth and Wout, which was won by Aileen.

We left feeling in the Christmas spirit and wish everyone a very happy and healthy Christmas and New Year.



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## u3a Vall Del Pop coffee mornings 2026



We look forward to seeing you at the following events.

No need to book, just turn up.

Please note, occasionally dates and venues may have to be amended so please keep an eye on the new website or Facebook for updates.



### Members General Coffee Mornings 11.00am

**22<sup>nd</sup> January**  
Blanca Bikes Parcent

**18<sup>th</sup> February**  
Resto Bar Quijote Orba

**19<sup>th</sup> March**  
Blanca Bikes Parcent

### Friendship & Support Coffee Mornings Weds 10.30am

**My Mercat, Jalon**

**January 14<sup>th</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup>**

**February 11<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup>**

**March 11<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup>**





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## 2026 Trips

### Lots to look forward to in 2026

All are/will be on Facebook and our website (when confirmed) and in our newsletter. All can be booked and paid for at General Assemblies and monthly coffee mornings or reserved via e mail. Don't miss out! They can sell out fast.

### Trip to Xativa

10<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2026



### IKEA & Bonaire Shopping Centre

14<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2026

### Trip to Novelda

12<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2026



### Jazz Sunset Cruise

28<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2026



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## GROUP ACTIVITIES



**Please contact group leader to find out dates they are operating during Christmas and New Year period.**

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](mailto:activitygroups@u3avalldelpop.com)**

If you would like to promote your group in a future Newsletter Please contact Linda at [news@u3avalldelpop.com](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:dtheys14d18m@gmail.com)  
[dtheys14d18m@gmail.com](mailto: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. Riu Rau in Jalon.

WENDY SIM  
[wendy.sim1@hotmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:marywoodspain@gmail.com)  
Telephone: 675 674 301



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	Activity	Contact
	<p><b>Cinema</b> - 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 <a href="mailto:justnanny@live.co.uk">justnanny@live.co.uk</a></p>
	<p><b>Digital Photography</b> - 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 <a href="mailto:Davidandeileen50@yahoo.co.uk">Davidandeileen50@yahoo.co.uk</a> Telephone: 606 995 919</p>
	<p><b>Dining Experience</b> - Is now venturing outside the valley. Members can recommend an old favourite that they enjoy or a new venue to try.</p>	<p>Paula Barrett <a href="mailto:secretary@u3avalldepop.com">secretary@u3avalldepop.com</a></p>
	<p><b>Dru Yoga</b> - A gentle but powerful workout. It calms and reduces stress, improves focus, physical strength, balance and energy.</p>	<p>SALLY MILLANE <a href="mailto:Sallysunshine436@gmail.com">Sallysunshine436@gmail.com</a></p>
	<p><b>Game Addicts</b> - 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 <a href="mailto:boneinjalon@gmail.com">boneinjalon@gmail.com</a> Telephone: 693 725 199</p>
	<p><b>Ladies At Lunch</b> - We want to 'spread the wealth' so we plan these lunches at a variety of restaurants across our region.</p>	<p>SALLY ELLIS <a href="mailto:U3aladieslunch@gmail.com">U3aladieslunch@gmail.com</a></p>
	<p><b>Let's Sing Together...For Fun</b> - 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 <a href="mailto:paulcorazzou3a@gmail.com">paulcorazzou3a@gmail.com</a> Telephone 603717784</p>
	<p><b>Mahjong</b> - Vinyaters Xalo Thursday 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 <a href="mailto:berylcomar@gmail.com">berylcomar@gmail.com</a></p>
	<p><b>Men Who Munch</b> - 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 <a href="mailto:Thomassim007@gmail.com">Thomassim007@gmail.com</a></p>

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	Activity	Contact
	<b>Mosaic 1</b> - 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
	<b>Mosaic 2</b> - 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
	<b>Open Forum</b> - 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
	<b>Petanque</b> - We meet every Wednesday & Friday mornings in Lliber	GERRY BACON Gerard.bacon@yahoo.com Telephone: 600 652 821
	<b>Spanish Conversation</b> - An opportunity to practise Spanish you have learnt in a casual conversation. Beginner, expert, or somewhere in between?	HEIDI MORGAN mike_heidi@hotmail.com
	<b>Spanish Lessons</b> - 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
	<b>Walking Groups</b> - 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 paulleniston@hotmail.com Telephone: 651 633 198
	<b>Yarn &amp; Thread</b> - 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



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## Working in Collaboration with other organisations



### CHRISTMAS

with

### THE ENTERTAINERS 2025

- 2nd Dec Lliber Square
- 5th Dec Orba Church Plaza
- 6th Dec Gran Bali Hotel Benidorm
- 9th Dec Jalon Church Plaza
- 11th Dec Gandia Social Club
- 14th Dec Javea U3A Salones Carrasco
- 16th Dec APROP Pego
- 20th Dec Gandia Mens Refuge
- 22nd Dec Alcalali Main Plaza

### Mercado de Navidad

Domingo 14 de Diciembre de  
10:00h a 14:00h

Para inscribirse y formar parte  
contacte con:  
Suzanne telf.: 690928168  
Mari telf.: 965730509  
Localización:  
PLAZA MAYOR DE LLÍBER

### Christmas Carols

If you enjoy Christmas carols the International choir will be performing at Saxo, Moraira on Tuesday 16th December at 16.30. Free admission. Charity collection. Who doesn't enjoy a sing along?





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## Working in Collaboration with other organisations



### TASMA 2026 PROGRAMME

#### COME FOR THE STORY—STAY FOR THE SOCIAL!

Wednesday, 4 February 2026: *Frank Gehry: Star Architect*, By Drs. Helen Sijlsing



Gehry is a highly acclaimed American architect known for his sculptural designs. He is considered one of the most influential architects of our time, with iconic works like the Guggenheim Museum Bilbao. Helen explores why Gehry's flamboyant style and challenge of traditional norms have made him a subject of both admiration and criticism.

Wednesday, 4 March 2026: *Edward Hopper: Alienation and Subjugation*, By Rosalind Miranda



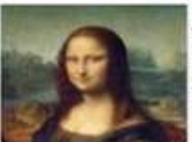
Edward Hopper is acknowledged as the most important American realist painter of the 20th C. His work demonstrates that realism is not merely a literal or photographic copying of what we see, but an interpretive rendering. At 40, Edward Hopper was a failure who couldn't sell a painting. Join us to learn how that changed!

Wednesday, 8 April 2026: *Music & Art in the Age of Vermeer*, By Adam Busiakiewicz



Musical instruments are found throughout the paintings of the Dutch Golden Age. From Jan Steen's brothel scenes to the solemn interiors of Vermeer and Pieter de Hooch, this lecture charts the vast meaning and rich significance of music in Dutch art. Come to hear Adam play his 18th C. lute as part of his presentation.

Wednesday, 6 May 2026: *The World's Most Expensive Art*, By Ian Swankie



An artistic journey through wonderful paintings including those by Picasso, Cézanne, Da Vinci, Rembrandt, Modigliani, Klimt, Bacon and Pollock, all held together by their extraordinary commercial value. Ian will attempt to answer the question "Are they really worth millions of pounds?"

[www.artsocma.org](http://www.artsocma.org)

[marinaalta@theartsociety.org](mailto:marinaalta@theartsociety.org)

### THE ARTS SOCIETY MARINA ALTA

Wednesday, 3 June 2026: *No Dear, That's Not Funny*, By Harry Venning



Back by popular demand, join award-winning cartoonist Harry Venning as he escorts you through the peaks and pitfalls of his profession, supported by visual contributions from such luminaries as Matt Groening, Dr. Seuss, Charles M. Schulz and Gary Larson. One of our most entertaining lectures of the season!

Wednesday, 7 October 2026: *Theatre Design from Temple to Playhouse*, By Bertie Pearce



Theatrical scene design is one of the most beautiful and lively art forms, from the design of ancient temples to modern theatre design. In his talk, Bertie looks at the relationship between actor and audience and how this transformed the space of theatre throughout the ages. A gifted presenter, Bertie brings to life the magical world of theatre.

Wednesday 4 November 2026: *130 Years of Sorolla: Master of Light*, By Arantxa Sardina



In 1896, Joaquín Sorolla visited Jávea for the first time looking for inspiration for his paintings. Sorolla was a renowned Spanish painter, celebrated for his vibrant and luminous depictions of Spanish life - particularly beach scenes, fishermen, sunlit landscapes and paintings of everyday life. Known for his remarkable skill in capturing the effects of sunlight, Sorolla's work celebrates the artistic identity of the Marina Alta.

Wednesday, 2 December 2026: *What Happened to the Fabergé Eggs after the Revolution?* By Toby Faber



This fascinating story combines unique decorative art, contemporary culture, history and the murder of the Romanovs with the excitement of a crime novel! The sequel to Toby's first TASMA lecture in 2018 will reveal the finale of Fabergé's epic life described as "one man's masterpieces and the end of an empire".

"The lecture was like a Michelin-star meal, I savoured the memory for weeks."





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## Working in Collaboration with other organisations



Prepare to Be Provoked. Prepare to Be Moved.

Step into the gripping world of *Doubt: A Parable*—the Pulitzer Prize-winning masterpiece by John Patrick Shanley directed by Tony Kitlinsky.

With razor-sharp dialogue and unforgettable characters, this is theatre that doesn't just entertain—it challenges, inspires, and lingers long after the curtain falls.

Don't miss this powerful production.

February 9 to 14 at 8pm

Javea Players Studio Theatre  
Cronista Figueras Pacheco 6, Javea

Tickets 12.50€ to book <https://javeaplayers.com/bookings/>

Choose and Book seats from January 8

We look forward to welcoming you.