



Minutes of the Annual General Meeting 31 January 2025

Casa de Cultura, Jávea

1. **The first call was made at 10.30am** but there were insufficient members to start.

The meeting started at 11am.

2. **Welcome** - The President welcomed 57 members to the meeting.

3. **Apologies for absence and Opening Remarks by the President**

Apologies were received from 76 members of whom 57 had cast their votes online.

Unfortunately, Krystyna Stefanczyk Vice President and Steve Young Communications Officer could not be with us today. Both are standing down from the Committee this year and we will be making a special presentation to them soon to mark their huge contribution to U3A Jávea. There was a round of applause for them both.

Gillian Flaxman, who is standing as Secretary, also sent her apologies.

Unplanned absences – We sadly lost some wonderful members in 2024 many of whom had contributed greatly to U3A Jávea over the years. Our thoughts are with their family and friends.

Thanks go to all the people who help keep this organisation going. The myself and the Committee along with members thank Peter Bayliss the webmaster, the Group Leaders and all those who help in some way.

4. **Minutes of the last AGM on 31 March 2024** were published on the website and no comments were received at the time. When republished with the agenda for this meeting and amendment was received and made to the Minutes which was to say that we had subsequently donated the 200€ gift for Sally Rush to Make a Smile in respect of her retiring from the Committee. **Agreed Unanimously**

5. **President's Report**

I am calling for volunteers to act as Roving reporters at our Social Events and group activities to send us photos and a writeup. It need not be a lot and could even be just a few bullet points that we can make into an article. If you know someone who is not here who might like to do that, please tell them to come forward.

We also need members who are willing to publish articles on the website to share the load with Committee Members who currently do this alongside their other duties. Full training will of course be given to anyone interested in getting involved.

Our new members should be stepping up and showing us 'old-timers' how it's done! We welcome any and all ideas and help to make this organisation the best it can be.

We welcome all nationalities to join the association and to take part in running it - diversity is something we are very proud of and wish to encourage.

This year is the U3A Jávea's 20th Anniversary having been started in 2005 by Mike Frost and others. How wonderful it has survived and thrived growing from a membership of about 200 to now over 1,000 with 40+ activity groups reflecting the diverse nature of the interests we support.

We plan to celebrate this anniversary with a series of events, full details will be published on the website but include:-

- Membership fee reduced to 5€ for 2025
- An Open Day at the Parador to mark the expansion over 20 years from a handful of groups to the 40+ we have today
- A (much more than) Coffee Morning on 26 March at the Social Centre
- A Commemorative Event on 30 April at either Carrasco or the Parador, hosted by Mike Frost and including many past Presidents and people present at the beginning.
- General Meeting on 30 May at the Casa de Cultura where Peter Atkinson will speak about his 20 years of Presentations to the U3A Jávea.
- A Summer party on 25 June, venue to be advised.

6. Reports by the Committee

• Vice President

Claude Grealy gave Krystyna's report in her absence.

We had 10 events over the year including:

- Coffee Mornings at the Social Centre
- Social Event and Summer party at the Pinosol Hotel
- A concert from the Denia Rock Choir
- An Autumn Ball at Carrasco
- Christmas Entertainment at the Parador featuring the Ukaholics
- General Meetings with speakers

In all 800 members attended these events.

We raised over 8.000€ for charity from raffles, collections and donations through the website. This included sending money to support people affected by the DANA in Valencia.

• Secretary

Along with my Secretarial duties I continue to be actively involved in matters relating to the website on behalf of the Committee but my work during the year was greatly reduced by Steve Young coming on board as Communications Officer. Unfortunately, he has now left the post, so I'll be resuming work publishing some articles on the website.

I want to thank Peter Bayliss the Webmaster for keeping our website working well. He spends many hours sorting out issues to make sure the site is always available for members to access. He also shares the work with me to publish articles.

We are planning to move the site to another hosting service but having tried unsuccessfully to do it with the first host we identified, we decided to leave doing any more for a while but will attempt it again soon but with a different host company. We hope the move will not disrupt access to the site for too long whilst it migrates.

Along with Peter, I help maintain our IT systems and we have been involved with Jim to develop the new membership database which will help reduce the work needed to process new members and during the renewal process.

One of the biggest issues that we had to tackle this year was related to our travel trips. Steve Young did a huge amount of in-depth work to research EU Regulations that have been introduced about associations such as ours arranging travel.

As a result of this work, we have developed a revised policy on travel trips to limit the number we arrange directly to avoid being classed as a travel agent, for which we do not and cannot have insurance such as that provided by ABTA, and the like. We will use travel agents more so that we can continue to offer a good selection of holidays and trips throughout the year.

The new guidance has been published to members and applied by the Travel Team and the SC&C Group Leader.

A key element of our revised approach is the creation of a contingency fund for travel that will cover any unforeseen losses. This fund is being collected as a surcharge of 1€ on day trips and 2€ on longer trips.

Our aim overall is to ensure that whatever we do is done with due care and attention to members interests and safeguarding any money we collect and pay to suppliers for travel trips.

One final point is that we urge all members, who make bank transfers in respect of Travel and SC&C trips, to ensure they pay into the correct account which is now Caixa for travel money only.

This will mean adding the IBAN for Caixa to your online banking app or service and taking care to distinguish which bank a payment is being sent. We will continue to use Sabadell for other U3A money.

- **Treasurer**

We had a profit of 1,539€ in 2024 compared to a deficit in 2023 of 1,562€.

Our expenses in 2024 were 2,854€ higher than in 2023 due to purchasing sound system for 1,043€ and subsidies for U3A events 1,536€ and Social events 471€

We have saved 1,049€ on printing and stationary and had not legal fees to pay this year.

Our equity on December 31, 2024, amounts to 15,591€ with a forecasted expenditure for 2025 of 9,120€.

It was proposed to set membership fees at 5€ per person for 2025.

Agreed: Majority

- **Membership Secretary**

Total Membership	1156
New Members in 2024	223

We issued an email to members to say that we would advise how to renew their membership in February 2025.

Happily, most existing members have waited, but some have used the New Members application form, creating duplication in our database. In other cases, people have paid the money into the bank, which has created unnecessary extra work.

We will email members details of how to pay the renewal fees in February.

Our database system requires manual input, so we request your patience while we process renewals and new member applications.

Also, the members' database management falls on me and the Secretary. We do not work full-time, so there will be delays in responding to requests from time to time. Please bear with us.

In January, we started to replace our database with a spreadsheet. It will make the management of the membership much simpler. It will, in time, become a much more automated system, improving our service to our members.

Overall, we appear to have produced a good product in U3A Javea with over 1200 members, including 55 new members in January.

- **Groups Coordinator**

The past year has been a busy one and a good year as we didn't lose any groups and only a change of leader for the History Group from Allison O'Brien to Keith Smith. Thank you, Keith.

At last year's AGM I reported that we had 41 groups, and I am delighted to report that we now have 47.

Many of the new groups came about by members attending the New Members Group and I would like to thank Sandra and Constantin Von Esebeck for all their hard work with this group.

There is a wide spectrum of interest from Cold-Water Therapy to Quizzing.

I must admit I had my doubts about the Cold-Water Therapy group, but it is well supported with a weekly 'dip'.

The History Group needs new speakers. We had a small number of speakers who regularly entertained the group but with Peter Atkison moving to Canada this has left a void.

I appeal to anyone who might be interested to come forward. It's quite painless to agree a subject with Keith Smith, research it and then present, it's a good experience. Please contact Keith if you can help.

On the Travel front it has been a busy time with trips to Salamanca and Cartagena amongst others. For the second year running we had to cancel a planned tip to Cocentaina due to bad weather, let's hope this year will be 'third time lucky'!

We have a new Travel team leader in Carole Clark assisted by her husband Paul who unfortunately are not here today as they are away on a cruise.

Finally, we will hold a Groups Fair at the Parador on 26 February which will give members the opportunity to see what is on offer and speak to Group Leaders personally. We look forward to seeing as many members as possible.

- **Communications Officer**

Over the past 12 months, we have continued to promote the U3A Groups using the website and the weekly Newsletter. In 2024, the number of stories has doubled, and more Groups than ever have featured on the website.

As a result, the website is being used by more members than ever before:

- We achieved a new daily record of 720 visitors on 23 October
- The number of visitors each month has increased significantly
- The range of stories has increased, and the use of your photographs has proved popular

More Group Leaders are using the website to promote their Groups and to report to you on what they are doing

The website has undergone significant change:

- A simplified News section for the whole U3A
- A simplified Activity Group section allowing you to find what you're interested in much faster than before
- An expanded Highlights section for important stories
- An enhanced calendar with all Group meetings
- A "What's On" section so that you can see 'at a glance' what's coming up
- A weekly schedule so that you easily see what's on any day of the week
- A simplified booking section for all Trips and Events
- A new modern "look and feel" including redesigned Newsletters

We now have much more information about what works for you and how you use the website. This allows us to serve you better, for example:

- 54% of visitors access the site using their mobile phone – so we focus on making the site easier to read using a mobile phone
- 71% of visitors clicked on a Newsletter link – so, we include more relevant stories in the Newsletter
- The new weekly schedule has become the 8th most visited page on the site – so, we will make sure it's always up to date
- The new Calendar is the 3rd most visited page on the site – more Groups are using it than ever before and all meetings are posted there
- The average visitor looks at 2.12 pages and stays on the site for 83 seconds – both have increased by 30%+ since the website redesign

7. Annual Report of Activities 2024

The report had been published on the website on 19 January 2025 and notified to members the same day. There were no questions raised.

Approved: Unanimously

8. Audited Accounts for 2024

The Accounts had been published on the website on 19 January 2025 and notified to members the same day. There were no questions raised.

Approved: Unanimously

9. Election of committee – voting overseen by Roger Barkley, Election Auditor

The election for the Committee was taken 'en bloc' as there were no contested posts.

There were unanimous votes in the room and online.

President:	Claude Grealy	Elected
Vice President:	Margaret March	Elected
Secretary:	Gillian Flaxman	Elected
Treasurer:	Henrik Rasmussen	Elected
Groups Coordinator:	Mike Frost	Elected
Membership Secretary:	Jim Short	Elected

10. 'New' President

Claude thanked members for attending and showing their support on a miserable day that had threatened heavy rain in our area. He looked forward to seeing them again at future events.

There was no other business from those present or submitted in writing.

The meeting closed at 11.30am

Signed 

Claude Grealy
President

Signed 

Margaret March
Secretary