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Summer is coming

From Ballymoney u3a committee we wish all our members a happy New Year. At long last the days are getting longer and the long dreary nights shorter and we are all looking forward to an early spring and summer.

Please remember to look at our activity list and upcoming events and let us know if you wish us to arrange other activities.

Quick Updates

Out to Lunch

The next Out to Lunch event will be held on:-
Friday 17th February 2023 in
The Brown Trout Golf & Country Inn
209 Agivey Road, Aghadowey.
Time - 12:30 for 1:00

If you are interested in attending can you please let me know by Friday 10th February 2023 together with your menu choices.
Please reply to me on my e-mail address:
helpeventsbu3a@gmail.com

Eileen Richmond

Membership

We would be very happy for you to let your friends and neighbours know about the activities and events we provide and encourage them to join Ballymoney u3a. New members are always welcome to join during the season. For your information - membership forms are available on our website: www.ballymoneyu3a.com or from our Membership Secretary:

e-mail: membershipbu3a@gmail.com
phone no: 07745897188

Membership fees

Individual £15

Associate member (another U3a) £11.50

Joint Membership £25

Payment by cheque will be an extra £1. BACS bank details:
Sort Code 95 06 79 - Account no 00076147
Payable to Ballymoney u3a.

Please include your name and membership number if renewing.

Elizabeth Stevenson, Membership Secretary

Christmas Dinner 13 December 2022

Our Chairman welcomed everyone to the Christmas lunch in the Lodge Hotel. About 70 people attended the lunch which was enjoyed by all, with lots of friendships being renewed during the afternoon. It brought a nice finish to the end of the first session of meetings and activities. All are looking forward to next year with fresh ideas and some new activities starting.

Kathleen Owens



Ballymoney u3a members Meeting - 3rd January 2023

Ballymoney U3A started the year with their monthly meeting held in Connect on Tuesday 3rd January when about 60 members met to hear a talk given by representatives of the USPCA (Ulster Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals) Annie Quinn and Charlotte Harmer.

The USPCA was originally founded by a retired naval commander Francis Calder in 1836 as the Belfast SPCA and their first initiative was to provide water troughs for the heavily burdened work horses in industrial Belfast. The name was eventually changed to the USPCA to reflect the scale, scope and success of the charity's expanded operations throughout the province.

As our speakers explained: the original purpose of the charity – the prevention of cruelty and the relief of suffering – to animals is their driving force. There are a number of ways in which the Society fulfils this – rehoming animals when their owners cannot care for them anymore for a variety of reasons, pet food parcels to help pet owners who are having difficulty feeding their pets but do not want to give them up, wild life rescues and veterinary care at the Newry Animal Hospital.

The Society also campaigns on animal welfare issues and has been working closely with the PSNI and the Port Authorities to stop illegal activities such as puppy farming and badger baiting.

The Society relies solely on donations given by the public and does not receive any government funding. It is run by the public for the public. It is a sad indictment on our society that there are individuals willing to inflict unnecessary suffering on animals and therefore the need for the USPCA continues.

This was an illuminating talk which culminated in a question and answer session.

The next meeting will take place on Tuesday 7th February and will feature musical entertainment by Scad the Beggars. As always new members will be welcome.

Sue Pinkerton

Activity Reports

Environment Group

Unfortunately the Environment Group did not meet in January as the weather was unfavourable.

We meet on the second Monday in the month. So if you fancy a walk, chat and fresh air do come along. We are trying to do a little to keep Ballymoney litter free.

Jean Philp

Storytelling

The Storytelling group met on Monday 9 January 2023. A good turnout of members ensured a very lively first session of 2023.

There were stories told by individuals as follows:-

- Blind dates
- Dances in Cloughmills village
- Bike rides to Omagh and Cushendall
- Husbands returning from working in England
- Summer jobs in Costal hotels

There was also a good deal of reminiscences of from earlier times in their lives. It was a very enjoyable start to the new session of storytelling.

Any member of Ballymoney U3A who has an interest in storytelling or just listening to fascinating tales told by those participating should come along to our next meeting at 11.00 on the second Monday in February 13/02 /23. It always takes place in the Hub - a cup of tea or coffee with biscuits is on offer free of charge!

George McCauley

Reading Group

We had our first post-Christmas meeting in Connect on Tuesday 10th January. There was a lively discussion about this month's book 'The Promise' by Damon Galgut.

This novel is set in South Africa towards the end of the Apartheid Regime. It follows the tensions within the white South African Swart family and particularly the younger generation and their elders, especially over a failed promise to which the book owes its title.

Not everyone was taken by the constant shift in narration as the author switches between the harshness of reality and more imaginary sequences. There is the constant presence of the landscape which serves as a backdrop to the family and societal conflict.

We all thought the book was not an easy read but interesting and beautifully written. This novel was awarded the 2021 Booker Prize. Our next meeting is on the 14th February and we will be discussing 'The Paris Apartment' by Lucy Foley.

Karen Keenan

Gardening Group

Our January meeting was held in Connect. It was a very sad occasion as one of our regular members had passed away. Frances paid tribute to Kenny Bamford and we observed a minute's silence, a sympathy card has been sent to Jenny.

The afternoon was a question/answer session. The group had sent in questions for our panel Frances, Geoff and Davy, while Kathleen put the questions to each in turn. Some questions were how to winter geraniums, moss on the lawn, plants for outdoor pots in winter, when to plant bulbs, how to prune variegated holly, mulching, when to prune apples and a very interesting concept "No Dig" garden. This was answered by Frances who explained the benefit of not digging up the soil each year. I liked that idea. The group thought this was a great afternoon.

Our next visit is to see the snowdrops at the Rectory and Benvarden.

Kathleen Owens

Family and Local History Group

Our Group braved a heavy snowfall to meet on Tuesday 17th January 2023 at Connect.

The main item of programme was to further prepare for our Group's visit to PRONI (Public Records Office for NI) planned for Tuesday 21st February.

Michael Diver initially gave us a presentation including old family photographs relating to his own personal family history. He encouraged the Group to consider recording their own family and local histories on the BU3A new website that Ballymoney u3a is currently working to upgrade.

The Group then had some general discussion regarding the procedures expected during their visit to PRONI. We were reminded that each member needs to have a detailed knowledge of searches they plan to access including reference numbers if possible, in order to maximise time spent at PRONI. We are grateful to Kate Connolly for offering to provide any further preparation advice required by Group members before our visit on 21st February.

Gladys Mallon has circulated all our members regarding travel

details for PRONI visit on Tuesday 21st February. We plan to travel by train departing Ballymoney at 9-32am. As Gladys is organising taxi transfer to and return home from PRONI, all travelling members need to notify Gladys (mobile 07725624903) as she needs exact numbers for taxis.

John Flynn

Photography Group

The Photography Group went to Castleroe/Cutts on Tuesday 9th January 2023. Despite the grey weather we managed to take some photographs. See below!

On the 16th January a few members braved the snowy conditions to attend the meeting in Connect to view the photographs taken at the Antrim Gardens and Garvagh Museum on 'Autumn Colour' and 'Past Times' respectively.

We welcome new members to join the group to photograph using any digital equipment.

Jean Philp



Whats On

A quick look at what is on locally that you may be interested in attending.

LOCAL EXHIBITIONS

COMMUNITY AND CROWN' PLATINUM JUBILEE EXHIBITION

Tuesday 3rd January -Saturday 22nd April,

Roe Valley Arts & Cultural Centre, 24Main Street, Limavady BT490FJ

This special exhibition celebrates the unique reign of Queen Elizabeth II, the longest reigning British monarch. The 'Community and Crown' display features many items of memorabilia taken from Museums Service collections along with special keepsakes on loan from members of the community. It includes items predating the Coronation and collectables produced for the Coronation and previous jubilees through the years. There are also many items relating to Royal visits to the Causeway Coast and Glens area.

FREE Admission.T: (028) 7776 0650

E:Tourism.Limavady@causewaycoastandglens.gov.ukW:

LET ME INTRODUCE YOU... A HISTORY OF DANCE HALLS IN THE CAUSEWAY AREA

Saturday 7th January - Saturday 22nd April,

Ballymoney Town Hall, 1Townhead Street, Ballymoney BT536BE

Explore and reminisce about the dancing days of the 1950s and 60s. Discover the Bobby Platt Collection, local dance hall promotor, and his success in bringing the big name bands and artistes to the North Coast. View photographs of the period from the Chronicle and Constitution Archives and listen to memories of those who lived through the era. The kid's area will also keep the little ones entertained with dress up, colouring and more.

FREE Admission.T: (028) 2766 0230

E:cms@causewaycoastandglens.gov.uk

ART FORMS IN NATURE: A HAYWARD GALLERY TOURING EXHIBITION

Friday 20th January -Friday 17th February

Roe Valley Arts & Cultural Centre, 24Main Street, Limavady BT490FJ

Karl Blossfeldt: Art Forms in Nature is a Hayward Touring exhibition which presents an original portfolio of 40 photogravures from 1932, entitled 'Wundergarten der Natur', edited by the artist and published in the year of his death. The exhibition presents an opportunity to witness an exemplary set of Blossfeldt's signature close-up images of plants and flora.

FREE Admission.T: (028) 7776 0650

E:Tourism.Limavady@causewaycoastandglens.gov.ukW:<https://roevalleyarts.com>

**CREATIVE VOICES: WHAT AUTISM MEANS TO ME Saturday 7th
January -Saturday 11th February,**
Flowerfield Arts Centre, Coleraine Road, Portstewart BT557HU

Presented by the Education Authority Autism Advisory and Intervention Service (AAIS) this exhibition features over 100 pieces of artwork from autistic pupils from post-Primary schools throughout Northern Ireland. The exhibition aims to empower our young people, to showcase their incredible creative talents, to listen to the pupils voices and for the wider community to learn more about autism from the personal perspective of our autistic pupils.

FREE Admission.T: (028) 7083 1400
E:info@flowerfield.orgW:<https://flowerfield.org>

Fireside Talks 2023

2nd February at 7.30pm
Grainne Milner-McLoone, Ulster University
Local Tunes, Culture Tails: Place and Identity in the Songs of Sam Henry

9th February at 7.30pm
Matthew Warwick, Ulster-Scots Community Network
The Ulster-Scots dimension in Sam Henry's Songs of the People

16th February at 7.30pm
Rachael Garrett, Causeway Coast and Glens Heritage Trust
Uncharted Histories: putting local stories on the map

To join any or all the sessions, please use the following Zoom link:
<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86732353645>
Meeting ID: 867 3235 3645

Thanks to Marie Hegarty for the above "What's On" news.

Contact Us

Via e-mail / mobile:

Financial: Elaine at: treasurerbmoneybu3a@gmail.com

Membership: Elizabeth at: membershipbu3a@gmail.com
or at: 07745897188

Activities: Kathleen at: activitiesbbu3a@gmail.com
or at: 07933147828

See more of us and you on your Website:

www.ballymoneyu3a.com

And on Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/746138852945378>

To contribute to our Newsletter:

Contributions, which are welcomed, should be forwarded by email to:

newsu3a@gmail.com

And should be clearly marked in the subject line: **Newsletter**.

All material will be subject to editorial scrutiny and approval. Any submission must relate to the totality of activities, aims, objectives and values of Bu3a and u3a.

Ballymoney u3a Website

We have built a Ballymoney u3a website that contains lots of information about Ballymoney u3a. Our activities, how to contact us, our policies, useful forms and documents and so on can be found at: www.ballymoneyu3a.com

Our website front page looks like the image below.



Welcome Activities Monthly Meetings Contact Us Our History Documents and Forms Latest News Administration

Useful Information

BALLYMONEY U3A SPEAKER AND EVENTS 2022-23

6 SEPTEMBER 2022 SPEAKER:CHARLIE GILLAN TOPIC: ULSTER SCOTS STORIES/POEMS

4 OCTOBER 2022

SPEAKERS: LYN & VICENT AND TARA AND HEARING DOG TARA

1 NOVEMBER 2022

SPEAKER/EVENT: INFORMATION DAY TOPIC: Invited speakers will have their exhibits on show, together with information leaflets/brochures. This is a great opportunity to speak with exhibitors and get the information you need!

Bu3a will have a HELP and ACTIVITIES DESK where you can raise any Bu3a-related queries.

6 DECEMBER 2022 EVENT: CHRISTMAS LUNCH (Lodge Hotel, Coleraine)

3 JANUARY 2023 EVENT: MUSICAL ENTERTAINMENT by "SCAD THE BEGGARS" and POEMS and STORIES by "BALLYMONEY WRITERS".

7 FEBRUARY 2023 SPEAKER: KEITH BEATTIE TOPIC: Local History

7 MARCH 2023 SPEAKER: ELEANOR BRENNAN TOPIC: RSPB

4 APRIL 2023 SPEAKER: EDDIE LYNCH - Commissioner for Older People

2 MAY 2023 SPEAKER/EVENT: AGM (Speaker TBC)

6 JUNE 2023 EVENT: TRIP TO RATHLIN (details to follow)

Key to locations

KEY			
Connect 2-10 Model School Road Ballymoney BT53 6BH			
BC HUB Ballymoney Community Hub, Robinson Hospital site, 23 Newal Road, Ballymoney BT53 6HB			
BCRC Building Communities Resource Centre, 22/23 Acorn Business Centre, 2 Riada Ave, Ballymoney BT53 7LH			
The Pantry at the Dark Hedges, 139a Ballinlea Rd BT53 8PX			
VARIOUS As advised by Group Leader.			
All details correct at time of printing changes may occur			
Website www.ballymoneyu3a.com			
Membership membershipbu3a@gmail.com		07745 897188	
Activities activitiesbbu3a@gmail.com		07933 147828	
Facebook			
Monthly meetings are held on the 1st Tuesday of each month			
Commencing 11am admission from 10.30am			
There is a cover charge of £1 per meeting			
Venue Connect, 2-10 Model School Road BT53 6BH			
Main Members meetings - Connect Building			
Venue Connect			

OUR CURRENT ACTIVITIES

BALLYMONEY u3a ACTIVITIES GUIDE

September 2022 - June 2023

	Day	Time	Venue	Leader	Admin	Phone	Email
ARCHERY	TBC		TBC	Frances		07857218150	frances.bach@btinternet.com
ART	2nd Thursday		Connect				
BRIDGE	Monday weekly	2.30pm - 4.30pm	Castle Com Centre	Damian	Paul	028 27662981	kathy15_uk@yahoo.com
CRAFTS	2nd Thursday		Connect				
CREATIVE WRITING	3rd Tuesday	12.30pm - 2pm	Connect	Sharon	Sharon	07756221186	sharonflynn@btinternet.com
ENVIRONMENT	Monday weekly TBC	TBC	Various	Jean	Jean	028 2766 4093	jeanphilp7@outlook.com
FAMILY/LOCAL HISTO	3rd Tuesday	10.30am - 12.30pm	Connect	Kathleen C	Gladys	028 27664036	ag4dvc@hotmail.co.uk
GARDENING	3rd Thursday	2pm	Connect/visits	Geoff	Kathleen O	07933 147828	kathy15_uk@yahoo.com
GOLF	Thursday weekly	10am tee off	various	Donal	Paul	07933 269859	donalgillan@aol.com
IPAD & LAPTOP	Wed	10.30 am - 12.30pm	BCRC	Michael	Michael	07733720 463	michael.diver@talk21.co.uk
PHOTO EDITING	Wed	2.0pm - 4.0 pm	BCRC	Marie		07515068303	mariehegarty7@gmail.com
PHOTOGRAPHY	2nd & 3rd Tuesday	2.pm - 3.30pm	Connect	Davy	Jean	028 2766 4259	jeanphilp7@outlook.com
READING GROUP	2nd Tuesday	10.30am - 12.30pm	The Hub	Mary	Karen	07933248624	karen.keenan2503@gmail.com
STORYTELLING	2nd Monday	11am - 1pm	TheHub	Mary	George	07771595045	george.mcauley@hotmail.com
UKELELE	TBC	11am - 12 noon	various	Damien	Mary	07801 594459	auntra@hotmail.com
COFFEE CATCH-UP	Last Fri	10am - 12 noon	The Pantry	Julie		07977 297090	HUDSONJULIE@outlook.com
OUT TO LUNCH	3rd Friday	12.30 for 1pm	various	Eileen	Eileen	07729 117248	helpeventsbu3a@gmail.com