

APRIL e-Newsletter

Members we trust that you are keeping well. Easter is here and roll-on good weather, fewer restrictions, and more opportunities to meet up.

WARM, WELL AND CONNECTED PACKS It was great to see so many at the Holmes Memorial Hall Collection Point for Packs”. Pets came along as well, and were soon the centre of attention. For those who could not come along, packs were delivered to their door step. Enjoy the contents everyone!



Geoff Robinson, Marie Hegarty, Patricia, McAllister, John Pinkerton, Marion McDowell, Irene Munnis and Liz Marsh.

RECENT CHANGES - WHO'S WHO - U3A OFFICERS/COMMITTEE at 1April

Chairman: John Pinkerton	Vice-Chair: Marion McDowell(until next AGM)
Treasurer: Irene Ross	Assistant Treasurer: Elaine Wilson
Correspondence Secretary:	Linda Wilson
Membership Secretary:	Elizabeth Stevenson
Minutes Secretary:	Kathleen Owens
Committee Members:	Ken Bamford and Eileen Richmond
IT Support/Beacon:	Michael Diver and Marie Hegarty
Ambassador:	Marie Hegarty

MARION MCDOWELL: Marion has taken up the role of Vice-Chair to offer support to Chairman and Committee (until AGM 2021)

JOHN MICHAEL: Treasurer John Michael has given 6 years of service to and we thank him for his commitment ensuring that our accounts were accurate and ready for audit, and wish him well for the future. Welcome to Treasurer Irene Ross, and Assistant Treasurer Elaine Wilson.

SAM COCHRANE: After 5 years as Membership Secretary, Sam Cochrane stepped down. Thank you to Sam for his endeavours looking after membership and getting us started with Beacon. Welcome to Elizabeth Stevenson as Membership Secretary, and Elizabeth introduced herself to members a couple of days ago by email. NB: She is available via email or mobile). Any queries feel free to make contact.

“Dear Member I have become the new Membership Secretary for BU3A having taken over from Sam and Marie. Please inform me of any changes in your contact details by email to membershipbu3a@gmail.com or mobile 07745897188.

Regards Elizabeth Stevenson(Membership Secretary)”

MONTHLY MEETINGS AND ACTIVITY UPDATES. Monthly Meetings and some Activities are taking place on Zoom. Feel free to give zoom a try. Irene Ross will help you get connected. Contact e.irene.ross@gmail.com.

6 APRIL at 11 am Speaker: Rachel Bain, Bio-Diversity Officer

Topic: Don't Mow Let It Grow This is an innovative project that is changing the way we manage our public grasslands, transforming selected areas into natural hay meadows that benefit our native wildflowers and pollinators. Rachel Bain is the project manager and Biodiversity Officer for Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council.

4 MAY at 11 am Speaker: Siobhan Lowe Ulster Bank

Topic: Presentation - Scam Awareness -45 mins followed by Q & A.

1 JUNE MAIN MEETING at 11 am VIRTUAL TOUR (to be confirmed)

BU3A FACEBOOK PAGE IS UP AND RUNNING. Please support us and log on. Search for BallymoneyU3A on Facebook. Remember to request admission to the group. Once admitted, feel free to add useful information, verses, pictures etc.

BU3A WEBSITE has been under construction, is still a work in progress and is coming together well regarding content and layout. The design element is the next step. Please support us and view our BU3A Website at www.ballymoneyu3a.com – and let us know if you find it reasonably easy to navigate. CAN YOU FIND WHAT YOU ARE LOOKING FOR? Comments welcome to newsu3a@gmail.com.

CREATIVE WRITING

The Creative Writing group met on 16 March. Sharon had given as the topic “There was a knock at the door” which had us scratching heads for inspiration. But not for long, the pieces submitted were all on completely different subjects linked only by the Knock on the door.

From the tale of the flatulent dog bravely protecting his family in the face of a perceived intruder to the mystery of self-employed caterer, and the unexpected letter revealing infidelity long ago, the heartbreak of World War 1 telegrams of loss and bereavement to the tale of the shy child hiding in a wardrobe from the dreaded knock bringing a stranger to the home and the lonely women who spent her days waiting for mail order deliveries so that she could engage the courier in conversation to ease her isolation. The writings showed that imagination has no bounds and we in turns laughed and cried as each tale unfolded.

If you would like to add to our miscellany please join us no special skills are needed and you would be very welcome. We meet via Zoom on the third Tuesday of each month. Details are on the U3A Website. www.Ballymoneyu3a.com

By Marion McDowell

FAMILY HISTORY

The Family History Group met on Tuesday 23rd February on Zoom.

We started off with a short demonstration, inputting information onto Family Tree Maker which is a Family Tree building program.

Subsequent discussions were on townlands and where to find information on the Internet. It was interesting to note that there can be townlands with the same name in different areas. Confusing to say the least but we are thankful that we have Kathleen who directs us and shares information with us to enable better searches.

One member had discovered a very interesting webpage which has some very interesting and valuable information on graveyards in and around Portglenone, Kilrea, Maghera, Bellaghy, Innisrush and Tamlaght areas in Counties Derry/Londonderry and Antrim.

This same website gives us a list of the oldest recorded people in certain areas a small selection of these can be found below.

Once again, a really interesting meeting, sometimes going for little walks down memory lane, and if there are any members who wish to join us you would be made most welcome. You can contact us at groupsbu3a@gmail.com quoting Family History Group in the subject line. (Same for queries re website referred to etc).

From Website search, some people lived to a very old age!

Died	Name	Parish	Age
1778	Jane O'Neill	Ballymoney	96
1685	David Waugh	Antrim	109
1758	Catherine Giles	Glenwhirry	122
1800	Martha Dund	Ahoghill	126
1807	Jane Johnston	Belfast	123

By Gladys Mallon and Irene Ross



GOLF

The original Golf Group 2016

Paul. Terry, Jane, Mary, Kathleen, Brian, Philomena and Paddy

Golf group led by Donal and Paul, has 14 members and in normal times, play weekly at a nominated Golf Club.

The group hope to Tee-off this Thursday 1 April 2021. For further information please contact Paul on 079 0997 2696.

By Paul McCusker



The QUIZ held on Tuesday 30 March produced the following result:-

First John & Sue Pinkerton

Second Frances & Michael Wilson

Third Jane and Drew McCullough and Marshall & Sylvia Lindsay (tie)

NEXT QUIZ –

Each 'team' will be setting 10 Questions in a round with a subject of their choice. Date to be advised

By Irene Ross

GARDENING

WHILE WE CANNOT VISIT GARDENS IN PERSON – THE GARDENS WERE BROUGHT TO US by GEOFF ROBINSON

The gardening group met via zoom on Tuesday evening 2 March. We enjoyed very interesting photos of gardens visited before COVID pandemic, presented by Marie Hegarty on Geoff Robinson's behalf.

The slides showed snowdrops in Benvarden garden, run by National Trust, as well as other shrubs, flowers and vegetable plots, which demonstrated a well-kept garden and Geoff explained they keep a full-time gardener and one part-time. Then we visited Billy Rectory at Bushmills where we saw more snowdrops and shrubs again a lovely laid out garden, well worth a visit when we get back to some form of normality.



Zoom Garden Meeting Tuesday, 23 March at 7.30 pm

The gardening group met on Tuesday, 23 March via zoom. A very good attendance when Marie Hegarty showed some excellent pictures of flowers and shrubs in her Mum's garden. This led to discussions re shrubs and Geoff offered some suggestions on plant names etc. A big thank you to Marie.

“Spring” By Marie

Video link https://youtu.be/2ISgq_UIWvs

View on Ballymoney U3A Facebook or Website at www.Ballymoneyu3a.com

“Activities and Reports”

By Kathleen Owens

ZOOM READERS

The book discussed by the Zoom Readers on Tuesday 23rd March was The Thursday Murder Club by Richard Osman.

The Thursday Murder Club consists of four members who meet in the Jigsaw Room, on Thursdays, in a peaceful retirement village where they all live. They get together every Thursday to discuss and solve ‘cold cases’. The members of the club are Elizabeth, who was a spy, Joyce, a nurse, Ibrahim, a psychiatrist and Ron who was a union leader. So imagine the thrill when they are faced with a real-life murder. In the story there are many misdirections and the characters are an absolute delight.

There is lots of humour and some brilliant and worth remembering comments -

“ in life you have to learn to count the good days. You have to tuck them in your pocket and carry them around with you. So I am putting today in my pocket and I'm off to bed”.

Richard Osman was considered, by the members, to be a good writer with good vocabulary. He was definitely tuned in to the ways of the elderly. The book was uplifting in these difficult times. In general the book was enjoyed by all; it was easy reading and more than one of us felt that this was somewhere that we would like to live and have a Thursday Murder Club.

Our next read is The Night Olivia Fell by Christina McDonald. ‘and it is available via Libby, the Library App and is free to download’ A list of potential reads was sent out to members on the 26th February and members were reminded to list these in order of preference for a future read.

We are a lovely group and everyone contributes to the discussion and anyone wishing to join us would be made most welcome. Contact us at groupsbu3a@gmail.com quoting Zoom Readers in the subject line.

By Irene Ross

BALLYMONEY SPRING FAIR – VIRTUAL PROGRAMME 1-3 APRIL 2021



BALLYMONEY
Spring
FAIR

Virtual Programme
1 - 3 April 2021, 4pm each day

- Celebration of Ballymoney Family Fairs through the years narrated by BBC Radio Ulster's Kerry McLean
- Spring Food and Fashion showcase
- Virtual visits around local farms and agricultural providers

To view videos visit @causewaycoastandglens on Facebook or www.youtube.com/CausewayCoastandGlens

www.visitcausewaycoastandglens.com
Causeway Coast & Glens Events

Causeway Coast & Glens Borough Council

DIGITAL TRAINING

DIGITAL INCLUSION



Supporting Communities
Empowering Society

APRIL 2021

We have some great digital inclusion sessions available via Zoom this April. Try something new online or improve upon your existing skills! Email Stephanie McKillop to register at stef@supportingcommunities.org.

13	ONLINE SAFETY: SCAM AWARENESS <i>Tuesday 13 April, 10am-11am</i>
14	LEARN TO MAKE THE MOST OF FACEBOOK <i>Wednesday 14 April, 12pm-1pm</i>
19	LEARN TO MAKE THE MOST OF INSTAGRAM <i>Monday 19 April, 11am-12pm</i>
21	BANKING ONLINE SAFETY DEMONSTRATION <i>Wednesday 21 April, 11am-12pm</i>
22	HOW TO USE AN ALEXA (ECHO/ ECHO DOT) <i>Tuesday 20 April, 10am-11am</i>
26	VIRTUAL TOURS: AN ONLINE TASTER SESSION <i>Monday 26 March, 11am-12pm</i>
29	USING THE CAMERA & EDITING TOOLS ON YOUR DEVICE <i>Thursday 29 April, 10:30am-11:30am</i>

Full details of each session available online!
www.supportingcommunities.org

Book your place via Irene at: groupsbu3a@gmail.com