

NEWSLETTER

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1st November 2015

UPPER BANN
U3A

Climate Change and Climate Justice



Left - Right Paul Burrows, Carmel Lavery, Betty McGrane, Jim Corr, Rita Morgan, Pat Flowerday, Teresa Corr, Yvonne Jennings
Report and photograph supplied by Paul Burrows

What will we tell the children when they start to ask us why?

A group of eight from Upper Bann attended the U3A climate Change conference in Monaghan, where we heard some memorable contributions from Fr Sean McDonagh, Eco Theologian, Dr Paul Nolan, Meteorologist with ICHEC, Dr Frank McGovern, Head of Climate Change Research and Science EPA, Professor John Barry, School of Politics and International Studies QUB and Dr Lorna Gold, Head of Policy and Advocacy.

In the afternoon we worked alongside some young

people from Friends of the Earth and local schools. There were also minor inputs from representative of Grandparents for a Safe Earth, Age Action Ireland, Linking Generations NI, Young Trocaire Activists, and TY students. We could not fail to be aware of the precarious state of the planet and our role in it. Feelings of anger, guilt and panic predominated. It was a very worthwhile experience expertly organised by Monaghan U3A.



Teresa and Yvonne talk to Fr Sean McDonagh on matters relating to Climate change

Ulster's Forgotten Hero was the title of the talk at October's monthly Get-Together given by David Armstrong, former editor of the Portadown Times. He delivered an interesting and passionate talk on John King (1838 – 1872). King was an Irish soldier from Moy Co Tyrone, who achieved fame as an Australian explorer. He was the sole survivor of the four men from the ill-fated Burke and Wills expedition who reached the Gulf of Carpentaria. The expedition was the first to cross Australia from south to north, finding a route across the continent from Melbourne in Victoria to the Gulf of Carpentaria in Queensland. The full story is well worth reading.

Monthly Get-Together

Tuesday 17th
November 2015
Lurgan Town Hall
Upstairs
2.00 pm

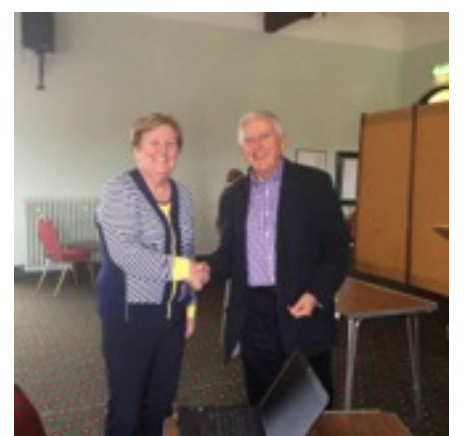


My work in Kenya

A local teacher, is our guest speaker at the November Get-together. Helen Moorehead taught in Drumgor Primary School before running a Unit for Hearing Impaired children based in Lismore Comprehensive School in Craigavon. She completed her teaching career in Kenya where she dedicated her time and effort into establishing and running a school for children with hearing difficulties. Helen will speak on her work in Kenya. I had the privilege of working with Helen for a number of years and I can assure you her talk will be well worth attending.

JOHN KING

John King books, available on Amazon and recommended by David Armstrong include 'The Dig Tree' by Sarah Murgatroyd, 'Coopers Creek' by Alan Moorehead and 'John King, Ireland's Forgotten Explorer' by Eric Villiers.



Restructuring of nature group

National Trust Properties

Report by Pat Flowerday

The Nature Group is changing its nature. From November, we will hold most of our nature walks at National Trust or other notable properties, so that members will generally have the choice of visiting grand houses (though please note some are closed for the winter months) or of looking at wildlife. One of the advantages of this is that our outings will be less weather and tide

dependent. Another is that most have a tea-room and toilet! Many National Trust properties charge only to go into their houses, not to their grounds. However, if you're not a member already, what a nice Christmas present from a loved one....!

The group will continue to meet on a Wednesday, changing to monthly - the third Wednesday of the month. The first outing will

be to Mount Stewart on 18 November, when we will be able to visit the grounds, formal gardens, restaurant and shop, but the recently restored house will not be open. A reminder and details will be sent out a few days in advance.

News of non-U3A nature-related events will continue to be sent out as will some 'extra' local visits.

Easy Riders Make Music



Tom's Easy Riders visited Dan Winter's Cottage where they enjoyed music and craic

Dan Winter's is an original mud wall thatched cottage which was built in 1623. The cottage consists of living quarters, spirit grocers and weavers quarters, with a full working loom.

It is situated in the centre of the site where the famous Battle of the Diamond took place in 1795.

At 94ft long it is believed to be the longest thatched cottage in Ireland.



Tom and his merry men (women) enjoyed a morning of music, song and dance. Why weren't we all told I ask!!!!

SWAN LAKE

Edith has a spare ticket for the ballet Swan Lake on Sat. 7th Nov. at 2.30 pm. The first person to contact her will get the ticket. Contact details are email: edith@davies3213.orangehome.co.uk or Tel: 02838362267



BAKE OFF'S BACK!

BBC baking contest The Great British Bake Off is returning in 2016 and the production team is currently

Do you fancy putting your baking skills to the test or do you know someone who might?

looking for the next batch of great home bakers to take part. So who's the best baker you know?

If you, or someone you know, can turn out a terrific tart, produce a perfect pie or serve up a sublime sponge, then please get in touch now.

For more information or an application form, go to: www.thegreatbritishbakeoff.co.uk

If you or someone you know thinks they have what it takes to bake in the tent, then please do encourage them to visit the website where they can download the application form or

email

baking@loveproductions.co.uk

Thanks very much for your help

This email was sent to U3A Regional Office by

Jennifer Greenwood

Casting Producer – *The Great British Bake Off*
Love Productions
T: 0207 067 4820

jennifer.greenwood@loveproductions.co.uk

FOOD, GLORIOUS FOOD!!

UPPER BANN LUNCHEON CLUB

A group of twelve members enjoyed the October luncheon meeting at Lurgan Golf Club. Those attending the dinner agreed the November meeting should take place in Brownlow Castle.



Members of the luncheon group met at Lurgan Golf Club Restaurant

Norma is currently making arrangements for Thursday 26th November at 12.30 pm. More information will be available nearer the date

CHRISTMAS LUNCH FOR ALL

Christmas is fast approaching and planning is underway for all our members to attend the Christmas Lunch. This year the Committee agreed it would be a good idea to organise our lunch at a venue where Upper Bann U3A could have a room, exclusively for their use. The City Hotel in Armagh is our chosen venue. Norma has confirmed the booking for Tuesday 15th December at 12.30 pm and during the coming month, menu details etc. will be forwarded to members.

Alan Jardine has kindly agreed to arrange music for the event. We look forward to seeing you there and joining in the fun! Put the date in your diary.

BRIDGE CLUB CHRISTMAS LUNCH

December is traditionally a busy month and this year is no exception. Bridge members are asked to pencil into their calendar, Friday 11th December as the date for the Bridge Club Christmas lunch.

CHESS

Brownlow Library is no longer able to accommodate the Chess group on Thursday morning. All members interested in Chess are asked to attend a meeting at Brownlow Library on Tuesday 10th November at 10.15 am to choose a time and place to meet. Des Rawlings is the group convenor and his contact details are dhrawlins@btinternet.com or phone 38841798.

Please note, new members are welcome. It is not necessary to have a knowledge of chess as instructions will be given.

NEWLY FORMED GARDENING GROUP VISIT NEWRY U3A

(Report by Norman Pierson, Photos by Geraldine McIvor)



Listen and learn

Members of our newly formed gardening club met with the Newry U3A to hear how they manage their gardening group.



The meeting was held in beautiful Autumn sunshine at the allotment run by the Newry members, which is situated in quiet countryside with superb views of the surrounding countryside.

Catherine Donnelly and her members met our group with a really warm welcome and after introductions a tour of the allotment followed. Further friendly conversation and discussion gave our members lots of facts and information on running a garden group.

The Newry members then provided the most wonderful hospitality, tea, coffee, sandwiches and cakes etc. served at picnic tables in beautiful sunshine!

After this truly kind gesture by the Newry group the meeting ended, with our members returning home very satisfied after a worthwhile visit.

WANTED - A CONVENOR FOR TRIPS AND OUTINGS

In the past we have had a number of very successful trips with Ena and later Heather as group convenors. Since Heather moved from the Upper Bann area we have not been successful in getting a replacement convenor. It would be a shame if this enjoyable activity was discontinued. Would you be willing to act as a Convenor in this area? If so please contact a member of the Committee.



**Welcome to Flame,
Ireland's only
preserved Victorian
gasworks, at
Carrickfergus**

The following email came from the U3A Regional Office. *As Flame Gasworks Museum is the only Gasworks left in Ireland, I believe it may be of interest to U3A groups. Our guided tours take approximately 1.5 hours and admission is free. We can open at any time to suit as long as we know in advance.*

If sufficient interest is expressed, a group visit can be arranged. Text 07715046187 or email fmckeown@ionology.com before Friday 6th November if you are interested in a visit to the Flame Museum