

# UPPER BANN U3A

## OCTOBER NEWSLETTER 2015



### MONTHLY GET-TOGETHER

Michelle Wilson (centre), Crime Prevention Officer (PSNI) gave a very interesting and informative talk to members at the September monthly get-together. As a result a number of members have already taken steps to improve their security.

The next Monthly Get-together will be held in Lurgan Town Hall on 20th October at 2.00 pm. The topic is John King – Ulster's Forgotten Hero – a talk given by David Armstrong. Tom King was born in 1838 in Moy Co Tyrone. He was the first person to cross the continent of Australia from south to north, from Melbourne to the Gulf of Carpentaria in 1860/61, and return alive.

### NATURE GROUP

This photograph is of the only Analemmatic sundial in Ireland. It was taken by the Nature Group whilst on a trip to Oxford Island.



### NEW GARDENING GROUP (by Tom Young)

The Gardening group met for the first time on the 23rd September in Brownlow library. There has been a great deal of interest with 20 people coming forward and a dozen or so attending this meeting. Each member introduced themselves and what they would like to benefit from: - potting up, growing vegetables and fruit, propagation, seasonal chores, grass management, sharing plant materials (cuttings, etc), planting ideas for their gardens, wildlife promotion, removal of pests, talks and visits.

They were a wonderful bunch of characters, Some might say a "Potty Lot" as they started to share their information that ranged from strawberries to bluebells, from garlic bulbs to hedgehogs, from successfully growing in South

Africa to fossil plants and potting difficulties and so on.

The seeds have certainly been sown for this green fingered lot and they would love to see more people come along and actively participate and contribute to the group.

At this meeting Norman Pearson kindly agreed to be the Convenor.

A visit has been arranged to Newry U3A gardening group on the morning of 29th September to hear their story. They have their own allotment! For more information contact [n.pearson48@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:n.pearson48@hotmail.co.uk)

Next meeting Tuesday 13th October. More details to follow.





# You Take The High Road

and I'll take the low road (Report and photograph by Heather Crawford)

After their successful Lap of the Lough, Mike's bikers took to the high seas on Sept 1st to conquer the Galloway Peninsula though the dawn start for the 7.30 am ferry did not bode well. However, the bottomless Stena coffee soon perked us up and we were in top gear by the time we reached Cairnryan. The route to Stranraer was rather scary with monster trucks roaring past but once we left the main road all was quiet, apart from the heavy breathing as we tackled the 'hill of death' (Mike's words) climbing up the Old Military Road. What goes up must come down and it was a super rollercoaster ride into Portpatrick, braking just before we hit the sea.

What a beautiful sight, sparkling sea, blue skies, yachts and fish and chips! This was chill out time, a well earned break for food, drink, chat and bit of a sunbathe. Mike had a different scenic route planned for our return trip with plenty of challenges of the upward variety but affording us wonderful views of the countryside and the sea. Another break in the square in Stranraer before pedalling off to the ferry which was tough going with the wind in our faces and legs that were tired. The thought of dinner was a great motivator and we even had the use of a cabin where John dispensed tea and biscuits to the ladies!

Stena staff were very attentive and helpful especially as a few of us couldn't find our bikes when we arrived in Belfast having forgotten on which deck they were stored. Cycling on and off the ferry, keeping ahead of the lorries was also quite exciting though apparently we were supposed to walk!

A superb trip, well organised as always, even down to wall to wall sunshine for the whole day, good company and craic with Mike, John, Pat, Nancy, Sheelagh, Betty and Heather. Thank you Mike. Where next?



# Theatre and Cinema News

Something to suit all tastes

**The Gateway Theatre Group** presents the hilarious "Separate Beds" in Portadown Town Hall at 8.00 pm on Friday 9th and Saturday 10th October. Tickets are available from Winnies' Newsagents, Woodhouse Street, Portadown £8/£7 concessionary rate.

## Cinema - Craigavon Omniplex

There will be a live transmission from London's Vaudeville Theatre of '**The Importance of Being Earnest**' by Oscar Wilde with David Suchet in the role of Lady Bracknell - Thursday 8th October. Get your own ticket and we will see you inside the cinema.

'**The Lady In The Van**' - a film version of the Alan Bennett play has a release date of 13th November. It will be in UK cinemas so should also be in Craigavon.

**The Musical Love Story of John Mitchel and Jenny Verner** will be held In the Linen Hall Library, Belfast. Jane (Jenny) Verner Mitchel (1826-1899) was born into a Unionist family in Verner's Bridge, Co. Armagh, Ireland circa 1826. For more background information on this musical here is the link [Linen Hall Library - Performance: The Musical Love Story of John Mitchel and Jenny Verner](#)



## BRIDGE GROUP

The Bridge Group continues to meet every Friday morning in Portadown Golf Club, starting at 10.00 pm and finishing at 1.00 pm. We always break for a cuppa and a chat at 11.00 pm. Everyone is welcome, including beginners.

A U3A Bridge Congress will take place in Portrush on Wednesday 4th November 2015, starting at 11.00 am until 3.30 pm.

Please confirm if you are going. Either email Tom [thomasy04@me.com](mailto:thomasy04@me.com) or ring 07712667732.

## LUNCHEON CLUB

Fifteen members of Upper Bann U3A met at Sally McNally's Restaurant for a very tasty lunch. No expense was spared in flying in two well known celebrities, Dolores Dixon and Felicity Roland, who provided great entertainment.

The venue for the next lunch on 29th October is Lurgan Golf Club. More information to follow.

***Maureen Carroll has decided to stand down as treasurer of Upper Bann U3A but will continue as a Committee member. Thank you Maureen for the major contribution you have already made and continue to make to Upper Bann U3A. Graham Bass is the new treasurer.***

[www.upperbannu3a.com](http://www.upperbannu3a.com)