

## Upper Bann U3A

## NEWSLETTER

**BRAY TRIP  
PLANNED FOR  
U3A  
MEMBERS**

Ena has researched and booked a two night break for members of Upper Bann U3A.

On Monday 7th March, twenty four members plan to travel to the Royal Hotel in Bray. In addition to the two nights B & B, the €89 includes one two course evening meal. Ena paid a visit to the hotel this week to research activities she can recommend to those taking part in the trip.

We look forward to our stay and thank you Ena for all your hard work. In fact, thank you to all convenors who contribute so much to the success of Upper Bann U3A.

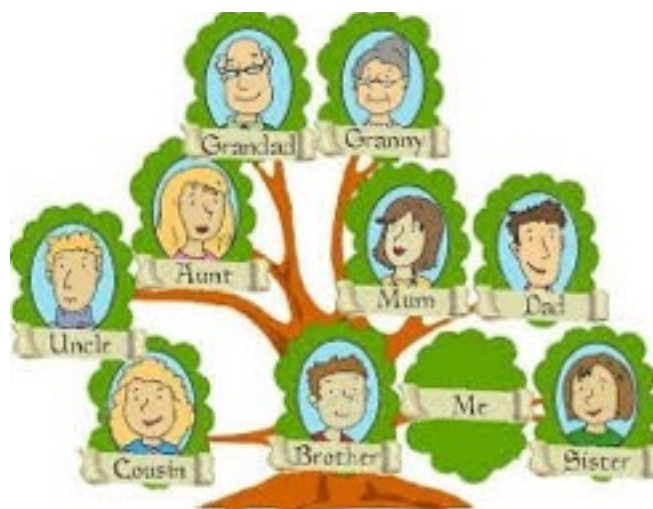


## SINGALONG!

### FIRST MEETING OF THE NEWLY FORMED SINGALONG GROUP

The first meeting of the newly formed singalong group took place on Tuesday 9th February with Diane Hillis as convenor. Twenty members attended and a great time was had by all. At the end of session one, our oldest member, ninety year old Jean Tweed was heard to comment "That was lovely. It is so good for the soul". The second meeting on Tuesday 23rd was equally successful. Everyone welcome to future sessions!

## GENEALOGY



### Report by Yvonne Jennings

This is a heartfelt thanks to Geraldine McIvor, the Convenor of the Genealogy Group who succeeded in connecting me with a cousin in the U.S. whom I had never met and to let you all know that it is a wonderful resource to have at our disposal in the U3A!!

My uncle emigrated as a young man to California in 1928 and never returned home. He had one daughter whom we knew about but never met. When our last remaining uncle died in 2009, we tried to contact her, as she was a beneficiary in his will, along with a number of his other nieces and nephews. I wrote to an address which I was given but the letter and its contents were returned unopened. It stated that she was not known at this address. Several attempts were made by the solicitor to find her but to no avail. I put the letter in a folder and duly forgot about it.

### TRAINING ON DIGITAL DEVICES



About a month ago circumstances arose which made me think about her and her money which was sitting unclaimed in a solicitor's office. I gave Geraldine the information I had and she then did a search which resulted in her presenting me last week with an address and a phone number in Nevada! The next day I phoned and was immediately through to my cousin. I was simply amazed to hear the voice of my long lost cousin and she also was thrilled. We had a great chat.

Later I sent her the letter which I had written in 2009 and all the photos it contained. I was also able to log onto her website, read about her and see her pictures. A few days later she heard from the solicitor (I had emailed him her address and phone number) and she learned about her inheritance! She is now planning to come to Ireland in 2017 and so we will be able to catch up on the stories of our lives and those of our families.

**All thanks to Geraldine  
and the U3A!!!**

### DIGITAL DEVICE TRAINING

Digital device training got underway on Friday 12th February when John Trimble met with members of U3A who use 'Window' devices. With identified problems satisfactorily resolved, members left Portadown Library satisfied they had made good progress.

Thanks to Santa Claus's generosity with tablet gifts this Christmas, over thirty enthusiastic learners attended Leanne Chapman's four training sessions aimed at helping address beginners' difficulties.

Participants unanimously expressed their appreciation for both the quality input from Leanne and the mentoring team as well as the suitability of Bleary Business and Community Centre as a venue.

Further sessions are planned in the near future on additional topics identified by members.

# WELL DONE QUIZZERS!

Upper Bann was well represented at the inter-U3A quiz held in Belfast on 9th February. Twenty-nine groups from across the province took part. with Upper Bann's team of Paul Burrows, Tom Atkinson, Liz and Kevin Lowe coming joint second. Des Rawlings was a member of the other team ranked second. Congratulations and well done to all involved!

## ROTARY CLUB QUIZ

**Are you a quiz enthusiast? Portadown Rotary Club has organised a Quiz Night for Friday 4th March 2016 at Portadown Golf Club with Cecil Brownlee as Quiz Master.**

If anyone wants to come along please contact the Portadown Golf Club directly to book table/places, Telephone number is 38355356.

Looking forward to hearing from you and welcoming all Team/s on 4th March for an 8.00 pm start.

## PORTADOWN DRAMA FESTIVAL 2016

**Tuesday 8th - Friday 18th March**

**NIGHTLY TICKETS Adults £8-50  
Concession £7.50**



2016 **SEASON TICKET** Adults £30  
Concession £25

Tuesday 8th **TIME AND REMEMBERING** by Sean Treanor  
**Newpoint Players**

Wednesday 9th **RUMOURS** by Neil Simon **Bart Players**

Thursday 10th **KINDERTRANSPORT** by Diane Samuels  
**Rosemary Drama Group**

Friday 11th **LOST IN YONKERS** by Neil Simon **Bridge Drama**

Saturday 12 **DA** by Hugh Leonard **Pomeroy Players**

Monday 14th **BRIGHTON** by Jim Nolan **The Clarence Players**

Tuesday 15th **AFTER DRESDEN** by Philip Orr **Belvoir Players**

Wednesday 16th **THE FACTORY GIRLS** by Frank McGuinness  
**Newtownstewart Theatre Company**

Thursday 17th **THE PRISONER OF SECOND AVENUE** by Neil Simon **Lislea Dramatic Players**

Friday 18th **A WALK IN THE WOODS** by Lee Blessing **Theatre 3**



## BIG CHEEKS

The following story was forwarded to me by Paul Burrows and I think it is worth sharing

A boy was born the grandson of slaves in a poor neighbourhood of New Orleans known as the "Back of Town". His father abandoned the family when the child was an infant. His mother became a prostitute and the boy and his sister had to live with their grandmother.

Early in life he proved to be gifted for music and with three other kids he sang in the streets of New Orleans. His first gains were coins that were thrown to them.

A Jewish family, Karnofsky, who had immigrated from Lithuania to the USA, took pity on the 7-year-old boy and brought him into their home, initially giving him 'work' in the house, to feed this hungry child.

He remained and slept in this Jewish family's home where, for the first time in his life, he was treated with kindness and tenderness.

When he went to bed, Mrs. Karnovsky sang to him a Russian lullaby. He would sing it with her. Later, he learned to sing and play several Russian and Jewish songs. Over time, this boy became the adopted son of this family.

As was the custom in the Jewish families, the Karnofskys gave him money to buy his first musical instrument. They sincerely admired his musical talent.

Later, when he became a professional musician and composer, he used these Jewish melodies in compositions, such as St. James Infirmary and Go Down, Moses.

The little black boy grew up and wrote a book about this Jewish family who had adopted him in 1907. In memory of this family, and until the end of his life, he wore a star of David and said that in this family, he learned "how to live real life with determination."

You might recognise his name. This little boy was: Louis "Satchmo" Armstrong. Louis Armstrong proudly spoke fluent Yiddish! And "Satchmo" is Yiddish for "Big Cheeks".

## LYRIC THEATRE OUTING

The next theatre outing to the Lyric Theatre Belfast is to a performance of Benjamin Britten's "**The Turn of the Screw**", based on the novella by Henry James. Tickets, for the 11th and 12th performances are priced at just £20. If interested, please contact Edith 38 3622 67 [edith@davies3213.orangehome.co.uk](mailto:edith@davies3213.orangehome.co.uk) or Ruth [ruth999@talktalk.net](mailto:ruth999@talktalk.net) tel. no 38 3368 17.



## SUBSCRIPTION RENEWAL

Subscription renewal for the year April 2016 - March 2017 is now due. The annual £15 subscription will be collected during March at a range of venues, details of which will be emailed next week. Alternatively, you may send a cheque made payable to "Upper Bann U3A" to our membership secretary, Laura McAdam, 13 Village Walk, Portadown. Co Armagh. BT63 5TL

If you are a UK taxpayer, the value of your gift can be increased by 25% under the Gift Aid scheme at no extra cost to you. This means your donation of £15.00 could be worth an extra £3.75 to us, and it doesn't cost you a penny! Simply sign the gift aid form.

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