

# U3A NEWSLETTER

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

## AGM Upper Bann U3A



At this year's AGM held on Tuesday 25th April, in Lurgan Town Hall, Norma reported on the growth and development of

the Upper Bann branch of U3A. She began by expressing her gratitude to the Committee members and convenors, all of whom work so very hard and give freely of their time.

The membership figure, as at the end of March, stood at 260. In addition to the well established groups, Norma reported on the four most recently introduced activities. These include Boardgames held every Thursday morning in Portadown Golf Club at 10.00 am, alongside the Chess Group. The Singalong Group which meets on the second and fourth Tuesday of the month at 10.00 am in Portadown Golf Club, has proved to be a very popular activity, giving a large number of members, a lot of fun and pleasure. Cycling and walks provide physical exercise whilst the newly established Maths for Fun (MFF) allows us to exercise our brains. Once more the venue for this activity is Portadown Golf Club on the 2nd and 4th Monday of the month at 10.00 am.

Yoga, introduced during the year on a Thursday morning at the Hub, has been extremely popular. Twenty members were allocated places on a first come, first served basis. The waiting list is extensive and rather than disappoint, Wendy runs a short relaxation class after the monthly Get-together on the 3rd Tuesday of the month.

Numbers at the Friday morning Bridge Club continue to grow with attendance as high as 50 plus.

A brief report on the financial position was delivered by Frances McKeown on behalf of Graham Bass, the treasurer whilst John Trimble updated members on the Beacon system.

Tom Young, Activity Co-ordinator reported on the year's activities and thanked convenors for their dedication and hard work.



## Board Games (Jean Millar)



Valerie chaired the election of members on to the committee

Norma expressed her gratitude to three retiring members of the Committee, Geraldine McIvor, Alix Jardine and Frances McKeown.

The newly elected committee consists of Norma Galway, Chairperson, Ruth McKinley, assistant Chairperson, Wendy Alexander, Secretary, Graham Bass, Treasurer, Laura McAdams, Membership Secretary, Tom Young, Activity Co-ordinator. John Trimble will continue to work on the Beacon IT system designed specifically for U3A use. Newly appointed members include Michael Cardwell. Barbara Robinson and Rosemary O'Neill. Congratulations to all involved.



What board games did you play in your younger days? U3A has added a new activity to their many choices of things to do. There are several games already available to play but we would love more participants. At the moment you can play Scrabble, Rummikub, Up words, Ludo and Bananas (a crossword type game). Chess is also played. So why not come along to the next meeting and to find out more contact [jeanmmillar@btinternet.com](mailto:jeanmmillar@btinternet.com)

## Mike's Bikers



"Thanks to Mike for a great cycle around Craigavon and Lurgan today, finishing at Oxford Island where even Paul's appetite is sated (with some help from Sandra). We even managed to outwit the rather gloomy weather forecast and dodged all the showers for a great morning!" (Paul Burrows)



Norma presents a bouquet of flowers to retiring secretary, Geraldine McIvor

## NatureGroup (Pat Flowerday)

Our April walk took us to a new destination, Crawfordsburn Country Park. Seven of us took the train to Helen's Bay from where we strolled along the Coastal path, taking in the wild flowers and the shoreline birds, to Crawfordsburn.

Here we looked at the displays in the Centre before enjoying a coffee and scone. After a



short walk along the river we rejoined the coastal path to Carnalea for our train back to Portadown.

### Forthcoming Nature Events

#### Saturday 6 May (not a U3A event)

Dawn Chorus at Oxford Island starting at 6.00am from outside the Discovery Centre. This will be followed by a hearty breakfast in the cafeteria. There is a charge of £8 a head and I will need to know who is likely to be coming in order to book places. email [pflowerday@live.co.uk](mailto:pflowerday@live.co.uk) by the previous day.

**Wednesday 10 May** - Visit to Rowallane Gardens (National Trust). Meet at Loughview Services (M1 junction 10) at 10.00 am to car-share. The azaleas and rhododendrons should be at their best. It is a lovely place with a shop and cafeteria. Newcomers welcome.

**Wednesday 24 May** - provisional date for a visit to Rathlin Island. A visit here is dependent on weather and degree of interest. The ferry will have to be booked by no later than Monday

22. To express your initial interest please email [pflowerday@live.co.uk](mailto:pflowerday@live.co.uk)



## BBQ Plans

Plans are currently underway for this year's BBQ. Keep the **26th June** free for what promises to be a great day out! Once again our intention is to go to Killybroney Forest Park where there are excellent facilities. To help with the planning process please email [ruth999@talktalk.net](mailto:ruth999@talktalk.net) on or before **Friday 5th May**.



- if you intend to go to the BBQ
- if you require a seat on the bus.

## Subscriptions

Subscriptions are now overdue. Please send a £15 cheque made payable to Upper Bann U3A to Laura McAdam, 13 Village Walk, Portadown Co Armagh BT63 5TL.

If you are a UK Tax payer and wish Gift Aid to apply to all future subscriptions and to those made in the past four years then please complete the Gift Aid form available on our webpage or from our membership secretary Laura. There is no additional cost to you.



The Inner Wheel Club of Portadown invite Upper Bann members to the Coffee, Chat and Stalls event on 17th May. All welcome! Bring a friend!

## Song Fest 2017 - a lot of fun

This year's U3A Song Fest was hosted by Armagh U3A in The Market Place Theatre on Wednesday 26th April.



The Upper Bann Singalong group together with a number of supporters, enjoyed an afternoon of singing. Ten groups from across the region participated with each group being allocated a 15 minute slot. Upper Bann

Singers were 6th on the list and enthralled a full capacity audience with renditions of "Sloop John B", 'Coulter's Candy', and 'Some Enchanted Evening". Alix, in her introduction, promised they would give their performance 'the full welly' and they did not disappoint. A good time was had by all. Well done members of the Singalong Group!!!!

### April's Luncheon Club continues to grow

April's luncheon Club met in the Banville House Hotel on 27th April with nineteen members attending. The menu gave a wide choice and the food was of a high standard. Those who attended had a 'delicious' meal.



Members of Upper Bann U3A enjoy their April lunch in Banville House Hotel