

# UPPER BANN U3A

February 2018

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

## NEW VENUE FOR MONTHLY GET-TOGETHER

*Report by Ruth McKinley,  
Photograph by Heather Crawford)*

The change of venue from Lurgan Town Hall to the Hub at Craigavon for our monthly get-together proved to be very successful. Fifty seven members attended the first meeting of 2018.

We were treated to a very informative talk from Sharon Fleming, a director of Thompson Travel International and 'Outstanding Business Women of the Year in Northern Ireland'. She outlined the history of the setting-up of the travel business.

As a result of a visit to Israel by her father the travel agency was born, his desire for others to experience seeing the places he had read about in the Bible being the catalyst. Sharon joined him in this new venture which went from strength to strength under her leadership.

The group heard of its development over the years to become the success it is today, telling us about her involvement in 'the Dragons Den' and being nominated as 'Outstanding Business Woman of the Year'.

I know we all found her to be an inspiring speaker and the afternoon was topped off by our usual cup of tea/coffee where members caught up with old friends and got to meet several new ones.

Fifty seven members enjoy refreshments after a very informative talk by Sharon Fleming



The next Get-Together is Monday, 19th February in the HUB at 2.00 pm. The speaker will be Rodney Beaumont, whose subject will be '**A Journey To The Arctic**'. Rodney comes highly recommended as a speaker so please do join us for this talk.

## Charity Event - Please Support!



## **KEEP ON WALKING!**

(Report by Pat Flowerday)

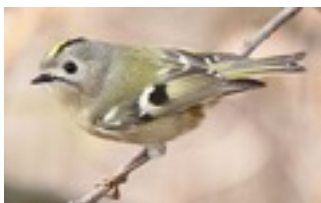
**The Strident Strollers** tried valiantly to keep going throughout the freezing conditions in January. The first visit to Hillsborough Forest Park was slightly thwarted by part of the track being closed for maintenance. No one minded too much as it left more time for coffee and chat!

The venue for our second stroll was to the grounds of Armagh Palace Stables. Alas that was the very worst day for ice, snow and blizzard conditions. Although a few hardy souls set off to go, only two made it to the starting point (well done Geraldine and Hector!). It was decided to cancel.

Next venue was Craigavon Lakes where we had a good turnout despite some flu victims.

The final stroll in January will be Lurgan Park. Bearing in mind that February is the month for Snowdrops, which to me heralds the start of Spring, we will try to ascertain where we might get a good show and go there. Keep watching your emails!

**The Nature Group** suspended activities during January. In February we hope to make a return trip to the RSPB's Belfast Harbour reserve, which will involve looking at birds from a heated hide, with coffee on tap and virtually no walking except for those who feel the need.



**Bonsai Group** (John Lambe, convenor)

I am delighted to announce that there has been sufficient interest to form a bonsai group. We will meet for the first time at Brownlow hub Tuesday 13th February at 13:30 hrs. Anyone wanting further information or interested in joining can contact me at [jjlambe@hotmail.com](mailto:jjlambe@hotmail.com). The group is aimed at introducing complete beginners to the world of bonsai and no previous knowledge is necessary.



## **PROPOSED NEW ACTIVITIES**

### **Let's go dancing**

(Tom Young)

Greeting to all new U3A Dancers,

Further to the meeting on Friday 26th January, we have now agreed a programme for the dancing group. All are welcome both beginner or those with some experience.

**Venue** - Portadown Golf Club

**Start Date** - Friday the 9th of Feb. until the 16th of March (or the 24th March if club need the hall unexpectedly) - a total of 6 weeks.

**Start Time** - 2.30 pm - 4.30 pm (approx) with a break for tea/coffee, (it was agreed different people would bring a few biscuits each week.)

**Dance Teacher** - Norma Campbell. We are very lucky as Norma is a very highly qualified and experienced dance coach!!!!!!!

**Costs** - Depending on the number of dancers - £10 - 15.00 to cover the 6 lessons. This will be collected at the first session as it was agreed by those at meeting one, this shows commitment.

£1.00 to cover the hire of the hall and £1.25 for tea/coffee will also be required each week.

Towards the end of the 6 week block the group along with Norma will agree on a further 6 week block after a short break and so on - depending on demand.

I know this will be a fantastic experience for all those who plan to attend and maybe you all will put on a dance show at one of our monthly meetings in the future.

Could you please confirm ASAP if you plan to come along (include a telephone number so I can set up a register.)

Keep dancing!!!!







## First Cycle of the Year

(Report and photograph supplied by Paul Burrows)

A very optimistic group of a dozen intrepid cyclists set out on 2 January in spite of the adverse weather conditions. After thirty minutes cycling Gerry suffered a puncture which our resident mechanic Gary fixed. It went down again immediately (in spite of the fact that we had thoroughly checked the inside of the tyre for glass) so poor Gerry had to walk home with the bike via Carn. By this time the group was miles away so Gary and Paul headed on through torrential rain to Oxford Island, picking up waifs and strays (Nora and Paul C) on the way. Eventually we all (minus Gerry) regrouped for coffee/lunch at the Discovery Centre and the sun came out to warm us up and shine on our New Year endeavours.

**The Rotary Quiz** is on Friday 2 February 2018 at Portadown Golf Club with 8 pm start time. The Quiz Master is Mansell Bleakley (sometimes of the Misfits Team).

Teams of any size are welcome and entrance is £5 per person.

Another opportunity to socialise and enjoy fellowship is to join some Club members or bring your friends for a meal before the Quiz say 6 to 6.30 pm would allow sufficient time to dine. Please arrange directly with Portadown Golf Club on 38355356.



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## LATE CHRISTMAS LUNCH A HUGE SUCCESS!

Members of the Bridge Group agreed to Gordon's proposal to postpone the Christmas Lunch until January. Partners were randomly chosen and a good morning's bridge was had by all. The game was followed by a very tasty lunch in the Golf Club. The lucky winners were presented with a bottle of wine.

The Bridge group continues to grow, thanks to Tom's lessons. We have all made a lot of progress thanks to Tom's patient and humorous approach. Thank you Tom. A big 'thank you' is also due to Gordon who ensures the smooth running of the group.







***A WINNER listens to his partner's point of view;***

***A LOSER just waits until it's time to express his own.***





**Where is the hand you held during the auction?**

**A comment heard when dummy hit the table**





**We cannot change the cards  
we are dealt, just how we  
play the game.**

Randy Pausch

