

From 2pm on Tuesday February 13th at Bannside Presbyterian Church, 21 Castlewellan Road.

Chair:	Veronica Barrett (Retiring at April AGM)
Vice-Chair:	Vacant
Secretary:	Sharon Henry
Treasurer:	Jill Noble
Membership:	Keith Roper

Registered with The Charity Commission for Northern Ireland NIC 107631

More information & Photo's  www.banbridgeu3a.weebly.com  banbridgeu3a@gmail.com

INFORMATION and INTEREST GROUPS

General Meeting Speakers:

February 13: Billy Stewart - Police and Community Partnership.

March 12: David McCreedy - Garden birds, what we can expect to see in the different seasons.

April 9: Our AGM - Nuala Hamilton, Countryside Officer.

May 14: Joy Smith - Granny's Postcards.

June 11: Our Summer Outing (Destination TBA)

We have one opportunity for others to serve on our committee, you may volunteer now, or wait to be approached in the very near future! [Editor]

Attention to all members who subscribed to our u3a during 2023, thank you for joining us because you made us what we are! Please continue to do so by renewing your membership at any time before March 31st, by any of the methods described below on p3. Thanks again to those who have already done so.



Art Group: Our meetings are now scheduled for Wednesday 14th February 10:00am - 12:00Noon. Thereafter on the second Wednesday of each month. Contact Alwyn



Badminton Group: The Badminton is continuing in the Leisure Centre every Wednesday at 12.30pm. Cost is usually around £1 depending on how many turn up! Newbie's always welcome. No previous experience required! Contact Peter or just turn up!



Craft Group: We meet on the first and third Fridays of the month in Bridgewater Tesco's community room at 2pm. Unfortunately there is a limit as to how many people can work safely and comfortably in the room. So I am afraid that the numbers are still capped at their current level. I have a waiting list for any other U3A member who wishes to join should a space become available. Contact Anne Lavery.



Family History Group: The Genealogy group has booked the community room for 10:30am on the First and Third Wednesday of each month and new members would be welcome. We are also being joined by some young pupils from both High Schools for a particular event they are holding later. Contact Florence



Flower Arranging: The first flower arranging group of the New Year took place on Friday 26th Jan. There were 7 attendees and 3 apologies. All those present chose to do the suggested "Front Facing design with texture" and were pleased with the results. Our next planned meeting is 23rd February. Contact Veronica.

HISTORY



History Group: On 12/1/2024, ten members of the History group travelled to Carrickmacross in County Monaghan. Our first visit of the day was to The Lace Gallery where we viewed various examples of the Lace which has become world famous and put Carrickmacross on the map. We were given a short account of the origins of the lace and shown the intricacies of manufacture of



this very delicate and beautiful material. We then repaired to the Shirley Arms Hotel where a nourishing lunch was enjoyed before embarking on our second visit of the day, to Carrickmacross Workhouse. Our visit to the Workhouse was greatly enhanced by our guide Bernie, who imparted her tremendous knowledge of the site, its history, the conditions of those who dwelt and laboured and also those who died there. We visited the women's dormitory experiencing a little of the harsh conditions that existed and we also viewed a very moving audio visual depicting the realities of Workhouse life. Without exception our visit to Carrickmacross Workhouse left an indelible mark on all of us. More pics here: [Photo link to our website!](#)

I would like to remind everyone that as there is a History residential in February, the next day trip will be on 15th March 2024. Details for that trip will be posted in the March newsletter. Contact Margaret Murphy



Photography Group: [U3A Photography Flickr Page](#)

Next Meeting is Wednesday February 28th at 10am in Tesco. Thanks to all who sent me your 'Through the Lens' shots. You can see the results for yourself on our Flickr page, the link is above as usual. If the link isn't working for you just copy and paste the following into your browser

please:- <https://www.flickr.com/photos/184673260@N06/albums> Project for February for emailing to me Before February 24th – 'Decayed'. Well, the clue is in the subject title. If you can see an interesting decaying object, then capture it with a title while you can! Remember composition and background!

Contact Keith



Pickleball Group: Pickleball continues to grow in the number of players each week. We play each Wednesday from 10:30 to 12:30. There is a small charge of £2 to cover court costs. Everyone is welcome to come and try this exciting new sport. Hope to see you soon.

Contact Deborah Kennedy Martinet, Roberta Bennington.



Walking Group: The Walking Group meets every Monday morning at 9:15 at Tesco small car park where we arrange car share to take us to the starting point of the walk. No car? No problem. We aim to start walking at 10am with the walk taking approximately 3 hours before returning to Banbridge around 2pm. The walks are easy to moderate. Walking boots and poles will be necessary for some of the walks. Everyone needs to consult the weather forecast and dress appropriately. Hi viz jackets will be provided when a walk includes short stretches of public road. We bring our own light refreshments with us. We have a large membership with about 13 walking each week. The new year got off to a good start with a number of folk walking from Moneypenny Bridge to Portadown. Due to frost and ice there was no walk on 8th January. The following Monday a walk took place in Murlough Bay. Two hardy souls ventured out for a local walk on Monday 22nd which they both enjoyed. Finally, on the 29th 13 of us had a beautiful walk in Tollymore Forest Park. Contact Helen. (See below)*




INTEREST GROUP FACILITATORS AND CONTACT DETAILS

For queries about any group please get in touch directly

Your Committee Members

Veronica Barrett; Anne Buggy; Florence Chambers; Sue Dale; Gabrielle Graham; Sharon Henry; Peter Kearns; Anne Lavery; Cathal McAlister; Paul Neilands; Jill Noble; Keith Roper.

Secretary:	Sharon Henry	07867803585	sharonhenry53@aol.co.uk
Treasurer:	Jill Noble	07868316688	noblejye@yahoo.co.uk
Membership:	Keith Roper	07941520202	banbridgeu3a@gmail.com

Membership emails and information come to you from: banbridgeu3a@gmail.com  Can I ask you all to add this address to your contacts list to ensure they don't get junked? Thanks, Keith Roper

If you haven't already done so, please sign up to receive the UK's National [u3a free Newsletter](#)

All Memberships Ending: Our membership year runs from 1st April to 31st March! Member Subscription is £20 and can be paid into our [Banbridge District u3a](#) bank account by Bank Transfer, OR Direct Debit OR Standing Order. **It's essential that you let Jill or Keith know if you pay by this method in order for us to put your name on our register!** Subscriptions can be made to renew membership OR to join, throughout January, February and March, and last until March 2025.

The Danske Bank account details are:

Name: Banbridge District u3a **Sort Code: 95-06-79** **Account No: 80261866**

You may also bring cash or a cheque (made payable to [Banbridge District u3a](#)) to our general meetings. See Jill or Keith on arrival please.

ALL Facilitators Please READ this and please contact the editor by email before the first of the month and update necessary information for all YOUR members and maybe attract new ones!

Thank you! Keith: keithroper27@gmail.com