

# March Newsletter

## NEXT MEETING

From 2pm on Tuesday March 12th 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](http://www.banbridgeu3a.weebly.com)  [banbridgeu3a@gmail.com](mailto:banbridgeu3a@gmail.com)

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### INFORMATION and INTEREST GROUPS

#### **General Meeting Speakers:**

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

**April 9:** Our AGM - Mavis Turner, Third Age Trust Volunteer.

**May 14:** Joy Smith - Granny's Postcards.

**June 11:** Our Summer Outing (Destination TBA)

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 p4. Thanks again to those who have already done so.

#### **Reminder - Market Stall and Decision-Making Event.**

Come along to the event on: **Saturday 9th March 2024, 10.30am to 2.30pm: Banbridge Leisure Centre.** Everyone aged 8 and over who attends the event can vote to support the project ideas they want to see happen in their area. Each person will have a specified number of votes to use. You can vote once for each project, you should also vote for your own project, but you must allocate all of your votes, otherwise your vote will not be counted. This is where your votes will count for our u3a. We are counting on you!

### **PLEASE NOTE**

ANNOUNCEMENT OF BANBRIDGE DISTRICT u3a AGM

**ON TUESDAY 9<sup>th</sup> APRIL 2024 AT 2:30pm IN BANNSIDE CHURCH HALL, BANBRIDGE.**

#### AGENDA FOR GENERAL MEETING PRIOR TO AGM

1. Welcome by Chair
2. Chair's Report on 2023/24
3. Secretary's Report on 2023/24
4. Treasurer's Report and Statement of Accounts for 2023

AGENDA FOR AGM TO BE CONDUCTED BY Mavis Turner, Third Age Trust Volunteer.

1. Election of Officers to Executive Committee: Chairperson; Vice-Chair; Treasurer; Secretary.
2. Election of remainder of the Executive Committee up to a maximum of 8 members excluding officers.
3. Appointment of Auditor

4. Handover to the elected Chair to introduce our speaker.

N.B. Please forward any resolutions for the AGM to the Secretary (Sharon Henry).

N.B. Please forward any nominations for the above posts with a proposer to the Secretary or to any Committee member to pass to the Secretary (see below for form). The proposers may not be existing members of the Executive Committee. **The permission of the nominee must be sought before he/she is nominated.**

**In the absence of sufficient written nominations, these will be sought from the floor at the meeting when both proposer and seconder will be required having previously received permission from the nominee.**

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## NOMINATION FORM FOR MEMBERSHIP OF THE U3A EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

I have permission to nominate..... for the post of Chairperson / Vice-Chair / Secretary / Treasurer / Member of the Banbridge District U3A Executive Committee for the year 2024/25 (Delete as appropriate)

Signed ..... Dated .....

Please print off the above or hand in a slip in this wording to the Secretary or another member of the Committee.

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**Art Group:** Our meetings are now scheduled for Wednesday 13th March 10:00am - 12:00Noon. Thereafter on the second Wednesday of each month in the Tesco Community room at the Boulevard. 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.



**Family History Group:** The Genealogy group has booked the Tesco community room at the Boulevard 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 second flower arranging group of the New Year took place on Friday 23rd February. There were 7 attending. All those present thoroughly enjoyed working with the flowers and foliage they supplied, producing 5 beautiful displays. Our next planned meeting is 29th March at 2:30pm in the Tesco community room at the Boulevard. Contact Veronica.



## HISTORY



**History Group:** The latest History residential based in the Castlecourt Hotel, Westport, County Mayo was held between 25/2/2024 and 1/3/2024 during which four members were in attendance.

The itinerary included on Monday, a guided visit to the Michael Davitt museum and Abbey at Straide followed by Foxford Woollen Mill where we had lunch. On Tuesday, we participated in an historical, guided walking tour of Westport and on Wednesday we visited the Jackie Clarke collection in Ballina. Our last full day, Thursday, saw us enjoying a guided tour of Ballintubber Abbey and we concluded the trip with a walk down memory lane when we visited the National Museum of Country Life at Turlough. Altogether a most enjoyable trip which culminated with a Gala Dinner on the last evening.



The next full day History trip will be on Friday 15/3/2024 when we will visit Drogheda Castle and Martello Tower. If possible, I also hope to include a historical guided walk around Drogheda. Those interested in participating, please rendezvous at 09:30 at Tesco's small car park, Castlewellan Road. Travel will be by car share, usual rates apply. Don't forget to bring euros.

I should be obliged if those intending to come confirm with me in advance. Contact Margaret.



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

Thanks to all who sent me your 'Decayed' 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 March 23rd – 'Waterways'. Well, the clue is in the subject title. If you can see anything water related, canals, harbours, rivers etc' then capture it with a title while you can! Remember composition and background! Contact Keith



**Pickleball Group:** Pickleball continues each week. We play each Wednesday from 10:30 to 12:30 in the Leisure Centre. 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, or Roberta.



**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. During February we had 4 lovely walks. We walked in Drumkeeragh Forest Park, Mourne Park, Lough Shannagh and along the tow path from Drumbeg to Shaw's Bridge. The weather has been very kind to us on every walk and they were enjoyed by us all. Contact Helen.



## 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	<a href="mailto:sharonhenry53@aol.co.uk">sharonhenry53@aol.co.uk</a>
Treasurer:	Jill Noble	07868316688	<a href="mailto:noblejye@yahoo.co.uk">noblejye@yahoo.co.uk</a>
Membership:	Keith Roper	07941520202	<a href="mailto:banbridgeu3a@gmail.com">banbridgeu3a@gmail.com</a>

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**Membership emails and information** come to you from: [banbridgeu3a@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:keithroper27@gmail.com)