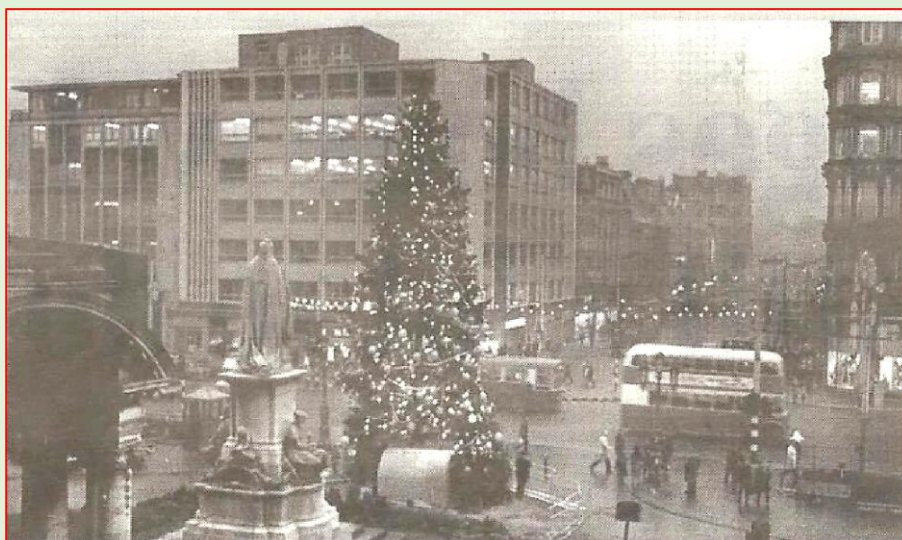


Email: info@lisburnu3a.org

Website: <https://www.lisburnu3a.org>



Charitable Status No NI103276



Christmas tree at the City Hall, Belfast. 17/12/1969.

Northern Ireland Historical Photographical Society

Lisburn U3A Committee

HELP AND SUPPORT

If you or any LU3A member you know is in difficulty during this time of social distancing, please contact any of the Committee.

We will do our best to provide support and helpful information.

COVID-19

MEETINGS ARE ON BUT...

Due to the current coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak, the Lisburn U3A monthly meetings are taking place using ZOOM.

As well, Activity Groups are communicating using WhatsApp, Zoom, Skype and Facebook.

Communications

ITEMS FOR MEETINGS

Anyone with news for the full LU3A membership should phone or email the Chair, Secretary or Editor with your items so they may be distributed to all.

See email addresses on the line below: ↓

EMAILS: chairlu3a@hotmail.com

editorlu3a@gmail.com

info@lisburnu3a.org



Lisburn U3A's Christmas gift to you is two years for the price of one!

There will be no charge for 2021 for all paid up 2020 members!

Remember to stop your direct debit for 2021!



EMAILS: chairlu3a@hotmail.com

editorlu3a@gmail.com

info@lisburnu3a.org

Hello Everyone!

- Watch for the **next monthly meeting link** for **17th Dec at 2pm** – we'll be spreading some **Christmas Cheer!**
- Adrian Ross took us back to childhood with his talk on Retro Sweets at the last monthly meeting. Who knew Jelly Babies were religious, or that the last bag of Pick & Mix from Woolies would sell for £14,000!
- The first **monthly meeting** of the New Year will be on **28th Jan at 2pm**.
- An enjoyable Coffee and Chat was held on 9 Dec, hosted by the dynamic duo: Bill Grant and Keith Ineson. We talked of travels in France & Canada, aubergine & haloumi fries, sprouts & all the different ways to cook them, and someone volunteered that she loves to eat Poutine... a Quebec dish of french-fries & cheese curds topped with brown gravy... 😞. We had Pistonhead Craft Ale recommended, and mention of a squirrel drunk on fermented fruit. Who has long fingernails now that her teeth are fixed? 😊 Then the story of a Covid test delivered, then picked up next day by courier, but because the instructions weren't read entirely it wasn't registered as completed, so no results were forthcoming... life is so complicated!
- Next **Coffee & Chat 6th Jan 2021 11am**, hosts **Trevor and Pearl!** Watch for the link a day or two before.

ONLINE

One hour of Robins singing:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N8vArgAIOFE>

Lovely & peaceful!

Polar bear and cubs playing:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cEY9tgz4t_Y

Loving and playful.

BBC Lockdown Tips:

- Let in the light
- Shut out the noise
- Declutter
- Stand up
- Use plants
- Social contact - not just online

These tips are for working from home, but are effective when you're at home more than you want to be!

Read the article [here](#).

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-54886125>

CROCHET

Jean Ryan

This month we have managed to have two walks in the park in fine weather and the rest of our meetings have been via Zoom. We're keeping in touch regularly through WhatsApp and have been busy with crochet and knitting. More blankets have been produced as well as jumpers, Christmas decorations and gifts.



WISH YOU WERE HERE

Created by Grace Sweeney & Laura O'Connor



Wish You Were Here is an oral history documentary project created by Grace Sweeney & Laura O'Connor as part of the Future Screens NI and Northern Ireland Screen initiative 'Rewriting the Narrative'. The initiative sponsored several projects responding to the impact of Covid-19. Wish You Were Here documents story telling by members of the community who were shielding; the stories were videoed and the theme is 'first time abroad'.

Rita's time in New York, David's trip overseas due to being 'called up', Jim playing banjo and talking about joining the rodeo in America(!), Kay whose first trip was at the age of 28 to Argentina, Nick visiting his auntie in Brussels at 13 years of age, Keith discovering Jazz in Paris at 14, John - who travelled abroad the first time in 2004 to Malawi, and Marjorie whose father was a soldier, so the family travelled through the blitz in London and then to Athens and Singapore.

<https://www.wishyouwerehereni.co.uk/>

[Editor's note: I found the videos charming – do watch them!]

VARIOUS HOLIDAY GREETINGS

- Happy Holidays!** This greeting includes all possible holidays and can be used all the way through New Year's.
- Season's Greetings!** Another classic and perfectly secular holiday greeting.
- Happy Hanukkah!** A Jewish festival that begins Thursday, 10 Dec. and ends in the evening of Fri, 18th Dec., 2020.
- Happy New Year!** This one can be used pretty much any time during December, but usually used after Christmas.
- Happy Kwanzaa!** Kwanzaa is a holiday celebrating unity, heritage, and culture which is observed by some members of the African American community. This year it begins Saturday, 26 December and ends on Friday, 1 January 2021
- Happy Winter Solstice!** It's the shortest day of the year! Monday, December 21, 2020.
- Happy Festivus!** Festivus is a secular holiday made popular in 1997 by an episode of Seinfeld.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HX55AzGku5Y>
- Merry Christmas!** "Merry Christmas" has been used since at least **1534**—a dated letter from bishop John Fisher to Henry VIII's chief minister Thomas Cromwell reveals as much. The English carol, "We Wish You a Merry Christmas," which was introduced in the 1500s, also uses the popular phrase.



THE TWELVE DAYS OF CHRISTMAS

Poem by Des Donnelly

[2020 VERSION]



On the first day of Christmas,
Elodie issued me a plea,
'there's no Scrabble, Bridge or Bowling,
please write me a poem of Christmas jollity.'

On the second day of Christmas,
says Boris about Priti,
'no, she's never a bully,
she's now our Government Home Secretary.'

On the third day of Christmas,
Trump declared a victory
'and if you don't agree with me,
ask Mike Pompeo or Rudi Giuliani'

On the fourth day of Christmas,
Covid19 brought to me,
another social lockdown,
six feet of distance and no hospitality.

On the fifth day of Christmas,
Stormont showed some unity,
no Guinness, gin, or whiskey,
just a salad sandwich and a cup of coffee.

On the sixth day of Christmas,
t'was all about PPE.
Wear a mask or visor,
wash your hands and keep them Coronavirus free.



On the seventh day of Christmas,
Stanley says...'Hark! now hear that,
no ambling, rambling, scrambling,
it's not just the Christmas goose will be getting fat!'

On the eighth day of Christmas,
we put up our Christmas tree,
with garlands, lights, and baubles,
and hanging chocolate snowmen...
they're just for me.

On the ninth day of Christmas,
they've found a vaccine... yippee!
we hope it'll soon be ready,
and will be priority for the over sixties.

On the tenth day of Christmas,
Santa loaded up his sleigh,
lots and lots of toys for kids,
and for Des, a new electric golf trolley.

On the eleventh day of Christmas,
the reindeers chuckled at the sight,
'Rudolph, your nose is not so bright,
because you're wearing your face mask tonight.'



On the twelfth day of Christmas,
we wish you all good cheer,
from all the folks at U3A,
'Happy Christmas and a virus free New year.'



ALL MEMBERS

PLEASE SEND IN A SUBMISSION FOR YOUR NEWSLETTER!

Send us photos – Tell us what is going on in your daily life – Tell us about your project – Write a story or poem!
Phone, text or email with your personal or group news, helpful tips, events you attended online, or in person!
Enquiring minds and homebound members would love to read about how others are dealing with life today.



A PERSONAL THANK YOU

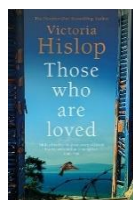
I would like to thank the Group Leaders for their help and support this year with the newsletter and the website, with an additional special mention to David Todd, David Mann, and Bill Ingleston.
It can't be stressed enough that I couldn't have managed these two jobs without you all, and my gratitude knows no bounds. May you all stay healthy, have a happy holiday season, and a vaccinated New Year!

Elodie Ellingsen
Editor, Webmaster

BOOK GROUP 1

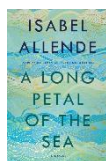
Jeanette Chambers

We continue meeting on Zoom, which is going very well as everyone likes to see each other. Hopefully now the vaccine has been approved it won't be too long until we can meet in person. Our last book was "The Motion of the Body Through Space" by Lionel Shriver, but its sardonic humour was not appreciated by all. Our next book is Victoria Hislop's "Those Who Are Loved" and our next Zoom meeting is **Thurs 7th Jan at 10.30 am**. May I take this opportunity to wish everyone a happy, if unusual, Christmas and health and happiness in 2021.



BOOK GROUP 2

Joan Bryson



Reading has been a great solace throughout this strange, dislocated year. We continue with Zoom, holding mid-month chats as well as our main meeting. The next Chat will be early Jan plus the next meeting **Tues 26th Jan at 10.30 am**, on Isabel Allende's 'A Long Petal of the Sea'. An old man looks back to the Spanish Civil War and aftermath, including a marriage of convenience to a fellow refugee and their new life in Chile. Many years later they flee again as the democratic government is toppled by General Pinochet. Happy Christmas to the U3A family!

NATIONAL TRUST

Lesley Kirk

Sadly, we haven't been able to picnic while listening to jazz in the gardens, or go to any events this year, but the gardens are still open for walks and don't need to be pre-booked. If you would like to be in the WhatsApp group for impromptu dry day walks in local properties, please send me a text or an email. In the meantime, here's a link to Christmas crafts how to guides from Nat. Trust. Learn how to make traditional decorations for a greener Christmas with our how to video guides. These easy to make decorations will add natural textures, bright colour, and seasonal scents to your home. With simple step-by-step instructions, you can get the whole family involved in the festive fun.

<https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/lists/christmas-crafts-how-to-guides>



PAINTING

Tommy Yarr



Christmas Greetings!

The good news is that the vaccination will hopefully be available to everyone who wishes to have it. I look forward to the painting group being able to meet in the New Year. Have a safe and happy Christmas and New Year.

DINING OUT

Norma Patterson

Very little dining out has taken place this year and very little has been written in my 2020 week-at-a-glance diary! Hoping that there will be more written in my 2021 diary! Wishing you all a very happy and healthy Christmas and New year! I'm hoping that this new vaccine will change our very restricted world and the new year brings a welcome new start!!!

ANTIQUES

Jacqui Townsley



Christmas is coming ... and had you thought that your old Christmas cards might be worth serious money? The market for Christmas collectibles is on the rise - Vintage cards in good condition can fetch about £10 to £50 apiece, but particularly valuable ones can shoot up into the three- or even four-figure range. The amount of money a vintage card is worth will depend on a couple of factors, including its age, its artistic value, if it displays a historic event or popular character, the condition, and notably, if the card was signed by a celebrity. Experts say that vintage Christmas cards, especially the rare kind, could help you hit the jackpot as collectors are always looking for unique finds to expand their collections. The next time you're looking through your family's old Christmas cards, it might be time to pay closer attention!!

LU3A SINGERS

Jacqui Townsley

Wishing you all a Very Merry Christmas!



THEATRE / CONCERT

Jacqui Townsley, Reah Browne

JACK AND THE BEANSTALK

Panto Online will stream into your home for the perfect Christmas family treat, complete with ingenious sets, fabulous costumes, and even a real beanstalk! Available from 4 Dec 2020 19.30 pm until 10 Jan 2021 23.59 pm. Three packages available, priced at £20, £30, or £50 based on the additional options you choose. Profits will support multiple charities. For details and to book: <https://showcatcher.com/show/12/jack-the-beanstalk>



JACQUI'S NOVEMBER TEASERS

Jacqui Townsley



Kugel – is a heavy glass Christmas ornament made in Germany from 1840 to early 1900s. Kugel means "round ball" in German but

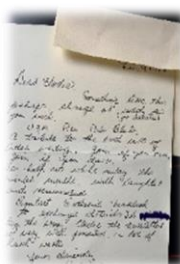
were also made in the shape of grapes, apples, pears, pine cones, berries, tear drops and balls with melon-style ribs. The outside could be red, cobalt, blue, green, silver, gold, or amethyst, and the inside is lined with silver. A hole in the top of each ornament is concealed by a brass cap, which may have an embossed design. P.S. A Kugel is also a traditional Jewish dish: a baked pudding or casserole, commonly made from egg noodles or potato.

Manche a Gigot – functional and elegant, it's a special tool used as a meat bone holder for carving lamb. The "Lamb Handle" is attached to the shank and then tightened to provide a clean grip for the carver. You can still buy fancy silver and rosewood models, found mostly on specialty cooking sites.



U3A PEN PALS

Catherine Murdock



Contact Catherine by phone to join! As names come in, Catherine will create sub-groups who will write to each other. Find Catherine's details on the current Group Leader Contact List dated 29 Oct '20.

YOGALATES

Brenda Palmer, Freda Bell

We would just like to wish all members a Happy Christmas. Hopefully in the New Year we will all be protected from Covid with the vaccine. As soon as we are free our classes will be back in action. Don't forget the U3A meetings are on zoom on the 17th December.



JACQUI'S DECEMBER TEASERS

Jacqui Townsley

This month, a Christmas Quiz!

1. What popular Christmas tradition did V&A founder Henry Cole introduce in 1843 as a way of saving time?
2. What festive accessory was first marketed in 1861 by Tom Smith as "Bangs of Expectation"?
3. Who said: "I stopped believing in Santa Claus when I was six? Mother took me to see him in a department store and he asked for my autograph?"
4. What supposedly inspired the tradition for gingerbread houses?
5. What poultry product was used to make artificial trees in 19th century Germany?

Answers next year!

(In the meantime, you can look them up on the internet over Christmas.)



FLORAL ART CLASS

Sally Stanfield

On the 26th Nov we had an enjoyable and festive two hours doing our Christmas flower arrangements, varying from Christmas crackers, wreaths, sledges, table centrepieces to bobbing snowmen heads. We are grateful to the Managers of the Enterprise Centre, Joanne & Becky, for the support they gave us during these past few months, and a word of thanks to Alan & Andrew, the Caretakers, who looked after the hygiene of the hall - it made us feel secure. The Old Warren Community Police Officers informed us that the Flowerets had gone above and beyond in following the Covid safety rules set out by the Centre Executive. I would like to congratulate the Flowerets they have represented the U3A extremely well. We would also like to wish all the U3A members a Safe and Happy Christmas. We will reconvene on **Thurs 4th Feb 2021 at 10.30 at Laganview.**

Take care and Stay Safe, hopefully we will all get more freedom in 2021.

WALKING GROUPS:

RAMBLERS - HILLBILLIES - SCRAMBLERS - SAT RAMBLERS

Stanley Prentice, Judith Prentice, Heather Martin, Gil Colvin

I'm afraid there are no changes to last month's message, all walks are still on hold and certainly, no Christmas lunch planned for the walkers this year. Happy Christmas and a healthy and happy New Year.

STROLLERS

Mary Hine



We are still trying to have our short walks, but the weather has not been kind recently. We shall go to either Wallace Park or Moira Demesne, weather permitting. I would like to wish everyone a happy Christmas and hopefully a much better New Year 2021!

WEBSITE

<https://www.lisburnu3a.org/>

Important - delete your old link/favourite for the website, and redo it using this new link ↑

...AND if you need help with WhatsApp or Facebook, feel free to contact anyone on the Committee for assistance!

CHILDHOOD CHRISTMASES IN CANADA

Editor



Christmas 1953

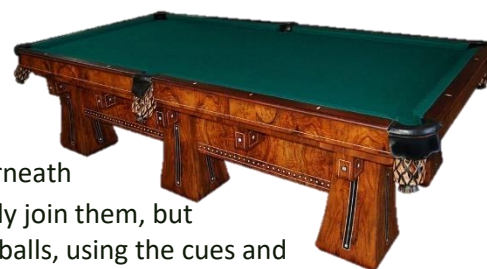
Every year, from the time I was born until I was 10 years old, we spent Christmas with my maternal grandparents. It was a big four generation family affair that eventually grew from 7 grandchildren in '53 to 15 by '57, within four families. Until 1954 it was an all-day event, but from 1955 it became a week-long holiday for my family after my mother remarried. We had moved to a logging camp, which made it an exciting day long trip to reach my grandparents. We would fly from the logging camp to Vancouver Island, drive several hours down the island, then a 2 ½ hour ferry ride to the mainland, followed by another half hour drive, finally arriving at my grandparent's in West Vancouver.

My family would be the only one staying at their house, as my mother's two brothers and foster brother all lived within comfortable driving distance. My sister and I would hold the Christmas Eve ceremony of putting out a snack for Santa and hanging our stockings from hooks on the fireplace mantel, before going downstairs to the guest rooms, where we would snuggle into our beds, whispering and giggling with excitement.

On Christmas morning there would be a mountain of presents left by Santa, and the stockings hanging on the fireplace mantle would be bursting. My siblings and I could open our stockings, but had to wait(!) until everyone else came, before presents were handed out. As the others arrived, the noise and excitement notched up a level with each new family. My grandfather would sit in a big armchair, my grandmother would hand him each present, and he would call out the name, and formally hand it out to each person. By noon we would have finished the ceremony, then would place the unwrapped presents on display under the tree; the mess would be tidied, and we children would be given a light lunch and sent to play with new toys, while the adults snoozed in exhaustion on the sofas and armchairs.

Once the joys of the toys had worn off, the older children's favourite pastime was to slide on our tummies down the carpeted hall stairs. There was lots of giggling and jostling, and we would feel very daring and brave.

The younger children (below 5 years) would play in the "Pool" room underneath my grandfather's pool table. The older (5 and up) children would eventually join them, but we would play random rule pool games, feeling very grownup racking the balls, using the cues and bridge rests, since we couldn't reach properly, not to mention using up the blue cubes of cue chalk....



Dinner would be upstairs in the dining room using all the extensions in the table for the adults, with the children at separate small tables. Carving the turkey was a major production, my grandfather putting on a show of sharpening the carving knife, then slicing the bird in a precise and elegant manner. Turkey, mashed potatoes, gravy, sweet potatoes, brussels sprouts, stuffing, 3 kinds of cranberry sauce, peas and carrots filled our plates. Mince pie with brandy sauce, apple pie with cheddar cheese, or ice cream with fresh strawberries were the choices of dessert. (My grandfather ALWAYS had ice cream and strawberries every night, no matter what the occasion or season.) Eventually the meal would be finished and everyone would retire to the living room once more, to snooze and digest; the children would watch television at one end, laying about on the floor, while the adults congregated at the other end round the tree.

About eight in the evening the mothers would begin sorting the presents into family piles, coats would be fetched and cars loaded up for the drives home. There would be laughter and hugs and kisses as we stood at the door with my grandparents, waving each family off, then we left over children would be shooed away for teeth and pyjamas. A vivid memory to this day, and lovely times to remember some 65 years later.

Merry Christmas Everyone!

Lisburn U3A received a Christmas card from the Lord Mayor. The accompanying insert stated that the Lord Mayor's charity is supporting foodbanks in Lisburn and Dundonald and he appeals for donations!

We are including this appeal with newsletter, in hopes that anyone that can will make an effort to donate something to one of these foodbanks. Alternatively, you can donate online on their JustGiving webpages.

Mayoral Charities Page: <https://www.lisburncastlereagh.gov.uk/council/office-of-mayor/mayors-charity>

JUSTGIVING

If you would rather donate to the Mayor's Charities this can be done online at:

<https://www.justgiving.com/lcccommunitytrust>
and
<https://www.justgiving.com/dundonaldfoodbank>

More information on the two foodbanks can be found online at

<https://lisburn.foodbank.org.uk/>
and
<https://dundonald.foodbank.org.uk/>

If you are interested in helping with fundraising for these two foodbanks or contributing to the Mayor's Charity please contact the Mayor's Secretary on:

Tel: **028 9244 7331** or email: mayors.secretary@lisburncastlereagh.gov.uk



When I became Mayor in June, I knew that my year in office would be defined by the Coronavirus. As such I have chosen to support both the Lisburn and Dundonald Foodbanks as my nominated charities for the year. Both Foodbanks are operating at over double the capacity than they were this time last year and between them they are preparing emergency Christmas hampers for over 1,000 families this year who would otherwise go without this Christmas.

Both Foodbanks need donations of household essentials and long-life food stuffs so anything which you can give, if it is within your means to do so, would be greatly appreciated. Alternatively both Foodbanks have Justgiving webpages which can accept donations online, details of which are at www.lisburncastlereagh.gov.uk/council/office-of-mayor/mayors-charity