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Charitable Status No NI103276

## THIS MONTHS ISSUE:

- We've an article on our speaker Ann Donnelly and The Digital Film Archive topic from the last monthly meeting. Really too bad more of you didn't attend – it was fascinating!
- If you would like help using Zoom, please contact Joan ([info@lisburnu3a.org](mailto:info@lisburnu3a.org)) for some coaching.
- We've the last couple of pieces from members about Lisburn U3A from the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. If any of you wish to submit stories and articles about what Lisburn U3A means to you, please send them to me, as this whole year is our tenth anniversary and everyone enjoys reading them, I'll continue to publish all that you send. ([editorlu3a@gmail.com](mailto:editorlu3a@gmail.com))
- Introducing **The COVID Diaries** By Des Donnelly; we'll have one each month until we are back at Laganview, meeting in person. See page 6 for the first installment.
- Clocks move forward for **Daylight Saving Time 2021** – in the United Kingdom DST will begin at **01:00 on Sunday, 28 March**. Spring ahead...



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. Email the Chair or Secretary.

COVID-19

**MEETINGS ARE ON BUT...**

Due to the coronavirus outbreak, the **Lisburn U3A MONTHLY MEETINGS ARE TAKING PLACE USING ZOOM**. Links are sent out a day before the meetings.

**NEXT MEETING:****25 MARCH 2pm**

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](mailto:chairlu3a@hotmail.com)[editorlu3a@gmail.com](mailto:editorlu3a@gmail.com)[info@lisburnu3a.org](mailto:info@lisburnu3a.org)**MEMBERSHIP****Sandra Stokes****MEMBERSHIP HELD STEADY AT 328 MEMBERS.**EMAILS: [chairlu3a@hotmail.com](mailto:chairlu3a@hotmail.com)[editorlu3a@gmail.com](mailto:editorlu3a@gmail.com)[info@lisburnu3a.org](mailto:info@lisburnu3a.org)**Hello Everyone!**

- Coffee & Chat was held Thurs. 11th March, at 11.00am via Zoom, hosted by Pearl and Trevor. The next Coffee & Chat is set for **Thursday 15th April**. This will be the last Coffee & Chat of the season, as spring is here, and gardens beckon.
- The last Monthly Meeting was Thurs 25<sup>th</sup> February – we had a truly fascinating speaker, Ann Donnelly from Northern Ireland Screen, and viewed films of historical Lisburn.
- The next Monthly Meeting will take place on **Thursday 25 March at 2.00pm** via Zoom. The April Monthly Meeting will take place on Thursday 29th April at 2:00pm via Zoom.
- **Reminder** that you are getting 2 years for 1 and existing members can delete this year's U3A subscription from their Standing Orders then reinstate for the following year.

## AMATEUR GARDENING

libraries ni



**Get your  
Garden ready  
for Spring -  
FREE  
download**

LIBRARIES NI - eMAGAZINES &amp; eNEWSPAPERS.

Every week, Amateur Gardening is the first choice for both beginners and knowledgeable gardeners looking for advice and easy-to-follow practical features on growing flowers, trees, shrubs as well as fruit and vegetables. Be inspired, by our beautifully illustrated features covering plant and flower groups, both home grown and exotic, and take a sneak peek into some of the most beautiful private gardens around the country. Plus, every week we feature expert opinion and tips from some of gardening's most influential exponents including Toby Buckland, Bob Flowerdew, Anne Swithinbank, Peter Seabrook and Jo Whittingham.

**[Editor's note: you need library membership!]**



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Language: English

ANY QUERIES eMAIL:  
[enquiries@librariesni.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@librariesni.org.uk)

From: Ann Donnelly

Date: 26 February 2021 at 08:42:42 GMT



Hi Margaret.

I'm very glad that you and the group enjoyed the session. I would be happy to make a return visit at some point and, in the meantime, I am sending through some links that you can share with the group.

Firstly, the website address for Northern Ireland Screen's Digital Film Archive (DFA: <https://digitalfilmarchive.net/>) A search for "Lisburn" or "Dunmurry" on the home page will bring up some of the films that I showed in the session. Unfortunately, as explained, some of them are not available online, but the majority will be there and there is so much more to discover.

\* The Jenny Bristow news article and series (she appears in more than one series on the archive)

<https://digitalfilmarchive.net/news/jennys-country-cooking-1221>

\* The Kitchen Garden series:

<https://digitalfilmarchive.net/search?keywords=kitchen%20garden>

\* And some links for the McDowell news article and collection:

<https://digitalfilmarchive.net/news/home-movie-day-the-dr-frank-1211>

and

<https://digitalfilmarchive.net/collection/dr-frank-mcdowell-145>

I will add Duncan's Dam to the information on the website for the McDowell film that features the ice-skating. I agree with you that the quality of that collection is outstanding. We hope to add some more of Dr. Frank McDowell's films to the DFA at some point soon. It was lovely to meet you and your team. I hope to catch up with you again at some point.

All the best. Ann

**Ann Donnelly | Access & Outreach Officer**

From: Paul Hughes &lt;paulh001@talktalk.net&gt;

Date: Thu, 25 Feb 2021 at 11:34

Subject: Benefits - LPA

Hi

Just a general query that may be worth raising: Is everyone aware that anyone aged 70 or over and living alone is entitled to **LPA (Lone Pensioners Allowance)**, a **20% reduction in their Rates bill** whether as the property owner, or a tenant.

Not sure how well this is promoted. Came as news to me.

Regards, Paul

**DOWNLOAD THE FORM HERE:**

<https://www.nidirect.gov.uk/publications/lone-pensioner-allowance-application-form>



Dear U3A

We'd like to invite your members along to a free talk on Easter Sunday, 4 April.

**Our last free event booked out completely within 48 hours, so we're making this one exclusive to U3A members until 24 March.**

if you think your members would be interested, please send them this link before then. (If you want to cut and paste the link it is

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/145072009285>)

Best wishes

Don, Tim, Rachel, Leo, Emma

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

JACQUI'S TEASERS

**This month's teaser:**

This Booths Silicon China 'Green Parrot' part table service sold at Christie's auction last year – estimate £2,000 - £3,000 – what did it sell for?



**Answer next month!**

Jacqui Townsley

**Answers to last month's guess the objects:**



(A) **A Toaster** - The first British electric toaster was invented in 1893 by Alan MacMasters in Scotland. He called the device the "Eclipse Toaster," and it was manufactured and marketed in Britain by the Crompton Company. It toasted only one side of the bread, so you had to flip the bread over manually!

B) **A Dustpan** – vintage metal dustpan with long handle.



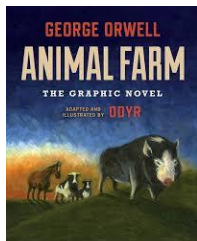
C) **A hotwater bottle** - antique metal hot-water bottle from 1925! (I remember having a ceramic one!!)

Jacqui Townsley

**BOOK GROUP 1**

Jeanette Chambers

We met by Zoom, on 4th March to discuss "The Thursday Murder Club" by Richard Osman. I am sure you have all heard about this book as it has been well publicised. Most of our group enjoyed it for what it was, a light-hearted read set in a retirement village, which led to us agreeing that if a similar location was available in Northern Ireland we would want to live there. Next month we moved on to a classic work "Animal Farm" by George Orwell.



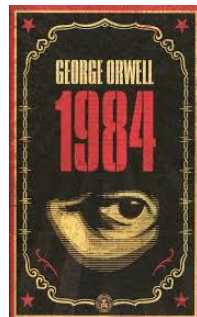
We will be meeting by Zoom on Thurs. 1st April at 10.30 a.m.

Best wishes and happy St. Patrick's Day!

**BOOK GROUP 2**

Joan Bryson

We continue to meet twice a month, once for a discussion on a chosen book and once for a more general chat. Attendance and interest have been maintained even if Zoom frustrates us at times. Our April meeting will be on Tue. 27th at 10.30 am, probably still using Zoom. We will be



reading '1984' by George Orwell, published in 1948, shortly before his death. It is regarded as a bench mark of dystopian fiction. Britain, now 'Oceania' is ruled by a repressive government led by Big Brother. Rebellion brings disastrous consequences. It will be interesting to see how this classic has aged.

**TEN PIN BOWL**

**Help Wanted**

We need people to volunteer !

Without volunteers and active participation, there will not be a Lisburn U3A!

For over a year we have asked for someone from our 328 members to put their hand up for the Vice Chair position on the Committee.

We need a 10 Pin Bowling Group Leader.

We need Group Leaders for Outdoor Bowling, and Monday Beginners Indoor Bowling.

**Please participate and keep the Lisburn U3A a thriving group!**

**WALKING GROUPS**

Mary Hine, Heather Martin, Gil Colvin



**Strollers** - I do not have any interesting news, as I am still unable to restart the Strollers.

I am hoping that we may be able to walk again after the third or fourth phase of the roadmap but who knows. We have been continuing with our WhatsApp messages.


I think most of us have had our first vaccines. Mary.




ZEROTASKING


NATIONAL TRUST	DINING OUT	YOGALATES
<p style="text-align: right;">Lesley Kirk</p> <p>If you've been missing walking round the grounds of Mountstewart why not watch Mountstewart Moments Livestreams . The ranger takes you on a virtual walk in different parts of the estate. If you're not on Facebook just type it into Google and you can watch on Facebook ( without joining) or on twitter. The next one will be Tuesday 20th April at 11.00 live but you can watch it at anytime after that. You can also watch previously recorded Livestreams.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Norma Patterson</p>  <p>Trusting that the light at the end of the tunnel doesn't turn out to be a flickering candle... and that life in the real world will resume soon! I'm hoping that we'll soon be able to get together again for a meal!!</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Brenda Palmer, Freda Bell</p> <p>Yogalates continues through the medium of Zoom.</p> <p>Our WhatsApp group continues to be active.</p> <p>All is well, Brenda</p> 

**ANTIQUES & COLLECTABLES**

<p style="text-align: right;">Jacqui Townsley</p> <p>Jenny Lind, a popular Swedish opera singer, was known as the “Swedish Nightingale”. In 1850, P. T. Barnum, co-ordinated a tour of the USA for Lind, who agreed in order to earn money for charities she supported and to endow free education in Sweden. Lind had never been to the States before and to whip up publicity her image was used to market furniture and anything else to increase name recognition. Today, “Jenny Lind” is used to describe cottage-style spindled furniture, such as beds, cribs and dressers identified by distinctive, if simple, turned rails and embellishments - also known as spool-turned furniture. The tour was extremely successful and extended to 93 concerts, raising a generous amount for Jenny’s charities. More modern machine-made pieces—commonly small tables and stools made of oak or maple—are readily found in casual antiques markets and in fact, are still manufactured today and enjoying a resurgence.</p>  <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Jenny Lind spool bed</i></p>
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LU3A SINGERS	THURS. INDOOR BOWLS
<p style="text-align: right;">Jacqui Townsley</p> <p>KEEP GOING ... keep singing ... it won't be long now !!!!!</p> 	<p style="text-align: right;">Fraser Shannon, Bill Ingleston</p> <p>As you know, Catherine Murdock has stepped down as Group Leader for Indoor Bowls. We will JOINTLY look after THURSDAY INDOOR BOWLERS – whenever it happens!</p> <p><b>Fraser Shannon</b>    <a href="mailto:fraserandrewshannon@gmail.com">fraserandrewshannon@gmail.com</a>    <b>Tel: 92692455</b>  <b>Bill Ingleston</b>    <a href="mailto:william.ingleston@outlook.com">william.ingleston@outlook.com</a>    <b>Tel: 92678004</b></p> <p>The Group Leader Contact Details have been updated and will be mailed out with the Newsletter. <b>Remember, everything is subject to change!</b></p>

**CONCERT & THEATRE GROUP**

 <p style="text-align: right;">Jacqui Townsley, Reah Browne</p> <p>When GOH opens again, (hopefully in the not too distant future) we are going to see a lot of changes.</p> <p>Audience members sitting in the restored auditorium will be sitting in brand-new, purpose-designed seats, replacing the cinema-style seats that have been in place since the 1960s. Carpets and auditorium drapes will also have been replaced, and a new, much-needed air handling system will keep the temperature comfortable for everyone. Shows will benefit from state-of-the-art sound and lighting, and although hidden from view, the ‘fly tower’, where scenery and sets are hung, will have been refurbished and upgraded.</p> <p>At the interval audiences will have the option of buying a drink at the glamorous new crush bar in the repaired and restored 1980 glass extension on the Great Victoria Street façade, or taking a seat at the beautifully refurbished stalls and circle bars. On display in the building, a plethora of artefacts, pictures and information panels detailing the fascinating history of the Grand Opera House; explore the Theatre’s first ever permanent exhibition: sharing fascinating stories from people who entertained audiences over the past 125 years. Audience facilities throughout the Theatre will be upgraded too, with more toilets, better access into the auditorium, and improved wheelchair spaces. The Grand Opera House will be ready to write the story of the next 125 years – I hope that will be SOON!</p>
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## LIBURN U3A IS 10 YEARS OLD THIS YEAR!

## READ OTHER MEMBER'S STORIES ABOUT

LIBURN U3A BEGINNINGS

and

WHY I JOINED LIBURN U3A

**Margaret Walker**

I have been a member of Lisburn U3A from the very first meeting 10 years ago and have enjoyed every moment. I have met and made so many friends and enjoyed many outings through Let's Go, Gardening, Ramblers, Strollers, Bowling, and T'ai Chi. My very first outing was with the Ramblers from the Civic Centre to Lady Dixon Park and back, and from then on have walked many miles up mountains and down dale. After about 5 years I took on the job of Newsletter Editor which I really enjoyed and which I thought would be a way of giving something back in appreciation for all the work put in by the Committee and all the Group Leaders. The monthly meetings bring us all together with a real buzz and we have enjoyed so many great speakers not forgetting Xmas parties and Anniversary Lunches. Here's hoping for a better year ahead and being able to meet again and enjoy group outing with friends.

**Norma Patterson**

I feel that the U3A is a fantastic organisation, which has provided much needed social, skill sharing and learning opportunities for those of us who have given up the daily grind of work! As I lived in Lisburn, but was based in Antrim, and worked in Crumlin, Randalstown, Ballymena and Toome - apart from work do's, there were limited opportunities to socialise with my work colleagues! I'd had very close, supportive neighbours before starting back to work, but they had gradually moved away! (Don't think it was TOTALLY because of me!) So, when I retired, I first had two hip replacements within 4 months of retiring, (which restricted me somewhat!) I discovered that I didn't know very many people in Lisburn, my children had all moved away, I missed my work colleagues from all my work places, I missed the children that I worked with and their parents, and I missed the job satisfaction! I felt VERY isolated! The only things I didn't miss were the paperwork and that awful drive past the airport in winter!

I had heard about the U3A from a friend before I retired; at the time of inquiring the Lisburn U3A had not yet started, so I eventually joined the Belfast U3A – only to discover a month later that the Lisburn U3A had started. So, I joined it too, and was a member of both for two years, until the meetings clashed! I had joined many of the Lisburn activities, as they were much more convenient!

There were so many activities that I eventually had to cut some of them out, as there just wasn't enough time for everything! I tried archery (which I had always wanted to try), photography, Tai Chi for quite a few years, 10 pin bowling, bridge, theatre, cinema, dining club and indoor and outdoor bowls, to name a few! We also had the monthly meetings, which were more opportunities to listen to some interesting and enjoyable talks, meet more people and have a cup of tea! Most of these were attended by different sets of people, so my circle of acquaintances in Lisburn grew, and I then started to bump into people that I knew around Lisburn! I also had an enjoyable two years as U3A membership secretary, meeting MORE new people, and have been organizing the very enjoyable dining out nights for the past few years!

I cannot recommend the U3A highly enough! It is marvellous for both married couples and those on their own – especially for people on their own, as their opportunities for social activities can sometimes be more restricted! I'm sorry that our 10-year celebrations have fallen foul of the dreaded Covid 19, as it is an organisation worth celebrating!



# The COVID Diaries

Excerpts from Des Donnelly's  
2020 Lockdown Diary

MARCH  
2021

ISSUE #1

## The Lockdown Blues

Elodie Ellingsen

Has it really been a year? The last 12 months, for all of us, have been an experience like no other. We have endured lockdown, isolation, boredom, reduced mobility and separation from family, friends, and neighbours.

The COVID Diaries are one man's light-hearted observations, made during this difficult period. This month's diary entries cover March and April of 2020; future issues will have more inclusions. I hope you enjoy these as much as I have.

“ Following the publication of my epic poem SAMEDAYS, I've been reviewing my diary entries for the last three weeks. I think it's important to share this with you because there are disturbing signs that I might be 'losing it'.

I have, therefore, abandoned any ideas of going to live on a remote island to write more poetry.

Dear Diary ~

**Lockdown Day 1:** I know I can do this! Got enough food and wine to last a month and enough toilet rolls to cater for a diarrhoea outbreak for the entire Lisburn U3A.

**Day 2:** Opening my sixth bottle of wine. I fear wine supplies might run out.

**Day 3:** Strawberries... some have 219 seeds, and others have 235. Who else knows that?

**Day 4:** 8 pm – removed my daytime pyjamas and put on my night-time ones.

**Day 5:** Today I tried to make hand sanitiser using Jeyes fluid, Flash Bleach and Fairy Liquid. It works great... but dissolved half my darned hand!

**Day 6:** It's Monday and I get to put out the bins – very excited! So, I shave, wash my hair, put on clean underwear and my shorts and Lidl trainers. Sadly, no one saw me; it's 7am and everyone else is still in bed.

**Day 7:** Laughing way too much at my own jokes; a sure sign of madness, because my jokes are not that good.

**Day 8:** Tried a new restaurant today called "The Kitchen". You bring your ingredients and cook your own meal. I have NO CLUE how this place is still in business.

It's Monday and I  
get to put out  
the bins – very  
excited!

**Day 9:** Today I put bottles of booze in every room. Tonight, I am getting all dressed up and going on a pub crawl.

**Day 10:** Struck up a conversation with a spider on the balcony today. Seems a smart guy – he's a Web Designer.

**Day 11:** Bought some artificial grass for the balcony today. Getting sand tomorrow to make a bunker, and planning to play golf out there.

**Day 12:** Isolation is tough on everyone. I swear my fridge just asked 'what the heck do you want now?!'

**Day 13:** I realise why dogs get so excited about moving outside, like going for walks or rides in the car. I think I just barked at a squirrel.

**Day 14:** Health Tip – if you keep a glass of wine in each hand, you can't accidentally touch your face!

**Day 15:** Watched the birds fighting over worms today. The seagulls lead the blackbirds 6-1.

**Day 16:** Anyone else feel like they've cooked dinner 112 times already?

**Day 17:** Downloaded the FlightRadar app today, on the recommendation of my friend Julie. She reckons it gives you a tremendous high at about 38,000 ft.

**Day 18:** I spent most of the day watching my seeds grow. So far only the pansies have appeared. Marginally more exciting than watching paint dry!

That's it, so far. If this catches on, I might do one of those blog things. If some of you are showing similar symptoms, I reckon you're going off the rails too.

DES  
DONNELLY