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Charitable Status No NI103276

## Garbage Gardening

Editor



My mother, Vange Brossard, was a well-known local artist in our Canadian municipality; an artist, poet, writer, philosopher, and student who never stopped learning to the end of her life. No matter what she was doing, from cooking to painting to mothering, she did it creatively. She had a proclivity for sticking things – anything – into the dirt. From orange, lemon, and grapefruit pits, to squash and cantaloupe seeds, she would salvage them from the dinner preparations and plant them. It was quite normal to see rows of pits and seeds laying along the kitchen window-sill, and sooner rather than later they would be potted, or simply stuffed into an existing plant's pot to grow alongside whatever else was there.

While I cannot claim to be a gardener, I have inherited this strange vice for sneaking seeds from the food waste bucket, and taking them away to be planted. One would think I'd know better, but I never think to note which food the seeds are from, so I find that I've lemons oranges and grapefruit sprouts, with no idea which they may be! Cantaloupe and squash are easily confused as well. Avocadoes are easily identifiable due to the size of the pit, and the fact that it must be planted in such a way as to be easily visible.

There is something extremely satisfying about taking a pit, planting it, and seeing it grow – I highly recommend garbage gardening, and it can be done anywhere!



Grown from Avocado pit

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: 27 MAY 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.

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## Hello Everyone!

- Coffee & Chat was held Thurs **15th April**. at 11.00am via Zoom, hosted by Keith and Bill. This was the last Coffee & Chat of the season, as spring is here, and gardens beckon.
  - Who has saved so much money by not going to the hairdressers, they could buy a new car?
  - Who has a big Chinese Cookery Book and cooks beautiful Chinese food?
  - Who is not going to the shops again, but will continue with Click and Collect?

These and many other questions were answered on the last Coffee & Chat morning.

- The next **Monthly Meeting** will take place on **Thurs 29th April at 2.00pm** via Zoom. The May Monthly Meeting will take place on Thurs 27th May at 2:00pm via Zoom.
- **Reminder** that you are getting 2 years for 1 and existing members should have deleted this year's U3A subscription from their Standing Orders, then reinstated it for 2022.

**COMPUTER COURSES**



If you would like assistance to start using computers and to get online, Libraries NI can help. We offer two free computer courses. These are called Got IT? and Go On.

The Got IT? course is currently not available in libraries because of the Covid-19 pandemic. However, if you're struggling with technology, having problems with your tablet, laptop or phone, or would like more information, you can contact our digital team.

Simply call 028 9039 5989 (Mon - Fri 9:15am - 4:45pm) with a brief description of how you need IT help and library staff will phone you within 48 hours with free and helpful advice.

**Go On**

If you can navigate your way with a computer and can use email, the Go On course will take you one step further.

Go On allows people to enhance their computer skills by offering help to do lots of everyday tasks on the computer. These small group sessions are free and are currently delivered via Zoom by experienced Libraries NI staff.

There is a full timetable of sessions available.

[View timetable](#)

**NOTE: To access these courses and make the most of our free computers, internet and Wi-Fi you need to be a Libraries NI member.**

**INVITATION TO U3A REGIONAL ZOOM QUIZ**

You will have received Joan's email about Causeway Region hosting an online quiz, and that we could enter two teams of up to five people to compete.

The Northern Ireland Regional Executive Committee (NIREC) leads the regional activities. NIREC invites all NI u3as to enter teams for the 2021 Regional Quiz, this year hosted by Causeway u3a, on **Monday 24th May at 14:30.**

The Zoom Host is Brendan Mullan and questions will be set by Venie Martin, both from Causeway u3a. The quiz format will be 6 themed rounds of 10 questions, with each correct answer worth 2 points.

Zoom makes it easy to include multiple choice, picture, music or film rounds, so some of these will be included. The quiz is expected to last around 2 hours.

There should be no more than 2 teams from each u3a. Teams may consist of up to 5 members, with a captain nominated to submit answers on behalf of the team to the Zoom Host.

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Anyone interested in quizzing should notify Joan, who will then sort you into teams, and submit entries to Causeway.

You are not expected to enter an entire team.

The entries must be in by **Monday 17th May at the latest**

**SMILING IS INFECTIOUS**

*by Spike Milligan*

Smiling is infectious,  
 you catch it like the flu,  
 When someone smiled at me today,  
 I started smiling too.  
 I passed around the corner  
 and someone saw my grin.  
 When he smiled I realized  
 I'd passed it on to him.  
 I thought about that smile,  
 then I realized its worth.  
 A single smile, just like mine  
 could travel round the earth.  
 So, if you feel a smile begin,  
 don't leave it undetected.  
 Let's start an epidemic quick,  
 and get the world infected!

**MONTHLY MEETING**

Our speaker at the meeting on **Thurs 29th April 2pm** is **Dot Blakley** who will tell us about the different sights, sounds and habitats of the birds in and around Lisburn. Dot has been bird watching for over 30 years, and gives classes at Queen's and at Belfast Metropolitan College. Some may know her from Radio Ulster's "Your Place and Mine" programme on Saturday mornings.

Many of us have been more aware of bird song during the lockdowns; here is an opportunity to learn a bit more about these feathered songsters!

**The Zoom link:**

<https://zoom.us/j/92777857307?pwd=NzZNaNp2Y0ttbkdxdl1dIZDJ5dTVFdz09>  
 Meeting ID: 927 7785 7307  
 Passcode: 256404

You can sign in from 1.45pm. Hope to see you then.

JACQUI'S TEASERS

**This month's teaser:**

1. Shoulders and bellies and ribs and cheeks,  
Tables and breasts and neck and beaks,  
Buttons, bridges, backs and bouts –  
Who can guess the odd one out?
2. What is a Sexton Blake?
3. What do Bawbee, Merk and Plaque have in common?

**Answers next month!**

Jacqui Townsley

**Answers to last month's Teaser:**

The Booths Silicon China 'Green Parrot' part table service sold at Christie's auction last year (estimate £2,000 - £3,000) – for an **amazing £6,500.**

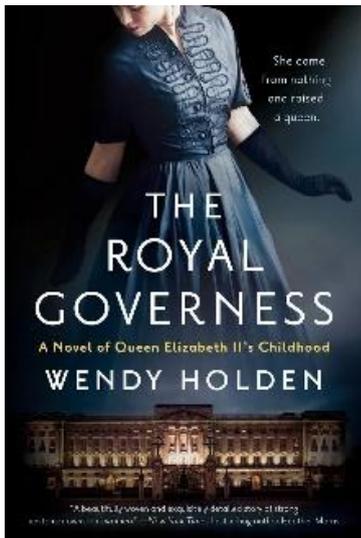


Jacqui Townsley

**BOOK GROUP 1**

Jeanette Chambers

Last month we read "Animal Farm" by George Orwell while Book Group 2 were also reading George Orwell, although there had been no communication between us. This month royalty seems to have overtaken us. Prince Philip's death and funeral happened between meetings but we had planned to read "The Governess" by Wendy

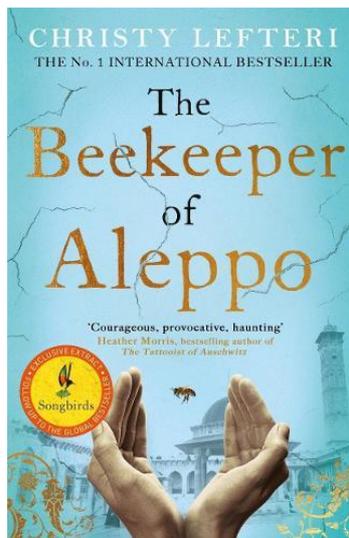


Holden, which is the fictionalised story of Marion Crawford "Crawfie" the governess of the two princesses Elizabeth and Margaret. It is recent history and most of the background is familiar to our members but we must remember it is fiction and, like "The Crown" on Netflix, is what the author invented and not always what really occurred. We will meet on Thurs 6th May at 10.30 a.m. again by Zoom.

**BOOK GROUP 2**

Joan Bryson

Our May meeting is on Tuesday 25th at 10.30am. We are hoping that lockdown restrictions will ease soon to allow us to meet in person before long. Our book, 'The Beekeeper of Aleppo' by



Christy Lefteri', tells a story about people who suffer much more severe restrictions and losses than us. Syrian refugees lose homes and families and suffer internment in refugee camps as they seek asylum. The Beekeeper clings to sweet memories of the past and hopes for a better future symbolised by the sweetness and peace of bees and flowers. We continue our midmonth 'Book Chats' which are less structured and where we try to identify programmes and events of literary interest, details of recent publications etc.

**CROCHET**

Norma Patterson

It is now over a year since our last 'proper' indoor meeting in



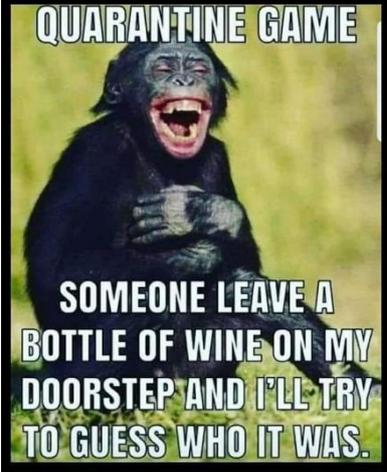
Maureen's front room and it's looking as though there is still some way to go before we can safely meet again indoors. In the meantime we are continuing with our weekly Zoom sessions. Teething troubles with the technology have been overcome and we have had a couple of weeks with full attendance.



It's good to be able to get together for a chat and to have the chance to see each other's

crochet projects, swap patterns, discuss wool suppliers and arrange delivery of items made for charity. Our WhatsApp group is active throughout the week with videos, jokes and news as well as more personal messages. With the weather starting to improve we're hoping that it won't be too long before we can resume our outdoor park meetings.



IRISH		SPANISH
<p style="text-align: right;">Keith Ineson</p> <p>During lockdown, some members have been doing tuition by zoom, by internet video, by television and books. Some have been resting. The end result is that we are all at different levels. In this situation I think it will be useful to supply information about available courses, events, videos etc. Two sites I have found to be very useful:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">youtube sean mor – Bing video.</a> This is a series of grammar based videos for those who prefer the grammar approach</li> </ul> <p><a href="#">(160) Speaking Irish 1 - YouTube</a> This is useful for learning to speak Irish.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Norma Patterson</p> <p>Sorry folks! Just too soon yet! But there's hope that we'll soon be able to escape! Until then...</p> <div style="text-align: center;">  </div>	<p style="text-align: right;">Joan Hamilton</p> <p>Beginners' Spanish classes are beginning on Zoom,</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Two Sessions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Monday, at 7.30pm</li> <li>- Wednesday at 2.30pm</li> </ul> <div style="text-align: center;">  </div>

## HELP WANTED!

**WITHOUT VOLUNTEERS AND ACTIVE PARTICIPATION, THERE WILL NOT BE A LISBURN U3A!**

Please participate and keep Lisburn U3A a thriving group!

<p><b>We need a 10 Pin Bowling Group Leader.</b></p>	<p><b>We need Group Leaders for Outdoor Bowling, and Monday Beginners Indoor Bowling.</b></p>	<p><b>We need a new Group Leader for the Flower Arranging Group.</b></p>
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LU3A SINGERS	THURS. INDOOR BOWLS
<p style="text-align: right;">Jacqui Townsley</p> <div style="text-align: center;">  </div> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>KEEP GOING .....</b> <b>KEEP SINGING .....</b> <b>IT WON'T BE LONG NOW !!!!!</b></p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Fraser Shannon, Bill Ingleston</p> <p>Although the Covid restrictions are being eased we are unable at this time to get a starting date for resumption of our indoor bowling. We are informed that phased opening of Councils' Leisure centres is to begin from 30<sup>th</sup> April but Kilmakee, like other venues, must wait for its turn to open. With summer break imminent and concerns about Covid variants, it is unlikely that we will start before September. Kilmakee staff will contact us when they are operating again.</p>

### CONCERT & THEATRE GROUP

Jacqui Townsley, Reah Browne

The Ulster Orchestra are bringing **A Morning in May Digital Concert** to the comfort of your home on **Friday 14 May 2021**.

Conductor David Brophy makes a welcome return to the Ulster Orchestra for a concert which starts at dusk in an Athenian forest, traces a Romantic sunset and ends with the start of a brand-new musical day!

**MENDELSSOHN** Overture: *Midsummer Night's Dream*  
**RESPIGHI** *Il Tramonto ('The Sunset')*  
**HAYDN** *Symphony No. 6 Le Matin*

Tickets **£10 pp** and can be booked on the Ulster Orchestra Website:  
<https://www.ulsterorchestra.org.uk/whats-on/a-morning-in-may/>

*The concert will last approximately one hour and will be available for streaming for 30 days after the event.*

**WE ARE PLEASED TO WELCOME ELIZABETH FLEMING AS OUR NEW VICE CHAIR!****ELIZABETH FLEMING TALKS ABOUT FINDING U3A:**

2010 for me was a memorable year for many reasons. It was the year I retired from work, I welcomed my first grandchild, joined the new Lisburn Harmony Ladies Choir, revived my limited tennis and badminton skills, took up new hobbies, and discovered U3A.

I had read with interest about the U3A and decided to join the nearest branch - Belfast - where I received a friendly welcome. I enjoyed the monthly meetings, making new friends and joined the Ramblers. However, it was great news when I heard that Judy and Stanley Prentice had arranged a meeting during December 2010 to gauge if there was an interest in starting a U3A branch in Lisburn – there certainly was! - and it was at the end of this meeting that the Steering committee for the new branch was set up. Volunteers included: Stewart Hudson as Chair, Joan Hamilton as Treasurer, Monica Rafferty: Interest Groups, Stanley Prentice: Media and Venues, Gil Colvin: Speakers and I volunteered to be Secretary.

The setting up of a new U3A branch was an exciting venture to be involved in and being part of the team heading it up was enjoyable, interesting, challenging, and very rewarding for us all, especially as membership numbers increased rapidly over the first few months. The inaugural meeting of Lisburn U3A was held on Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> January 2011 and on 29<sup>th</sup> September 2011 we were presented with our official Certificate of Full Membership of The Third Age Trust.

Another memorable date was 26<sup>th</sup> April 2012 when the first Lisburn U3A AGM was held.

In 2014 I stood down as secretary as per the Constitution and was ably succeeded by Sally Cunningham. Over the past 10+ years I have enjoyed taking part in many of the numerous interest groups including Bowls, Bridge, Let's Go, Ramblers, Strollers, Speakers Corner and T'ai Chi, when Granny duties permitted! (I am now a proud Granny to 4 Grandchildren). Fast forward to 2021, I was looking through the March Newsletter and read that the role of Vice -Chair was vacant so I thought I would put my name forward. I was delighted to be accepted onto committee and look forward to contributing in whatever way I can.

The committee and interest group leaders are to be congratulated for all their efforts in keeping Lisburn U3A functioning and by communicating with the members during the past year through Zoom meetings, WhatsApp, Skype, and telephone calls, making sure everyone is safe and well. Hopefully, it will not be too long until we can all meet up again in person.

**ANTIQUES & COLLECTABLES****COLLECTING ANTIQUE NAPKIN RINGS**

Napkin rings are a relatively recent addition to tabletop accessories. The first 'serviette' rings appeared in France in the 1800s. As the upper middle classes gained more wealth, the use of napkin rings spread rapidly throughout Europe and by the late 19th century the likes of Liberty in London and Tiffany & Co in New York were producing elegant Arts and Crafts and Art Nouveau napkin rings and the craze had spread around the Western world.

There is a nice story about one of the Dukes of Devonshire... was one day buying silver at Aspreys (a U K-based designer, manufacturer and retailer of jewellery and silverware based in New Bond Street, London) ... when he noticed some circular silver rings. He turned to his steward and enquired of him what they were. "Those, your Grace, are napkin rings."

"Napkin rings?" "Your Grace, when the middle classes breakfast, they take a fresh napkin, and when they have finished, they fold it, roll it and place it through the ring. They use it again for luncheon, tea, and dinner. Only at the end of the day is it sent to be laundered."

The Duke was shocked. "They use the same napkin throughout the day?" "They do, Your Grace." "My goodness," said the Duke, "I had no idea such poverty existed."

As the prevalence of napkin rings grew, so did the materials they were crafted from, eventually including materials such as wood, glass, porcelain, and bone - but silver ones remain one of the most collectable and sought-after types. Today antique napkin rings are highly sought after. Prices vary according to condition, quality, and rarity, but you can get a nice pair of Art Deco napkin rings for around £250. At the other end of the spectrum, a set of six, cased Edwardian or Victorian napkin rings can easily fetch over £1,000. As with all collectables, rare or exceptional napkin rings can command high prices, even if they're not antique. Margaret and Denis Thatcher's napkin rings engraved with their names and birth dates fetched £11,875 at Christie's in 2019! **Are you still using yours?**



# The COVID Diaries

## Excerpts from Des Donnelly's 2020 Lockdown Diary



ISSUE #2

### The Lockdown Blues

Elodie Ellingsen

The COVID Diaries continue! This man's light-hearted observations for this month, cover some April and May of 2020. I hope you enjoy these as much as I am, and look forward to the next issues.

“ Here's a further update from my diary and thank you to all the folks who, after the first edition, whinged, complained, gave out, and cried on my shoulder! None of it very helpful at all, but did reassure me that there are many hopeless cases out there, and I am in a really good place and enjoying my growing insanity!

**Day 19:** My sleep pattern is up the creek, so I try some remedies:

- Fill a hot water bottle and take it to bed with me. The darned thing leaked... I wake at 2am and think I've wet the bed – not a nice experience in the middle of the night!
- Try counting sheep, got to 600 with a few goats and llamas thrown in for good measure – bad childhood memories of feeding and counting sheep in 2 ft of snow in the bowels of Tyrone!
- Try a hot bath, but I feel stupid lying in the bath at 3am.
- Horlicks – yessss – I have a jar of Horlicks in the cupboard – checked the date – use by April 2016! If I drink that, I may never wake up!

**Day 20:** The world has been turned upside down. I used to yell at the kids for sneaking out of the house.

Now they phone me on my landline to check if I'm in. And if they don't get a response, they yell at *me* for going out.

I wake up at 2am and think I've wet the bed...

**Day 21:** Looking out of the window, which I do a lot, I see lots of people I don't recognise. Then I realise they are the neighbours who used to be blonde, are not wearing makeup, false eyelashes, and hair extensions.

**Day 22:** With so much time on my hands, I'm thinking of a diet to lose 2 stones, an indoor fitness regime to improve my stamina, and sitting out in the sun to get a Trump tan... then I realise I'm quarantined, who am I trying to impress?

**Day 23:** The dog is sitting and staring at me, like, 'now you know why I chew the furniture'.

**Day 24:** Feeling a bit clammy... is it ok to take a shower or do we just keep washing our hands?

**Day 25:** Alexa – poor Alexa...

I ask Alexa 'what's the weather like this weekend?'

Alexa: 'It doesn't matter, you're not going anywhere.'

**Day 26:** Finished building my balcony golf course... ok, got the grass... ok, got the sand and built a bunker. Tried to install a water hazard... flooded out the apartment below. Guy not very happy – told him to keep his distance!

**Day 27:** My hair is getting very long... so put on my Woodstock t-shirt, an old pair of bell bottoms/flares, some beads, and sunglasses, and play Jimi Hendrix, the Grateful Dead, The Who, and Country Joe and the Fish among others.

You will all remember Woodstock from 1969... I've been there and got the t-shirt and the mug.

**Day 28:** I never thought for one minute that the comment 'I wouldn't touch him/her with a 6-foot pole' would become global policy!

'now you know why I chew the furniture'

**Day 29:** I'm beginning to realise that your mind is like your attic or your garage. If it's empty, you start filling it with rubbish, discarded items, and ideas, otherwise known as 'clutter'.

And likewise, this empty diary is filling up with nonsense, hare brained schemes and theories. If the beginning of wisdom is silence, then the onset of madness is idleness.

... to be continued...

”

DES  
DONNELLY