

Email: [info@lisburnu3a.org](mailto:info@lisburnu3a.org)

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Charitable Status No NI103276

**‘OUT & ABOUT IN LISBURN WITH THE BIRDS’ - DOT BLAKELY**

At our 29<sup>th</sup> April meeting, Dot Blakely, a regular on BBC Radio Ulster’s ‘Your Place & Mine’, brought us ‘Out & About in Lisburn with the Birds’. We saw and heard birds at the river Lagan, Castle Gardens, Longstone Street Roundabout, Chapel Hill, Wallace Park, Island Centre, Bow Street, Linen Museum, and Market Square. Birds included blackbird, wren, tree-creeper, chaffinch, long-tailed tit, robin, goldfinch, sparrow, great-tit, chiffchaff, duck, grey-wagtail, heron, pied wagtail, gull, pigeon, blue-tit, and starling. Who knew there were so many different birds in Lisburn?



Who knew that the hole in a blue-tit nest box should be no more than 25mm to prevent great-tits entering? Who knew that the goldcrest is the smallest bird? Most people think it’s the wren.

Dot emphasised the importance of bio-diversity for our birds as they need a variety of nesting and feeding sites. They need things we often remove, such as brambles, ivy, dandelions, moss, lichen, and spider’s webs. She advised us to feed the birds in winter but gradually reduce feeding in spring as nature’s food sources - insects, seeds, berries etc start to reappear. Dot is passionate about birds and has amassed a vast amount of knowledge over the past 30 years. She shared her knowledge generously and hopefully inspired us to a greater appreciation of our feathered friends. Several of you have enquired about Dot’s booklets; she doesn’t have a web site, but you can email her at [dotbirdblakely@gmail.com](mailto:dotbirdblakely@gmail.com) for details of available titles and how to get them.

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 shortly 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**

**Welcome to Michael Rooze – our newest member!**

**MEMBERSHIP NOW AT 329 MEMBERS.**

EMAILS: [chairlu3a@hotmail.com](mailto:chairlu3a@hotmail.com)

[editorlu3a@gmail.com](mailto:editorlu3a@gmail.com)

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**Hello Everyone!**

- For those wondering why there’s been no photo supplement, **Cynthia Kelly** has been seriously ill, in hospital. We wish Cynthia all the best for a speedy recovery.
- If you have photos to publish, you may send them to [editorlu3a@gmail.com](mailto:editorlu3a@gmail.com). In the interim, until Cynthia returns, we’ll try to fill the gap **BUT please include details: what the photo is of, the group, names of any people in it, and the date taken.**
- The next **Monthly Meeting** will take place on **Thurs 27th May at 2.00pm** via Zoom. The June Monthly Meeting will take place on Thurs 24th June at 2:00pm still via Zoom.
- **Reminder** that existing members as of 31<sup>st</sup> Dec 2020 are getting 2 years for 1 due to the Lockdown. You should have deleted this year’s 2021 u3a subscription from your Standing Orders, then please reinstate it for 2022. If you have questions, please contact anyone on the Committee.
- **COMMITTEE HELP WANTED:** **Sandra Stokes is retiring after two years of service. We are looking for a new Committee member to take over the Lisburn u3a Membership duties commencing 1<sup>st</sup> August 2021. Email [membership6543@gmail.com](mailto:membership6543@gmail.com) for information on the responsibilities.**

**"THE STORY OF THE DONEGAL SPITFIRE"**

Where: Lisburn U3A Monthly Meeting

When: **27th May 2021 at 2-3pm**

How: **Via Zoom**

Our guest speaker on the afternoon will be **Jonny McNee** who will give a talk describing the fascinating events behind his discovery and excavation in 2011 of Pilot Officer Roland 'Bud' Wolfe's Spitfire P8074 from deep beneath the peat on the Glenshinny mountain, Inishowen Peninsula, Co Donegal.

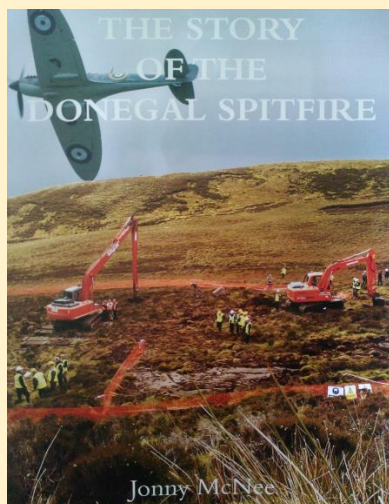
This aircraft served with 133 (Eagle) Squadron RAF in mid-1941 who were based for a short period of time at RAF Eglinton – now the City of Derry Airport.



The iconic fighter's war time donation by successful Canadian businessman Garfield Weston, its incredible state of preservation and the firing of one of its recovered Browning machine guns – watched by over a million people on the BBC website - catapulted the P8074 story onto a global stage. The tracing of the pilot's family in the US will also be weaved into the story.

The discovery and excavation of Spitfire P8074 was recorded as part of the groundbreaking BBC NI series 'Dig WW2' first broadcast in Spring 2012. Information about his book 'The Story of the Donegal Spitfire' is available from Jonny at

[jonnymcnee@googlemail.com](mailto:jonnymcnee@googlemail.com)

**FOCUS ON ACTIVITIES: GOLF**

Each month the Newsletter will focus on a different activity. Hopefully members will discover new activities to explore and old activities to revisit.

This month the focus is on **GOLF**.

Playing golf with Lu3a provides an opportunity to practice golfing in the great outdoors at a variety of local courses, some exceptionally scenic. Golf courses played in recent years include Aberdelghy, Down Royal, Edenmore, Lurgan, Rockmount.

Lu3a golf is casual, with no club membership, no handicap, and no obligation to play regularly. It's simply relaxed practice in company. Everyone is welcome - from total beginners to experienced players.

**Weekly Golf** outings continue throughout the year each Monday morning. **Summer Golf** runs from April until October on the second Thursday of the month. It provides an opportunity to enjoy lunch and socialise at the clubhouse.

**Beginners Golf** can be organised if there is sufficient interest expressed by members.

All golf groups are organised via WhatsApp. Email the Group Leader Margaret to join the WhatsApp Group, or for further information at

[speakerslu3a@gmail.com](mailto:speakerslu3a@gmail.com)

**National u3aday**

National u3a day is on Wednesday 2 June 2021. This is an opportunity to publicise the u3a movement, to celebrate the opportunities available to older adults, including the new online platforms that many u3as now use to deliver activities and engage with members.

You can visit the [u3a day page](#) of the national website for ideas and resources, including tutorials to help you plan the day.

**Lisburn u3aday**

The national rebranding and relaunching in England will be in June. We are waiting until August and September to relaunch Lisburn u3a, Covid regulations permitting. Watch for more information in August, and a press release in September.

[**Editor's note:** You will note that we are moving from **U3A** to **u3a** in the newsletter – but old habits die hard. Please excuse the odd uppercase U3A that might slip through.]

JACQUI'S TEASERS

Jacqui Townsley

Jacqui Townsley

This month's teaser:

1. One of Degas's most famous paintings *L'Absynthe* (now in the Louvre) was sold at Christie's in 1892. What did it fetch then?
2. **8 gns, 18 gns, 180 gns or 1,800 gns?** (*I hope you can still remember what a guinea is!!*)
3. The latest **Fellows** fine **jewellery** sale saw the successful sale of a suffragette-inspired **Art Nouveau dragonfly brooch**. The piece, sporting the green and purple suffragette colours, was estimated at between £8,000 - £12,000. What did it sell for at auction?

Answers to last month's Teaser:

1. Beaks – the others are all parts of a violin!
2. A Sexton Blake is Cockney Rhyming Slang for a **fake** or counterfeit
3. **Bawbee, Merk and Plaque** are all Scottish coins.

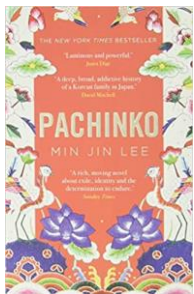


Art Nouveau dragonfly brooch.

Answers next month!

BOOK GROUP 1

Jeanette Chambers



We met earlier this month to discuss "The Governess" by Wendy Holden and while the book on the whole was enjoyed, it was

hard to believe some of the incidents related in it but maybe this is the case with all "factional" books and films.

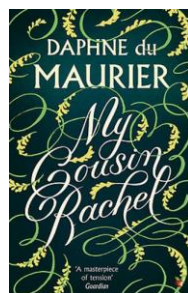
This month's book is "Pachinko" by Min Jin Lee which is set in Korea which should be as far away from the Royal Family as we can possibly go but we will let you know.

We will be meeting again via **Zoom** on **Thursday 3rd June 10.30 a.m.**

BOOK GROUP 2

Joan Bryson

We will meet on **Tues. 29th June at 10.30am**. This year the Group has been revisiting once acclaimed authors and books so this month it's 'My Cousin Rachel' by Daphne du Maurier. Orphaned Philip is



adopted by his rich, bachelor cousin, Ambrose and reared without female influence. When Philip grows up Ambrose travels to Italy and

quickly marries beautiful, mysterious Rachel, becomes ill and dies. Suspicious?? Rachel arrives in England just as Philip is old enough to inherit a fortune and he is infatuated. Is she devil or angel?

CROCHET

Jean Ryan



This month the Crochet Group has continued as before. We are still

WhatsApping, Zooming and looking forward to the time when we can meet up in person.



Members are still busy producing blankets, cushions, garments and baby items.



CONCERT & THEATRE GROUP

Jacqui Townsley, Reah Browne

The Grand Opera House is advertising shows from October 2021 – including the smash-hit musical SIX, HAIRSPRAY the musical, HEATHERS the musical, GREASE, and A CHRISTMAS CAROL. So, WATCH THIS SPACE!!!!

WHEN IS THE NEXT FULL MOON?



The next full moon, otherwise known as the Flower Moon, is set to grace our skies on May 26, reaching its official peak at 11:32pm.

It will also be the second supermoon of the year.

GROUP LEADERS ALERT	THURSDAY INDOOR BOWLS	AMAZON SMILE
<p><b>There is a Group leaders meeting: 10th June at 6pm</b>, about opening up – Zoom invite to follow.</p> <p><b>All Group Leaders PLEASE ATTEND.</b></p> <p>This month we discovered that we've had incorrect contact information for some leaders for months. It is up to you to ensure we receive changes you make to your contact information.</p> <p><b>PLEASE ENSURE THAT YOU KEEP THE GL CONVENER AND EDITOR UPDATED WITH YOUR CORRECT CONTACT DETAILS.</b></p>	<p style="text-align: right;"><small>Fraser Shannon, Bill Ingleston</small></p> <p>Indoor bowling is over for the season. Outdoor bowling "has taken over" for the summer break. We are studying documentation from the Irish Indoor Bowling Association, advising on measures necessary for the return to indoor bowling. We expect to return by the first week in September but it will depend on the Government Guidelines and Kilmakee Rules at that time.</p>	<p><b>NOTE: This is NOT an advertisement for Amazon!</b> For those of us that use it, be aware that you can <b>support the charity of your choice</b> if you shop at Smile Amazon and they'll donate to your chosen charitable organisation, at no cost to you:</p> <p><a href="https://smile.amazon.co.uk/gp/chpf/homepage?orig=%2F">https://smile.amazon.co.uk/gp/chpf/homepage?orig=%2F</a></p>

## HELP WANTED!

**WITHOUT VOLUNTEERS AND ACTIVE PARTICIPATION THERE WILL NOT BE A LISBURN u3a!**

**Please participate and keep Lisburn u3a a thriving group! We need members to volunteer for the following:**

<p><b>Group Leader</b> <b>10 Pin Bowling</b></p>	<p><b>1-3 Group Leaders</b> <b>Outdoor Bowls</b></p>	<p><b>Group Leader</b> <b>Flower Arranging</b></p>	<p><b>Committee Position</b> <b>Membership</b></p>
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OUTDOOR BOWLS	GOLF
<p style="text-align: right;"><small>Sally Magill (TEMPORARY)</small></p> <p>Outdoor bowling is at <b>Lisnagarvey</b>. There are sessions Tues, Thurs, and Friday. Registration is required for all bowlers on the Outdoor Bowlers WhatsApp. A list is published for each day's play. Unfortunately we are not able to take beginners.</p> <p><b>Sessions:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tuesday mornings 10am - 12:30</li> <li>• Thursday mornings 10am - 12:30</li> <li>• Friday afternoon 1:30pm - 4:00</li> </ul>	<p style="text-align: right;"><small>Margaret Callan</small></p> <p><b>Weekly Golf has resumed.</b> Most <b>Monday mornings</b>, weather permitting and excluding bank holidays. Email Group Leader <b>Margaret Callan</b> to join the WhatsApp group.</p> <p><b>'Summer Golf' is also back.</b> Usually on the 2nd Thursday of each month until October, and also weather dependent. First proposed outing is to <b>Lurgan Golf Club on Thurs 10th June after 10am</b>. Costs: 9 holes £15 * 18 holes £25</p> <p>Discount is available for a good turnout. Please confirm your intention to play to Margaret <b>before Thurs 27<sup>th</sup> May</b> at <a href="mailto:speakerslu3a@gmail.com">speakerslu3a@gmail.com</a></p>

## WALKING GROUPS

<p><b>STROLLERS</b> <span style="float: right;"><small>Mary Hine</small></span></p> <p>The information regarding the easing of lockdown is vague, but it looks like it might not be too long before we can meet for walks and even maybe go for a coffee and chat. Fingers crossed. In the meantime it would be helpful if those wishing to still be on my list of Strollers would contact me either by WhatsApp or by email.</p> <p><b>RAMBLERS, SCRAMBLERS, HILLBILLIES</b> <span style="float: right;"><small>Stanley Prentice, Judith Prentice</small></span></p> <p>Our first <b>Ramble</b> will be on <b>Monday 31st May</b> and the venue is <b>Drumkeeragh Forest Park</b>, walk start <b>10.00 am</b>. There has been no official mention of maximum numbers, so we will all walk as one group, being sensible, of course. As social distancing is still an issue, we are making our own way to the walk start, unless you are happy sharing with a friend. There is a large, new car park on left hand side, just where the forest begins. Walking shoes are ok for this walk and poles may be helpful for the inclines. Bring a Packed Lunch.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Hopefully there are lots of walk leaders waiting to step forward!</b> Arrangements for <b>Hillbillies</b> and <b>Scramblers</b> to follow.</p> <p><b>SAT RAMBLERS</b> <span style="float: right;"><small>Gil Colvin</small></span></p> <p style="text-align: center;">No news at this time</p>
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## ANTIQUES &amp; COLLECTABLES

Jacqui Townsley

## COLLECTING PERFUME BOTTLES

Perfume bottles are a tradition that can be traced back all the way to the Golden Age of the Roman and Egyptian Empires. Bottles made from a range of ceramic, glass and metal materials remained popular throughout Europe during the Middle Ages. Later Edwardian perfume bottles were often constructed entirely of metal, often silver or gold, and featured ornate engravings. Later still, Victorian perfume bottles employed even simpler glass designs and predominantly silver caps.



The oldest of these antiquities are very rare and are not only collected by individuals, but by museums and anthropologists alike. That doesn't mean you can't set your sights on making one of these relics your very own!!

Collecting old perfume bottles is a great hobby and you can get an idea of how much a bottle is worth by considering these factors:

- The Age of the Bottle - While not all old bottles are valuable, an older bottle is more likely to be worth more than a newer one.
- Seams and pontil marks are two of the ways you can determine a bottle's age. The pontil mark is the mark at the bottom of the bottle where it was attached to the glass blower's pontil rod. You can tell the difference between a machine-made bottle (1914 onwards) and a handmade bottle by carefully checking the seam line. The seam on a machine made bottle will run all the way up the bottle and over the lip.
- **Condition, colour, and type of bottle** are also important along with **design, rarity, and general appeal.**

*Have a look among your 'treasures' – you probably have at least one!*

## LU3A SINGERS

Jacqui Townsley



**Keep Going**

**Keep Singing**

**It Won't Be Long Now !!!!!**

# The COVID Diaries

## Excerpts from Des Donnelly's 2020 Lockdown Diary



ISSUE #3

“ **DAY 37:** Really struggling to know what day it is. Calendar - absolutely no help. So, I'm working on other pointers, which will tell me what day it is.

**Monday** – Bin Day. I keep a lookout to see if neighbours are putting out their bins... never fails. Guy across the road saw me, and wished me 'Happy Bin Day!' Thank goodness, I'm not the only one who's cracking up!

**Tuesday** – the guy who walks three dogs around the loop, always does it anti-clockwise on Tuesdays...no idea why, but suspect he is part of some ancient Druid sect and does it to appease the Gods, like they did at Stonehenge. I don't live far from the Giants Ring where I understand strange things happen too.

**Wednesday** – shopping day... lady opposite always shops on Wednesdays.

Local Tesco has introduced a 'one way' shopping system with arrows and signs stuck to the floor. I caused mayhem when I doubled back to get a bottle of fake tan. Was chastised by a supervisor! So embarrassed, when two minutes later a voice on the tannoy reminded shoppers to stick to the one-way system or be ejected! Totally mortified... wish I'd been wearing a face mask so no one could recognise me.

**Thursday** – it's easy because people go out clapping for NHS at 8 pm.

Guy three doors down

produced a bodhran and starts tapping out, Are Ye Right There Michael Are Ye Right.

Not to be outdone, the guy opposite appears with a Lambeg Drum, and proceeds to beat the hell out of it! I'm sure every nurse and doctor in Belfast heard him!

I ring four of them each day just to remind them that my birthday is coming up

So, not to be outdone, I got a Pyrex dish and a potato masher and beat out Come Back Paddy Riley to Ballyjamesduff. In my exuberance, I knocked a hole in my good Pyrex dish, a wedding present from many moons ago.

**Friday** – the next-door neighbour gets his groceries delivered every Friday from Iceland. Over the fence, he voiced concern about his shopping being contaminated. I advised him to run a bath, add some Jeyes Fluid and gently wash the groceries.

An hour later, he saw me in the back garden and told me he had tried my idea. Sadly, the ice cream and frozen chips had melted, his bread was sodden, and toilet rolls totally unusable.

Suggested to him that maybe the water was too hot.

He flew into a rage and reached for a spade... warned him to keep 2 metre distance!

**Saturday** – I have a list of names, about 50, comprising siblings, relatives, and friends and I ring four of them each day - just to remind them that my birthday is coming up, or that they never returned the shovel they borrowed a year ago. But on Saturdays, I always phone my siblings - to their landlines, because it's cheaper and my siblings would talk for hours. After five weeks, I find I'm phoning people for the 2nd and 3rd time and it's difficult to find something new to talk about. Twice today I almost said 'Sorry, I have to run' before realising there is nowhere to run to!

**Sunday** – my internet Mass Online App reminds me it's Sunday. And I can have a lie in because I have a choice of about 200 Masses worldwide from Abu-Dhabi at 3:30am to Pope Francis at 6am, or Termonfeckin at 10 am and Baltimore at 10:30. The great thing about attending Sunday Service online, is that you can nip out to the kitchen for a coffee or a glass of wine during the sermon and secondly, they don't take up a collection! Getting to like this.

... to be continued...

DES  
DONNELLY