

Email: info@lisburnu3a.org

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Charitable Status No NI103276

Our Speaker in May, Jonny McNee, provided a lot of information in advance, which appeared in the May LU3A Newsletter. An account of a scientifically precise search and excavation was expected, but the talk focused more on the human element:



- Frustrating failed searches for aircraft.
- Astonishing coincidences.
- The goodwill of the Donegal people.
- Obstructive officialdom.
- Enormous co-operation and generosity in the excavation effort.
- The interest shown by the Weston family in Canada who financed Spitfires for the WW2 war effort.
- The fascinating story of a dashing American pilot who reluctantly spent many months in the Curragh 'holiday camp' and almost caused an international incident during WW2.
- That pilot's daughters' fascination with their father's war record only revealed following the Spitfire excavation.

Jonny McNee - an enthusiastic speaker whose search for a Spitfire demonstrated an exceptional degree of tenacity. 'The Story of the Donegal Spitfire' is available from Jonny at jonnymcnee@googlemail.com

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: 24 JUNE at 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

editorlu3a@gmail.com

info@lisburnu3a.org

MEMBERSHIP

Sandra Stokes

Welcome to our newest members!

Robert Graham

Margaret Graham

William Hamilton

Janet Knipe

Welcome back to **Paul Boyce** who re-joined.

We are now at **334 MEMBERS**.

EMAILS: chairlu3a@hotmail.com

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Hello everyone!

- **Cynthia Kelly** is still in hospital. We have sent a get well card from Lu3a, and are in close touch with family.
- A reminder that if you have photos to publish, you may send them to editorlu3a@gmail.com. Until Cynthia returns, we'll try to fill the gap BUT please include details about the photo: what it's of, the u3a group, names of any people in it, and the date taken; or send a photo with a caption.
- This month's **COVID DIARIES** are of particular relevance now that the **Ramblers** and **Scramblers** have started up again! **See page 6...** 😊
- **Committee Help Has Been Found!** – **LESLEY KIRK** will take over Lu3a Membership duties from Sandra Stokes commencing 1st August 2021. Email membership6543@gmail.com.
- The next **Monthly Meeting** will take place on **Thurs 24th June at 2.00pm** via Zoom. The July Monthly Meeting will take place on Thurs 29th July at 2:00pm still via Zoom.

SEAMS LIKE A DREAM

Margaret Hanna

One wet day in May I read the u3a national online newsletter and completed a survey on Ageism and Fashion. I also applied for tickets for a presentation by Esme Young called "Seams Like A Dream," which was on zoom of course!

Esme described her life in fashion over 50 years, right up until her present success in BBC's The Great British Sewing Bee. She told us about her early life and school days, with great wit and charm. Even as a child she was creative and a "maker". She attended Central Saint Martin's College, then went back to teach there – and is still involved with the College today.

Believe it or not, Esme was a punk who rode a motorbike! With a few friends she started making clothes and selling them in a shop called "Swanky Modes". The shop became a mecca for punk and New Romantic bands looking for tshirts and stage outfits. Celebrities and fashion models were photographed in their Swanky Modes clothes and helped the shop by wearing them and putting on several musical fashion shows. She cut out and sewed costumes for people such as Madonna and for films like Bridget Jones and Crocodile Dundee.

We saw many fabulous photos throughout the presentation, following which Esme answered u3a members' questions for nearly 90 minutes!

When asked about her thoughts on the Ageism and Fashion survey, Esme said "I wear what I want and what suits me, and always have done."

What a lady and what a role model!



Esme Young is an English fashion designer and television presenter. Since 2016, she has been a judge on the BBC reality series The Great British Sewing Bee. (Wikipedia)

Lisburn u3aday

The national rebrand and relaunch in England took place 2nd 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.

MARY ANN 250

SERIES OF FREE ONLINE HISTORY TALKS



From **10th June 2021 to the 14th July 2021**, Clifton House in Belfast, along with their partners, will run a **series of unique free events** to celebrate the life, legacy and relevance today of **Mary Ann McCracken**, on what would have been her 250th birthday.

Mary Ann McCracken (1770-1866) was born and lived in Belfast. In life and in history she was often overshadowed by her brother, executed United Irishman Henry Joy McCracken. Mary Ann, like many other remarkable women of her time, were often written out of history. However recently her name and her achievements are becoming more well known. Mary Ann was an abolitionist, social reformer and activist who fought for the rights of women and championed the disadvantaged at both home and abroad. She lived a long life that encompassed the most turbulent years of Irish history. Her radical, humanitarian zeal and generous strength of character were indefatigable, and her contribution to Belfast life is still felt and celebrated today.

Mary Ann McCracken 250 launched on the 10th June with guest speaker Cathryn McWilliams presenting her doctoral research into Mary Ann's life. Other events include a discussion on 'The Spirit of Inquiry and Age of Enlightenment' organised by Reclaim the Enlightenment and the Frances Hutcheson Institute, and Mary Ann's cultural endeavours are explored in talks hosted by Linen Hall Library. On her birthday, 8th July, there is a special event exploring 'Who and what did Mary Ann fight for?' examining the causes closest to her heart and their relevance today.

To see the full list of events and to register, visit: <https://belfastcharitablesociety.org/mary-ann-mccracken-foundation/>


BOOK GROUP 1	LAST MONTH'S TEASERS:	GROUP LEADERS MEETING
<p style="text-align: right;">Jeanette Chambers</p> <p>We met by Zoom on Thursday 3rd June to discuss our latest book "Pachinko" by Min Jin Lee. No, most of us didn't know what pachinko was either but it is a sort of pinball game that is one of the main sources of gambling in Korea and this was the story of four generations of one family whose lives seemed to revolve around this industry. We all learned something from this book from the meaning of the title to the relationships within families and nations. We will be meeting again by Zoom to discuss, (a book written by a relation of one of our Lisburn u3a friends) "Knife Edge" by Kerry Buchanan. <i>We have changed our meeting from the usual first Thursday in the month to the second Thursday, so the next meeting will be 8th July 2021 at 10.30 a.m</i></p> 	<p style="text-align: right;">Jacqui Townsley</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Degas's famous painting <i>L'Absynthe</i> (now in the Louvre) was sold at Christie's in 1892 for 180 gns. • The suffragette-inspired Art Nouveau dragonfly brooch sold for £15,950. 	<p>Out of 38 Group Leader, 8 GL attended, and 6 GL sent a report to the Group Leader Convenor Keith Ineson.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Walking Groups Stanley and Judith Prentice report the Scamblers & Ramblers are out walking, HillBillies not yet.. Gil Colville said the Saturday walkers are meeting again. All agreed that social distancing is required, and car sharing is not permitted. ➤ The Bridge Group of 24 regulars play via Zoom. ➤ The Crochet Group of 13 will meet in Wallace Park, continue via Zoom and WhatsApp. ➤ Yogaltes Group needs a new instructor and will resume in September. Currently on zoom. ➤ Book Group 1 - 9 members, meets each month via zoom. ➤ Book Group 2 was meeting via Zoom and phone/e mails. ➤ Badminton Laura Molloy is keen to get the players back to the Rackets Club asap. ➤ T'ai Chi Group Sally and Paul were pleased that the group already meets with a new tutor. ➤ Joan said Spanish Beginner's class on zoom merits a follow-up class. ➤ Keith said the Irish Group can work on zoom, but needs actual meetings to promote dialogue. ➤ Pearl said the Kilmakee Archery Group is aiming to resume Sept. ➤ Bill Ingleston said Indoor Bowls will aim to resume in September. ➤ Elizabeth said Outdoor Bowling is well underway at Lisagarvey. ➤ Tommy Yarr is aiming for Painting to start again in September. ➤ The Golf Group meets regularly when they can get booked. ➤ Concerts - Jacqui said it may be October before theatres reopen. ➤ National Trust - Lesley said there is still no activity yet. ➤ Let's Go - Gail wants to resume soon, but within guidelines.
<p style="text-align: right;">Joan Bryson</p> <p>Hurrah. We were able to escape ZOOM and hold our Book Chat at a local cafe and hope that our main Group meeting will also be face to face. Our July meeting will be on Tuesday 27th at 10.30am. Japanese born, British reared writer Sir. Kazuo Ishiguro won the Booker Prize in 1989 with 'The Remains of the Day', our July selection. Stephens, a butler at a grand house for many years is set in his ways when the new owner persuades him to take a holiday. He sets off to become acquainted with a former employee he once cared about. Is the real journey about the accuracy of memory and the acknowledgment of difficult truths?</p> 	<p style="text-align: center;">***EXCLUSIVE ***</p> <p>TOUR OF THE GRAND OPERA HOUSE In co-operation with GOH, I've booked exclusive tours on Thurs 5th August. Tours are available for groups of 8 at the following times: 11.30; 13.00; 14.30 and 16.00. Full price £9.50 – concession for over 60s is £7.00. Please book by post (including cheque made out to Jacqui Townsley) and send to: 8 Millvale Road, Hillsborough, BT26 6HR. Please specify your time preference and also include contact name and phone number as places on each tour are limited. Closing date for bookings is Fri 2nd July. Exclusive access to the exhibition space will be provided 30 minutes prior to the beginning of each tour, eg. for an 11.30 start, you are invited to visit the exhibition space from 11:00.am. Each tour will last one hour and all guests are requested to observe social distancing and wear a face covering throughout their visit.</p>	
<p style="text-align: center;">BOOK GROUP 2</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">CONCERT & THEATRE GROUP</p>	

GENEALOGY	THURSDAY INDOOR BOWLS	DINING OUT
<p style="text-align: right;">Sally Cunningham</p> <p>You can now visit the Public Record Office, but you do need to book a slot. The number is 02890534800. Easy to get to by train arriving at Great Victoria Street and take the glider from Wellington Place.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Fraser Shannon, Bill Ingleston</p> <p>Indoor bowling is still on summer break, nothing has happened since last newsletter, nor have we further information yet on the restart in September. Kilmakee staff will contact us when they are operating again.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Norma Patterson</p> <p>Feast fest! Our first Free At Last Dining Out took place on 10th June at pizzarellys!! Food, REAL people to talk to, and wine - what's not to like!! Our next outing will be Thurs 22nd July at 6.45 pm. If you would like to join us, email the Group Leader.</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 volunteers for the following:

10 Pin Bowling Group Leader	BOWLS Group Leaders	Flower Arranging Group Leader
<p style="text-align: right;">Brenda Palmer</p> <p>Nothing new to report. Yopalates continues on zoom and our WhatsApp group with Ros. I am putting out feelers to resume classes in September. It depends on what restrictions will be in place for public gatherings, but also getting a new instructor. It's a work in progress and when I know what's happening, I'll be in touch with the members.</p> 	<p style="text-align: right;">Sally Stanfield</p> <p>T'ai Chi is back for a four week taster. We started on Monday the 14th with a group of 15. Excellent feedback from members of the class. Some saying it gave them a welcomed lift and boost. Many enjoyed the teaching of the lesson and change of forms. Everyone now looking forward to the next class on Monday 21st June. I would also like to compliment the class on sticking 100% to the Guidelines for safety and Covid guidance.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Margaret Callan</p> <p>The Weekly Golf group has enjoyed several outings since lockdown was lifted. The courses at Down Royal are in good order and both the 18 hole course and the 9 hole course have been played. The availability of tee-times at short notice on a local course is a great advantage. The Summer Golf group had it's first outing to Lurgan Golf Club in June. Once again the course was in great order and the weather was kind. Suggested venues for future outings include Loughgall and Tandragee. All comments and venue suggestions gratefully received by Group Leader!</p>

WALKING GROUPS

STROLLERS

The Strollers are back out walking again. Our walks are short to medium in length and mostly local, so if anyone wishes to join our group, please contact Group Leader Mary Hine and you can be added to the email list.

Mary Hine

RAMBLERS, SCRAMBLERS, HILLBILLIES

Ramblers restarted on 31st May and are walking weekly, volunteers permitting. Scramblers also are back in the Mourne on a monthly basis. Hillbillies will hopefully resume late summer, early autumn. We had a great turn out for our long awaited, first Lu3a group Ramble on Monday 31st May. The dates for the June /July walks have been sent out to the Ramblers and Scramblers. Hillbillies will notice that there are no proposed walks planned at present but they will possibly resume by September.

Stanley Prentice, Judith Prentice

**If you would like to volunteer to lead a walk, please let Stanley know.
Hopefully there are lots of walk leaders waiting to step forward!**

SATURDAY RAMBLERS

Saturday 19th June was our first walk of the year along the tow path when we also discussed future venues. Next month **Saturday 17th July** we will meet at **10 am** at the carpark below the Crown Plaza hotel at Shaws bridge and walk from the Lock Keeper's cottage. Anyone interested in joining the group please contact Gil by email.

Gil Colvin

ANTIQUES & COLLECTABLES

Jacqui Townsley

This lovely warm June weather my thoughts have turned to getting out and about again and day trips with picnic lunches. My campaign this summer is **bring back the picnic set!!!**

The first mention of **pique-nique** appears in a French publication, where it refers to a feast where all the guests brought a share of the food. The word **picnic** first appeared in England in a letter dated 1748 in which Lord Chesterfield associates it with conversation, card-playing and drinking, and it comes into more common parlance after the Royal Parks were opened to the public in 1789. A Picnic Society was even formed in the early 19th Century with members sharing refreshments and no particular host!

Travelling picnic sets became popular in the early 20th century when the introduction of motor vehicles allowed people to go out for the day. Housed in portable wicker or leather cases or wicker hampers, the more sophisticated sets would contain items such as a kettle, saucepan, cutlery, enamel plates, cups, glasses and food containers, serving anything from two to six people or more. Some of them had all manner of drawers and cubby holes for picnic-alia.

The 1920s motoring heyday saw picnics reach a decadent peak (with Fortnum and Mason regularly producing 40-person feasts of lobsters and champagne), then they enjoyed a resurgence in the early 1950s as the nation

emerged from the frugal years of the war. Carefree weekend outings were the order of the day and companies such as Brookes and Sexton (manufacturing under the name of Brexton) began producing pretty picnic sets, now much sought after by vintage collectors.

Antique picnic sets can be found at auction from around £100 upwards, and the best can fetch several thousand pounds! But there are also plenty of vintage-inspired modern picnic sets available, which are perfect for spring picnics now that lockdown restrictions have eased.



Pass me the strawberry cake, please!

LU3A SINGERS

Jacqui Townsley



**Keep Going
Keep Singing
It Won't Be Long Now !!!!!**

BADMINTON

Laura Molloy

Good news for Badminton !



Badminton will recommence at Lisburn Racquets Club from Wednesday 23 June, 10.30 - 12 noon. If you have played in the past

we look forward to seeing you again and new players are always welcome. Racquets can be provided.+++++++

The COVID Diaries

Excerpts from Des Donnelly's 2020 Lockdown Diary



ISSUE #4

“ **DAY 48** – I'm in u3a and thankfully they have resumed their hiking groups. There are five different levels/groups depending on the inclines and one's inclination to climb them, and Stanley has amalgamated three of them until things return to normal.

But this means we are seeing upwards of 40 hikers, split into groups, all out at the same time; and with social distancing, they can stretch from Strangford to Saul!

Of course, Covid19 is a hot topic of conversation. There is a whole new vocabulary associated with the Coronavirus and some people struggle with it. This is a snatch of conversation recently heard on a hike at Killard Nature Reserve:

Blonde lady... 'What really frightens me is that some people are ASYMPTOMATIC and you are in their company. Half the people here may be asymptomatic and you don't know it.'

Well, you could see the panic in peoples' eyes and the hikers now stretch from Strangford to Downpatrick!

Guy with beard... 'Yes, that's very true, I know a bloke who was ASYMMETRIC and he infected half of Donaghadee.'

All day-trips to Donaghadee and Groomsport have been diverted to Newcastle.

Lady wearing pink poncho... 'I know a woman who was ASSIMILATED and she had to live in a caravan in her driveway

for 12 weeks. Her husband has now applied for planning permission to build a more permanent residence for her in the driveway.'

Man with walking poles... 'Yes, Dr Fauci was talking about that on CNN and he was talking about flattening the curve and making sure fewer people were infected or ASYMPTOTIC.'

Yeah, and that eejit Trump was saying it was all a hoax...

Lady with purple anorak... 'Yeah, and that eejit Trump was saying it was all a hoax and even if you're ASSUMPTIVE, it's like having the sniffles and it will go away'

Well, never mind the Coronavirus, some of us nearly died laughing.

Stanley heard all of this and calmly brushed a wasp from his tanned leg and said... 'normally I am an ASSIMILATIONIST but once this is over, I'm gonna do a reverse quarantine and not go home for twelve weeks!'

Day 51 – Lying in bed and thinking... so people born in 2000 are 'Millennials', those born in 2019 are 'Coronials' and I guess children born in 2020, by the year 2033 will be called 'Quaranteens.'

Day 52 – Read about hundreds of cruise ships at

anchor around the world. One enterprising fisherman in England is taking people out in his boat to tour cruise ships anchored off Southampton. So, I'm thinking, what about a walking tour of Belfast called Bygone Ages, go round all of the closed-down schools, pubs, restaurants, gyms, galleries, churches, libraries, and shops. Great way of teaching social history to kids.

Day 53 – horror of horrors! There are a billion bottles of champagne lying in French wine cellars. Due to the cancellation of jollies, weddings, etc. there is little demand for champagne.

Alcohol has a sanitising/therapeutic effect. Not only would champagne keep you alive but if it didn't work, you would die happy!

Day 55 – Our cleaning lady just called and told us she will be working from home and will email instructions on what to do.

Day 56 – Lying in bed and imagining an August morning in the year 2030... John just opened the last pack of toilet rolls he bought in 2020.

Day 57 – Standing in a queue in the Bank this morning and 3 people rush in wearing face masks... PANIC!! Then they shouted, 'this is a robbery' and we all calmed down....”

DES
DONNELLY