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From the Chairman**The New Year**

Already we are in February – Christmas seemed to pass in a blur and now the days are getting longer and mostly warmer. Our committee would like to wish you all a belated Happy New Year and that all your new year promises will be fulfilled.

We are aware that many of you may have been battered by the recent storms: loss of electricity supply, trees down, roads closed and so on. If this resulted in any damage or disruption we hope it is minor and can be repaired quickly. While the weather remains stormy we ask you all to take care when leaving your home or travelling.

Monthly Meeting - January

The Chairman welcomed everyone including those new members who were joining us, to the first meeting of Ballymoney u3a in 2025. After wishing all the members a happy new year and dealing with the routine housekeeping issues, he introduced the speaker for this meeting. MS Judith Lavery a civilian employee who had worked for PSNI for the past 38 years.

Ms Lavery gave a fascinating talk on the scams which are being perpetrated by criminal elements on members of the public. She outlined the nature of some of these from the more old fashioned ones where entry was gained to houses by pretending to be legitimate visitors such as officials to more modern ones involving bogus phone calls and contacts via IT devices.

She warned the audience that whilst everyone could fall victim to these that older people were often targeted by the criminals in the belief that they were likely to be more easily tricked and therefore were possibly more vulnerable.

After Ms Pat Crossely had given the vote of thanks to the speaker the chairman thanked all those who came to what was a very well attended meeting particularly given the inclement weather conditions.

The morning concluded with him reminding the audience that preparation was well underway for our 10th anniversary celebration with the formation of a sub-committee under the leadership of Ms Marie. Hegarty those who felt they may be able to contribute to the planning of activities were asked to contact her.

Finally the next meeting of the Ballymoney u3a was announced as being on 4th February 2025 in the Connect Centre at 11.00

Chairman George McAuley



10th Anniversary of Ballymoney u3a

As you may be aware, 2025 marks Bu3a's 10th Anniversary and a Sub-Committee was formed to manage the project.

LET'S CELEBRATE!

Something for all to get involved in and look forward to!

We are proposing two main events, and would welcome your ideas, comments and involvement.

- 3-DAY EVENT - Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday 19/20/21 AUGUST 2025 in THE TOWN HALL. COVERS: CURRENT ACTIVITIES/NEW ACTIVITIES. ALL ARE INVITED TO TAKE PART.
- CHRISTMAS LUNCH (with speaker and entertainment) – Tuesday 2 DECEMBER 2025

WE NEED YOUR HELP: Have you any ideas for:

SPEAKERS for 3-DAY EVENT, CHRISTMAS LUNCH AND ENTERTAINMENT for CHRISTMAS LUNCH

WOULD YOU BE WILLING to provide a written personal recommendation, or take part in a short video interview about the benefits of being a member of Bu3a?

What advice would you give to someone thinking about joining Bu3a?

ACTIVITY GROUPS WOULD YOU BE WILLING to take part in a short video promoting your Activity?

Members, please think it over, and consider what your contribution might be.

Let us have your ideas and suggestions at the March Monthly Meeting, or feel free to send ideas via email to: newsbu3a@gmail.com

From: **Mabel, June, Hilda, Pat, Chris, David, Marie**
10th Anniversary Sub-Committee



Activity Reports

Family and Local History Group – 21 January 2025

This month our group meeting enjoyed a very informative and amusing talk from Mac Pollock, one of our own BU3A members. Mac related memories from growing up in High Street, Ballymoney, in the 1950's and '60's, highlighting many of the occupants, characters and premises on both High and Townhead Streets. Several members remembered experiences of attending the Palladium Cinema and the adjoining 'sweetie' and ice cream shops.

Stevenson's Pork Factory also had stirred up varied memories. We had some discussion regarding what type of projects our group could undertake as part of the BU3A Tenth Anniversary proceedings. We await confirmation of funding and direction from the steering Sub-committee regarding programme.

Our next meeting is planned for 10-30am on Tuesday 18th February 2025 when our speaker will be Mr William Roulston from the Ulster Historical Foundation, His subject will be "Researching Farming Families".

John Flynn

Craft Group

Our Craft Class was held in the Connect building on 21st January 2025. With Valentine's Day fast approaching we used the theme of Love Hearts ❤️. We made a cross stitch mug mat using two colours of wool and then outlined the hearts with another colour to make the hearts pop! Although this was a first attempt for some, everyone enjoyed themselves and did a good job.

Sally Balmer



IT Courses

The being safe on line training course has begun and is a little over half way completed. The course has raised many issues about on-line safety (and other IT matters) and I am happy to say that it has sparked a lot of useful questions and answers and information sharing for all those attending – including issues in relation to government benefits!

These courses can be repeated on request. If you would like to attend please let Kathleen Owens know and we can arrange these courses again and possibly others if the demand is there.

Michael Diver

IT training at BCRC



Ballymoney u3a 2024-2025

Events and Meetings

Date	Event/ Meeting	Venue	Information
Tuesday, 3 September 2024	Monthly meeting	Connect building	Speaker. Brian Rankin Comical poetry and story telling
Tuesday, 1 October 2024	Monthly meeting	Connect building	Information day with lots of exhibitors
Tuesday, 5 November 2024	Monthly meeting	Connect building	John Pinkerton: Talk on Holland and Germany Battlefields
Tuesday, 3 December 2024	Monthly meeting	Local Hotel. TBC	Christmas Lunch
Tuesday, 7 January 2025	Monthly meeting	Connect building	PSNI - Judith Lavery: crime prevention
Tuesday, 4 February 2025	Monthly meeting	Connect building	Osborne Family: Air Ambulance
Tuesday, 4 March 2025	Monthly meeting	Connect building	Diana Mc Clelland: Family history
Tuesday, 1 April 2025	Monthly meeting	Connect building	Zara Hutchinson: Ballymoney Community Fridge
Tuesday, 6 May 2025	Monthly meeting	Connect building	Annual General Meeting: Afterwards 'Scad the Beggars' will entertain us with an ensemble of musical items.
Tuesday, 3 June 2025	Annual Outing	TBC	The annual outing will visit places of interest using a coach, complete with a meal.

Activities

Activity	Day/Time	Venue	Leader	Information
Art	2 nd Tuesday 2.0 pm - 3.30 pm.	Connect Centre, 2-6 Model School Road, Ballymoney BT53 6BH	Margaret	Learn new skills under a qualified tutor to produce pleasing pictures.
Bridge	Monday 2.30 pm - 4.30 pm	Ballymoney Community Resource Centre, Acom Business Centre, 2 Riada Ave, Ballymoney BT53 7LH	Kathleen	Bridge is a mindsport and a great game, a social pastime enjoyed by millions of people around the world. It is a fascinating game with 4 people at each table. North and South are partners as is East and West. The purpose is for each couple to outdo the others by gaining more points.
Coffee Catchup	Last Friday each month 10.0 am - 12.0 pm	Ballybrakes Industrial Park, Ballybrakes Road BALLYMONEY	Julie	A great opportunity to meet for coffee and enjoy socialising and a chat. An opportunity to get to know other members.
Crafts	3rd Tuesday 2.30 pm - 4.0 pm	Connect Centre, 2-6 Model School Road, Ballymoney BT53 6BH	Sally	Meet together to use your artistic skills to produce many things such as decorating flower pots, lampshades, Christmas paraphernalia. A good opportunity to enjoy meeting other like minded people.
Creative writing	3 rd Tuesday 12.30 pm - 2.0 pm	Connect Centre, 2-6 Model School Road, Ballymoney BT53 6BH	Anne	Members meet to share stories be they fiction, memoirs or autobiography in a supportive and friendly environment. The most important aspects of the group are the enjoyment of writing different themes and topics.
Family History	3 rd Tuesday 10.30 am - 12.0 pm	Connect Centre, 2-6 Model School Road, Ballymoney BT53 6BH	John Flynn	Researching family records of relationships among family members, visiting PRONI etc. Also studying the local geographical history in the Ballymoney area. It incorporates cultural and social aspects of history.
Gardening	3 rd Thursday Starting 2.0 pm	Connect Centre, 2-6 Model School Road, Ballymoney BT53 6BH	Geoff and Kathleen	Going on visits to various gardens, as well as having demonstrations of seed sowing, taking cuttings and discussions on edible weeds.
Golf	Thursday weekly 10.0 am tee off	As advised by Activity Leader	Donal and Paul	Golf is a game played on a large open-air course in which a small ball is struck with a club into a series of small holes. A very popular sport, meeting at different venues. The group go on a break to Donegal twice a year to practice their skills.
IT	Wednesdays 10.30 am - 12.0 pm	Ballymoney Community Resource Centre, Acom Business Centre, 2 Riada Ave, Ballymoney BT53 7LH	Michael	Learning how to use computer, iPad or tablet to best use covering aspects as requested
Line Dancing	Every Wednesday 1.30 pm - 3.0 pm	As advised by Activity Leader	Margaret	Line dancing is a choreographed dance where a group of people perform a series of steps in time with music.
Out to Lunch	3 rd Friday each month 12.30 pm for 1.0 pm	As advised by Activity Leader	Eileen	A very popular event when members are invited to go for lunch to different venues each month. A great opportunity to spend a lunch time socialising, chatting and experiencing the cuisine at different hotels.
Reading group	2 nd Tuesday 10.30 am - 12.0 pm	Connect Centre, 2-6 Model School Road, Ballymoney BT53 6BH	Margaret	Meet together to read prescribed books followed by discussions the following meeting. There are two kinds of people in the world. Those who think it could never happen to them and those who know it will A quotation from one of the books members read.
Story Telling	2 nd Monday 11.0 am - 1.0 pm	Ballymoney Community Hub, Robinson Hospital Site	Mary	Members meet together to share quite a variety of tales such as "English visitors to the farm", " Poaching salmon", Stories from magistrates court to mention just a few.