

Hollywood u3a Newsletter

GENERAL MEETING

*Friday 30th January 2025 in the Queen's Hall
Holywood @ 10.30*

Presentation by Matthew Warwick of the Ulster Scots Agency, complete with his bagpipes and flute, on Rabbie Burns.

*Friday 27th February 2025 in the Queen's Hall
Holywood @ 10.30*

Carol Ann Creagh will speak on "My Journey into Writing. From Nurse to Author – What a great adventure!"

Groups

AMBLERS COFFEE & CHAT
CREATING OUR OWN STORIES
CANASTA GARDENING GENEALOGY
LOCAL HISTORY LOOSE ENDS TAI CHI
EXPLORING THE SHORT STORY POINTS of VIEW
BIRDWATCHING FILM GROUP MINDFULLNESS
YOGA for RELAXATION OUTDOOR BOWLING OUT & ABOUT

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NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Contacting Group Leaders

On the u3a website you will find a list of all the current interest groups.

If you are interested in joining a group, the easiest way to contact the group leader is to click on the blue button labelled "CLICK HERE LEARN MORE".

You will find a simple form where you type in your name, contact details, and query. The group leader will receive a message and get back to you.

The u3a website is: www.hollywoodu3a.org.

URGENT: VACANCY FOR HONORARY TREASURER

Liz Carson, our current Hon Treasurer, has done an excellent job for a period which is even longer than scheduled, and she now wishes to stand down.

Our Constitution is clear that we need to follow good practice and refresh our office bearers in a timely manner, so this is a sincere request for any member who has sufficient knowledge of financial matters, to enable them to manage our u3a's modest requirements, to come forward and take on the role. Our committee members will do all in their power to assist and guide the person who takes over.

As you will undoubtedly know, the u3a as an organisation is run by and for its members, who act on a voluntary capacity in key roles that are essential to keep our Hollywood District u3a functioning well.

I feel certain that among our talented and experienced members there is one or more who could take this on. I therefore invite anyone who has an interest in becoming our Hon Treasurer to contact me at chairperson@hollywoodu3a.org as soon as possible, so that we can have a smooth transfer at the forthcoming AGM, scheduled for 24 April 2026.

ALSO

Please note that in due course there will also be a call for members to be nominated for other roles as Office Bearers and Committee Members, to be appointed at the AGM.

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AMBLERS

Thursday 12th February at 10.30.
Orangefield Park.
Meet at the car park at Dixon Playing Fields.
97 Grand Parade, Belfast BT5 5PA.

Thursday 26th February at 10.30.
Ballymenoch Park and coastal road.
Meet at the car park of Ballymenoch Park.
Bangor Road, Holywood BT18 0LP.

No such thing as bad weather just the wrong clothes
Everyone is welcome to join us and walk off the February blues.

Joy

BIRD WATCHING

We had a very successful visit to the Waterworks in January. Swan lake lived up to its name.
Our February visit will be on Friday 13th February to Billy Neill Park. Meeting there at 10.30 or car-share from CIYMS at 10am. Further details will be sent to group members closer to the date.

Arlene and Dorothy



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CANASTA

Friday 6th and 20th February at 10.00.
Holywood golf club.
All welcome to play learn or just watch.

Joy

COFFEE & CHAT

Tuesday 17th February at 11 o'clock.
The Mayor of Ards and N. Down has invited us for coffee.
Meet at the reception of Bangor Castle at 10.55.
This is an opportunity to see inside the castle before it becomes a hotel.
It is a chance to ask all the questions which you shout at the Spectator!
Everyone is welcome to join us.

Joy

CREATING OUR OWN STORIES

Our next meeting is Wednesday, 11th February
Mary Anna.

Anyone still interested in joining, please email me.
maryannahanse@btinternet.com

EXPLORING THE SHORT STORY

EtSS meets next on Wednesday, the 11th of February, from half ten to half twelve via Zoom. We will be continuing with reading stories from some of the writers we have enjoyed over the past decade, or we might go nuts and read the work of a new writer! (It's all to play for.) Members will receive the story in plenty of time before the meeting and the Zoom link soon after. New members are always welcome. Contact the convenor for more details.

Denise

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FILM GROUP

Hello everyone...

The film outings in February will be Tuesday 10th early afternoon showing and Friday 27th early evening.

Film details and timings will follow soonest.

Meet at Dundonald Omniplex in the foyer seating area 10 mins before the film.

If anyone wants a coffee beforehand, we could meet in Binkys or Cream maybe (subject to being open!)

Regards

Honor

GARDENING GROUP

Monday 16th February 2026 in the Old School House. Liam and Joan McCaughey are giving a talk on "Alpines "

Spring is just around the corner!!

Elizabeth

GENEALOGY GROUP

The genealogy group meets every 3rd Wednesday at 10:30 in PRONI. We discuss various topics, helping each other in our research. So, if you are interested in exploring your family history you will find this an interesting and useful group.

Robert

LOCAL HISTORY

Local History Group meetings on the 1st Wednesday each month at 10.30am in the Con Auld Gallery, Holywood Library

Wednesday, 4th February

Topic: Sea Captains and Shipbuilders.

Speaker: Alison Murphy

Wednesday 4th March

Topic: Mabel Glass: A Local Aviator

Speaker: Steve Diamond

For further information, please contact Audrey Lockhart - lockhart440@btinternet.com

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Update on our Archive Group

At a History Group meeting a couple of years ago, we asked for volunteers to help archive the many articles and photographs we have in our possession.

Four members kindly volunteered and most Monday afternoons from 2 - 4pm, they can be found with others in the Praeger Room in the Library.

Members who have computer knowledge scan and digitise photographs, while others go through the many documents held in our storeroom - one way to find out more about Holywood.

At present we are working on an exhibition of shops in Holywood - comparing businesses in the 1950s with today. This Project is in conjunction with North Down Museum where it will be launched in May and on display until August - before being brought to Holywood.

We are looking for items relating to shops which we could borrow for the exhibition. Can you help us?

For further information, please contact Betty McLaughlin - betty.mclaughlin@btinternet.com

LOOSE ENDS

Loose Ends is on hold for now.

Sandra

OUTDOOR BOWLS

Now finished for the winter.

Diane and Ann

OUT AND ABOUT

Nothing arranged for February as yet.

Joy

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POINTS OF VIEW

This group meets in the Old School House on the last Monday of each month at 10.30am.

January 26th topic 'What lies ahead for 2026?'

February 23rd topic 'Are we going to embrace gene therapy?'

Dorothy

TAI CHI QIGONG

We've had a great but chilly start to 2026! Tai Chi Qigong classes will continue throughout February on Tuesday mornings at the Old School House, 10:15 for a 10:30 start time.

Yvonne

"Quiet the mind and the soul will speak."

YOGA

Currently reassessing the viability of this group and will be in touch.

Barry