

Hollywood u3a Newsletter

GENERAL MEETING

Friday 27th March 2026 in the Queen's Hall

Hollywood @ 10.30

Paul Clements will speak on "Montalto through the Seasons". Paul lived at Montalto for a year and has just published his book on the estate. He has also published several other books, including a highly praised biography of Jan Morris, the acclaimed travel writer.

Friday 24th April 2026 in the Queen's Hall

Hollywood @ 10.30

Annual General Meeting: The relevant documents will be circulated in the coming days.

Following the AGM Eamonn Mallie will speak on the topic "Eyewitness to War and Peace". Eamonn is well known to everyone as a television and radio broadcaster and reporter for many years. He'll share his exciting and intriguing experiences, including revealing his connections with the "Good, the Bad, and the Ugly"

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.

Apple iPhone Training:

First session Wednesday 25th March at 10:30am in the Apple Store, in Cornmarket, Belfast.

Second Session 15th April at 10:30am at the same place.

People booked in to these sessions have already been notified, but a few more spaces are now available.

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Apple iPad Training:

This will take place on 22nd April at 10:30am in the Apple Store in Cornmarket, Belfast.

Those booked in to the session have been notified, but a couple of places have become available.

Android tablet/phone:

This will take place on 30th March at 2:30pm in the Praeger Room in Hollywood Library.

A couple of places are still available for this.

Anyone interested or needing more information please email Allen Young at it-admin@hollywoodu3a.org.

Booking sheets will also be available at the general meeting on 27th March if spaces are still available.

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AMBLERS

Thursday 9th April at 10.30.
The Floodgates Coastal Path.
Meet in the car park on the Portaferry Road.
Just past Ards Flying club.
Car share from CIYMS car park at 10 o'clock.

Thursday 23rd April at 10.30.
Lagan tow path from Shaws Bridge.
Meet at the car park at Shaws Bridge.
Car share from CIYMS car park at 10 o'clock.

Everyone is welcome to join us on the Ambles.

Joy

BIRD WATCHING

We are planning to go birdwatching on Friday 10th April @ 10.30. The venue is still to be decided. We will be in touch with group members closer to the date.

We have a few spaces available should you wish to join the group. Joining details are as listed at the beginning of this newsletter and are via the Hollywood U3a website. Or speak to us at the monthly meeting.

For further information <mailto:birdwatching@hollywoodu3a.org>

Arlene & Dorothy

CANASTA

Friday 3rd April at 10 o'clock (Easter party - wear your Easter bonnet).
Friday 17th April at 10 o'clock.
Venue - members bar at Hollywood Golf Club.
All welcome to watch, learn or play.

Joy

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COFFEE & CHAT

Tuesday 21st April at 10.30.

Coffee Yard.

102 - 104 High Street, Hollywood BT18 9HW.

All welcome to drink coffee and put the world to rights.

Joy

CREATING OUR OWN STORIES

Our short course was completed last Wednesday. We originally started with a list of 8 names; two didn't ever turn up, one dropped out after first session and the remaining 5 continued till the end. We bonded quite quickly as a group and, over a short time, we built a strong feeling of trust. At the end members said we had created a safe place where we each felt supported and appreciated. By the way, stories were often, in one way or another, connected with our own lives.

The group would like to restart in September, welcoming additional members of course. Several new ideas were suggested - after all we are about creativity! One suggestion was that we could have a different theme for each session and each person produce an item representing that theme. Adding to that suggestion, was that the group leader could change with each theme. Plenty of ideas to think over for September.



This photo of us was taken by the librarian on our last afternoon. I'd like to record how absolutely superb the library staff were to me and the group in general.

Mary Anna.

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EXPLORING THE SHORT STORY

During our last meeting we discussed two very short stories by Kate Chopin and explored what life was like for women in 1890s America (and the UK). Unknown to us, there was a bicycle craze during that decade, especially for women, one that brought welcome freedom and independence. However, it was not without its critics, with many condemning this new leisure activity for women as unfeminine and unseemly. We learn something new every meeting!

Because of the Easter break falling on our usual meeting date (second Wednesday of the month), the group has decided to meet after the holiday. Our next meeting will therefore be on Wednesday, the 15th of April, from half ten to half twelve via Zoom. Group members will receive the story well before the meeting and the Zoom link later. New members are always welcome. Contact the convenor for more details.

Denise

FILM GROUP

Hello everyone...

The film outings in April will be Tuesday 7th early afternoon showing and Friday 24th early evening.

Film details and timings will follow soonest.

Meet at Dundonald Omniplex in the foyer seating area ten minutes before showing.

Kind regards,

Honor

GARDENING GROUP

Our April meeting is going to be held indoors in the Old School House, Church Road, Hollywood on Monday 20th April 2026.

We are looking forward to welcoming Fergus Thompson, Head Gardener at Clandeboye Estate. He is going to show and talk about a lovely short film recently produced by Colin James of the Estate.

Elizabeth

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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

Our next meeting is on 1st April and is an outing to Portaferry. Places are fully booked and there is a waiting list.

Audrey

LOOSE ENDS

Loose Ends is on hold for now.

Sandra

OUTDOOR BOWLS

This year's season starts on Tuesday 14th April at Seapark sports grounds at 1.30pm. We play every Tuesday afternoon at 1.30pm for an hour and a half.

If you would like some relaxed recreation, please come along and give it a try. All you need is a pair of flat shoes, we will have some bowls you can use.

The price is £47.90 for the season or £4.00 per session, payable by cash only, no cheques.

Diane and Ann

OUT AND ABOUT

Mayor's Charity Concert.

Saturday 28th March at 7.30pm. Bangor Elim.

Tickets are £10 each or £12 if purchased on the internet.

Tickets will be available to buy at the general meeting. It is also possible to pay at the door.

Joy

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POINTS OF VIEW

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

Monday 30th March: 'Are mobile phones a blessing or a curse'.

Monday 27th April: 'Relevance of the Royal Family in the 21st Century'.

Dorothy

TAI CHI QIGONG

This class is full.

Tai Chi Qigong classes will continue throughout March for those already registered.

Yvonne

"Quiet the mind and the soul will speak."

YOGA

The class is suitable for people who have done yoga before and perhaps are now finding that other yoga classes are a bit too much.

The class consists of some gentle yoga postures (asanas) followed by some yogic breathing (pranayama) and then a short relaxation (yoga nidra).

If you have done yoga in the past and are interested, please get in touch with me at jbgriben@aol.com

Barry