

Hollywood u3a Newsletter

GENERAL MEETING

Friday 27th February 2025 in the Queen's Hall

Hollywood @ 10.30

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

Friday 27th March 2025 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.

Groups

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

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NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Apple iPhone training.

Apple has offered us another session on 25th March at 10:30-11:30 am. This could be a 'refresher' for those who attended last year, or an introduction for those who didn't. We can accommodate 8 people. We will organise further sessions to accommodate whatever numbers sign up.

A sign-up sheet will be at the back of the hall on 27th February. You can also email Allen at itadmin@hollywoodu3a.org.

We will also organise an iPad course if there is demand. There will be a sheet at the general meeting to indicate interest.

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.

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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

Crawfordsburn Country Park
Thursday 12th March at 10.30
Meet in the car park on Fort Road Helen's Bay

Botanic Gardens
Thursday 26th March
Train leaves Holywood at 10.03
Sydenham at 10.07
Or meet at Botanic Station at 10.20

Everyone is welcome to join us on the Ambles
Extreme fitness not required!

Joy

BIRD WATCHING

In March we are planning to visit Hazelbank
Park, Whiteabbey. Meeting there at 10.30 on Friday 13th March. There will be carshare
available from CIYMS at 9.50am.
Further details will be sent to group members
closer to the date.

We have a few spaces available in the group. Follow the instructions for joining groups at
the start of this newsletter.

Arlene & Dorothy

CANASTA

Friday 7th and Friday 21st March at 10 o'clock
Holywood Golf Club
All welcome to play, learn or just watch.

Joy

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COFFEE & CHAT

Tuesday 10th March at 10.30
McKee's Country Store and Restaurant
28 Hollywood Road, Newtownards BT23 4TQ
Everyone welcome.

Joy

CREATING OUR OWN STORIES

Next meeting is 11th March at 2pm

We had another enjoyable long story at our last meeting. There was so much to discuss afterwards that, in a sense, the story kept growing!

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

EXPLORING THE SHORT STORY

During our last meeting in February, the group went "on holiday" to the beautiful island of Capri, where W. Somerset Maugham's story, 'The Lotus Eater' was set. We watched a short video on YouTube that highlighted many of the locations featured in the story before delving into the major themes: Do most people live life in a predictable, unchangeable rut? How should one live one's life? And do we get what we deserve in life?

We meet next on Wednesday, the 11th of March, from half ten to half twelve via Zoom, when we will be putting the world to rights again as we explore another great short story.

New members are welcome. Contact the convenor for more details.

Denise

FILM GROUP

Hello everyone...

The film outings in March 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.

Regards

Honor

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GARDENING GROUP

Our March meeting, the last of our "indoor " events is due to be held in The Old School House, Church Road on Monday 16th March 2026.

Gary Connolly, the owner of Memento Flowers on Haywood Avenue off the Ormeau Road Belfast, is coming to inspire us with his knowledge and experience of Houseplants. The Side Street Jungle is overflowing with more indoor plants than an average rain forest!

Tea / Coffee served from 10 15am. Remember your cup / mug.

Looking forward to a great turnout of our members.

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

Date, Time and Venue of Next Meeting

Wednesday, 4th March at 10.30am in The Con Auld Gallery, Holywood Library.

Topic: Mabel Glass: Ulster Spitfire pilot

Between the wars, pioneering aviators thrilled the world. Ulster's Mabel Glass took to the new sport of airplane racing. When WWII stopped all these races, this pilot refused to be grounded. Mabel Glass would fly for her country in time of war.

Come and hear a remarkable true story of service. She did her bit, and smashed a very high glass ceiling.

Speaker: Steve Diamond.

Photo below. Mabel in the photo, on the right.

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Outing to Portaferry

On Wednesday, 1st April.

Tour Guide: Allison Murphy (our February speaker on Shipbuilders and Sea Captains)

11.30ish Arrival in Portaferry.

12noon Pre-lunch power point talk - The Heritage Town of Portaferry.

1pm Two course lunch at the Portaferry Arms.

2.30 - 3.30pm Guided tour of Portaferry.

Cost: £25.

Please pay Audrey or Carol by 31st March to secure your place.

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

LOOSE ENDS

Loose Ends is on hold for now.

Sandra

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OUTDOOR BOWLS

This is due to restart in April.

Diane and Ann

OUT AND ABOUT

Nothing arranged for March as yet.

Joy

POINTS OF VIEW

This group meets on the last Monday of the month at 10.30 in the Old School House.
Topic for discussion on 30th March - "Are mobile phones a blessing or a curse"

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 of a stretch (forgive the pun!).

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

Barry