

The Glens and Dalriada u3a

May Monthly Meeting and AGM

The Glens and Dalriada u3a held their final monthly meeting at Sheskburn Hall Ballycastle on Wednesday 15th May. It was also their 2023 / 24 AGM.

The AGM was followed by a short presentation by Angela Graham, a Glens and Dalriada u3a member. She had a career in the film industry and is now an author, having turned to writing in 2017.

“A City Burning” was the subject of her talk. It is a collection of 26 short stories, set in Northern Ireland, Wales, and Italy. Published in October 2020 by SEREN BOOKS. The collection was longlisted for “The Edgehill Short Story Prize” 2021.

“A City Burning” is a book of fiction. It is not a memoir or autobiography. It is all made up but is true to experiences of Angela’s own and that of many others.

Following the talk Angela signed copies of her books and on behalf of the u3a retiring Chairman Patrick O’Donnell performed his last official duty by presenting a gift to Angela Graham. He then handed over the reins to his Vice Chairman Mark Gavin, who was elected as the new Chairman during The Glens and Dalriada u3a AGM.



In his final report as Chairman Patrick O’Donnell highlighted the growing popularity of the u3a, since he and his wife, Kathy, joined the inaugural u3a in 2007. Membership is now at an all time high, with 264 members.

Patrick then recalled the names of the illustrious Guest Speakers for 2023 / 2; Baroness Nuala O’Loan, Dr. Harold Good, Mr Liam O’Hagan, Adrian and Shelly Steele, Mr Michael Sands, Mr Andrew Walsh and finally Ms Angela Graham.

He thanked members for their friendship since he served them from 2019 as both Vice-Chairman and Chairman. Sorry to be standing down, he is looking forward to retirement but health permitting is looking forward to many more years as a u3a member and supporting his wife Kathy, who continues to serve as Secretary and Beacon Administrator for the u3a.

He commended his Vice-Chair Mark Gavin for assisting him for two years as Vice-Chairman and was proactive in securing major sponsorship in the form of an "Awards For All" grant during 2023 / 24. This has facilitated extending the activities programme. Over 20 other sponsors were also highlighted and thanked by the u3a.

1. Apex Housing / Good Relations Ballycastle.
2. The Ballycastle Community Hub.

Thank you also extend to the management and staff at Ballycastle Sheskburn Centre.

At this stage the four members who represented our u3a at the N.I. Regional Quiz contest were congratulated on winning.

Finally Patrick made an appeal to the Ballycastle public to be alert to the future of Sheskburn Recreation Centre as the new Leisure Centre and shared campus are developed.

There is still a need for the u3a to have a community centre such as Sheskburn available to cater for our needs using a public community centre during the hours of 9am – 5pm.

Mark Gavin, new Chairman, closed the meeting at 12.15pm, having thanked Patrick for his dedicated service.