

## GLENS & DALRIADA U3A

Report on January 2024 meeting

Courtesy of "The Ballycastle Chronical"

# Glens and Dalriada u3a meeting

**THE Glens and Dalriada u3a held their monthly meeting on Wednesday 10th January in Sheskburn Hall Ballycastle.**

Chairman Patrick O'Donnell introduced and welcomed Liam O'Hagan, guest speaker.

Liam is chairman of GROW THE GLENS CIC Ltd, a community organisation set up to foster employment and employability in the Glens of Antrim.

The focus of his address was the community initiative which has resulted in Cushendall's former Police Station currently enjoying a change of status as a thriving and developing Community Employment Digital Hub - renamed CUSHENDALL INNOVATION CENTRE.

Liam outlined the process which led to the purchase of the old Cushendall Police Station by the community group Grow the Glens who recognised, and acknowledged, the demographic changes in the Glen's area.

For example, many local people

travel long distances for employment and, of necessity, many move out of the area to seek employment.

When the Police Station came on the market, the Community seized the opportunity to purchase the property as a potential base for employment and innovation, and thereby empower and encourage residents to live and work closer to home.

The Centre has been successfully renovated and is currently operative as a Community Digital Employment Hub, enabling flexible working facilities and, furthermore, it can be leased by small companies from outside the area.

This successful initiative bears witness to what can be achieved when a closely knit community is united and works together - It demonstrates pride in its past, celebrates the present and offers hope for the future.

In recognition and appreciation of his excellent address, Liam was presented with a small gift by Moira Mc Mullan, membership Secretary.



**Presentation by u3a Glens and Dalriada Membership Secretary Moira Mc Mullan to guest speaker Liam O'Hagan at Sheskburn on Wednesday 10th January 2024.**