

'Look, no hands!' author speaks to Glens and Dalriada U3A

LAST WEDNESDAY the Glens and Dalriada u3a were privileged to welcome Brian Gault MBE as guest speaker for their monthly meeting held in the Marine Hotel Ballycastle.

In 1961 Brian, as a result of the Thalidomide drug, was born without arms. From infancy his legs and toes compensated.

He told those in attendance: "My feet are

my feet only when I walk: at all other times they are my hands."

A u3a group member said: "His achievements are remarkable. In addition to the everyday routines of: dressing, eating, drinking, writing and typing he also drives a car - all with his feet.

"The audience was spellbound by the inspirational and entertaining address through which Brian shared many of the challenges and opportunities

encounters and has experienced.

"He has visited 34 countries sharing his story and bearing witness to the horizons of the possible.

"He is the author of "Look, no Hands!" - the compelling story of his life's journey - which he typed with his big toes."

Brian works in partnership with the Brazilian Thalidomide Society through which wheelchairs and other life-enhancing items are supplied to disabled

recipients.

In 2000 Brian married his beloved wife, May, and in 2020 he was awarded the MBE.

Following his talk members donated the sum of £310 and in addition a further sum of £275.50 was raised by the sale of jewellery made in Mozambique.

The total donations and sale of jewellery will go towards Brian's work in supplying wheelchairs to thalidomide victims in Africa, South America and Europe.

For Brian, the

Christian Faith is, and has been, a strong and sure foundation though his work encompasses all faiths and none.

His life bears witness to the precious miracle of life in all its many guises.

He concluded his address with a quote from Psalms 139:14

" I am fearfully and wonderfully made."

The next meeting will be held at Cushendall golf club on December 14 with entertainment by the u3a choir and palaver group.



The oldest member Glens and Dalriada U3A, Rita Cassidy, gets to shake the 'Toe' of Brian Gault who, during his talk held at the Marine Hotel in Ballycastle, tells how he has overcome the loss of his arms to Thalidomide to touring the world giving talks and raising funds for those suffering from similar disabilities. WK45-017CR



Brian Gault on stage talking and presenting his book on overcoming Thalidomide 'Look No Hands' to the members of Glens and Dalriada U3A at a talk held at the Marine Hotel in Ballycastle. WK45-018CR



Brian Gault, with his wife May, presenting his book on overcoming Thalidomide 'Look No Hands' to Patrick O'Donnell, chair of Glens and Dalriada U3A, at a talk held at the Marine Hotel in Ballycastle. WK45-016CR