Dear Member,
Welcome to this edition of U3A Foyle News.
We celebrated a wonderful Annual Dinner in February which also saw the launch of the Souvenir Twentieth Anniversary Booklet. This booklet is a wonderful memento of the story of U3A Foyle. Thanks to Eithne Thompson & Gabrielle Deans for all their hard work. If you haven’t got your copy yet they are available in the office for only £2 per copy.

This month we have the pleasure of welcoming to Pascal McDonald House, the NI Regional Committee and also representatives from all the NI U3As, as we are hosting the Regional AGM and the Spring Meeting. This will take place in Pascal McDonald House at 11am on Wednesday, 14th April. Everyone is welcome to attend.

I am also pleased to report that we are in receipt of two Letters of Offers for funding on two major projects for U3A Foyle- the new build of an Active Ageing Centre and the refurbishment of the Arts Suite upstairs. However, there is still a lot of work to do on these projects and further money to be secured. If you would like to get involved, please contact Christine in the office.

Helen McNicholl (Chair)

URGENT CALL FOR NEW BOARD MEMBERS

A number of our current long-standing Board Members have indicated that they will be stepping down from office at the AGM in May this year. We DESPERATELY need new Board Members.

If you think you would like to join us as a new Board member, please talk to any current Board Member or Christine in the office.

The AGM will take place on Thursday 20th May 2010 at 2pm.

GIFT AID
We wish to thank all of those members who have already signed the Gift Aid forms. If you pay tax and have not yet signed one of the forms please see Doreen in the main office and sign up for Gift Aid. If you pay tax, we are able to reclaim money back from the taxman at no cost to you.

REGIONAL AGM & SPRING MEETING
U3A Foyle is delighted to be hosting the Regional AGM & Spring Meeting on Wednesday, 14th April 2010 and we welcome all visiting U3A members to the North West and hope you enjoy your visit.

All members are invited to attend the meeting at 11am on Wednesday 14th April which will be held in the Extension.

LONE PENSIONER ALLOWANCE
Now the new Rates Letters are dropping through the doors, don’t forget to check if you are eligible this year for the Lone Pensioner Allowance which can give you a 20% reduction. There are leaflets available in the front office.

HONORARY MEMBERS
Congratulations to Pascal McDonald & Eithne Thompson who were recently awarded Honorary Life Membership of U3A Foyle in recognition of all the hard work and commitment they have shown over the past two decades.

UPCOMING QUIZ - Wednesday, 19th May @ 7.30pm
COMPUTER CLASSES:
The North West Regional College have offered a FREE six week computer course to U3A Foyle and we are hoping to get enough interest to run it. If you fancy brushing up on your IT skills before the summer drop into the office and sign up. The class will run on a Wednesday morning 10.30-12.30 starting 6th May for 6 weeks.

HOBBY & INTEREST GROUPS
Opportunity to BALLROOM DANCE!
Calling all our accomplished dancers - and those who sit and watch Strictly Come Dancing wishing they could do it! As the Bowls cease for the late Spring/Summer break, Thursday afternoons in the Extension will now dedicated to Dance. Starting on 6th May the Waltz, Quick Step, ChaChaCha, Jive, Rumba, Samba and Tango will all make an appearance. This is an opportunity to dance, practice and learn from others. Meet on 6th May at 2pm.

CHESS CLUB
Chess Club will start on Tuesday 13th April at 11am. All welcome to attend.

Do you have a hobby or interest you would like to share with others? Most of our clubs began when a few members came together to talk about their shared interest. The Camera club, Book clubs, Scrabble club, Ukulele group and Carrickmacross Lace groups all began in this way.

If you would like to form a new group please inform the office and we will do our best to help you get it moving!

FRENCH:
The French students met in February and enjoyed a meal consisting of French dishes prepared by members, a great variety of French cheese and of course French wines. The evening concluded with a showing of ‘Les Choristes’. Also present were Martina McLaughlin, our tutor and Tiffany, the French assistant. A trip to Paris is planned for the second week in April. (There will not be any french classes on 12th April)

UPCOMING EVENTS:

UU RESEARCH PRESENTATION
A presentation of the Research carried out on the Impact of Physical Exercise on Older Adults by University of Ulster students last year will take place on Thursday, 15th April at 9.30am in Pascal McDonald House. All welcome.

ART EXHIBITION
The Annual Art Exhibition will be opened by the Mayor on Thursday 13th May at 2pm and will run until Thursday 20th May. The Exhibition will be open for viewing every day from 12noon - 3pm.

PHOTOGRAPHIC EXHIBITION
The Photographic Exhibition will open on Monday 24th May and run until Friday 28th May.

LOOKING AFTER YOUR HEALTH:
Working with the Local Pharmacist.
Last year we held a very successful six week programme with local Pharmacist, Gavin O’Kane. We have secured further funding to run some more programmes with Gavin over the next 12 months. The first programme will run from 22nd April and is already booked up but two further programmes will run after the summer so if you are interested in participating please call in and put your name on the interest sheet.

FUNDING UPDATES:
TRANSFORMATION PROJECT
We have received a Stage 3 Letter of Offer from Sport Northern Ireland (SNI). This offer is to build an Active Living Centre in line with our specific requirements. SNI fund only 95% of the build so we continue to source other funding. The Transformation Project Team are working long hours meeting with architects, consultants and SNI to get the next stage moving and hopefully see building work commence in the next year.

We reissue a call to all members interested in this project - whether on the sports side, the development side or in the building planning stages to get involved and contact any board member.

ARTS SUITE
The Arts Advisory Committee are happy to report that we have been successful in our application to Arts Council to refurbish the Arts Suite upstairs in Pascal McDonald House and are in receipt of a Letter of Offer. As the Arts Council funds only 75% of the capital build, we are still in negotiations with other funding bodies to secure the rest of the money needed to complete the project.

OBITUARIES - It is with sadness we record the death of our members - Maurice Evans & Colm Devlin.

April 2010