



**The Bray Heads U3A Fifth AGM
Thursday, 19th October 2023**

Secretary's Report

Our Bray Heads U3A Group enjoyed meeting face to face here at the Golf Club uninterrupted during the 2022-2023 season. Everyone seemed so glad to have returned to meeting in person and the challenges of Covid and meeting on Zoom are now a distant memory.

Our Co-ordinating team for 2022-23 were as follow:

Jane Grimson
Isolde Moylan
Nikki Gordon
Léonie O'Toole Bates
Aoife Nic Réamoinn
Mary Kelly
Ian Ring
Harry McAlinden (co-opted)
Mary Ashall
Mary Mullen
Don Moore (co-opted)

Our Co-ordinating team continued to meet throughout the year and the members of the co-ordinating team continue to spend time working on our future programme, searching for topics and speakers of interest for the year ahead and ensuring that our meetings run smoothly.

We give a special thanks to our IT team of Ian, Jane, Harry and Colm for their continuous work each meeting, providing the expertise needed to enable our speakers to make their presentations.

We have had a total of 17 talks since November 2022 to date:

November 2022:

'Life in the Hills': Gillian Stewart

December 2022:

'Bray Through The Lens': Brian White

January 2023:

'50 Years of Ireland in Europe': Noelle O'Connell

'Robert Emmet': Dr. Patrick Geoghegan

February 2023:

'Charles Lamb – Capturing the West of Ireland in Paint': Dr. Marie Bourke

'How we can secure Ireland's Energy future': Don Moore

March 2023:

'Irish State Building in the early 1920's': Frank Sheridan

'Enjoying Claret in Georgian Ireland': Dr. Patricia McCarthy

'The Beatles': William Hennigan

April 2023:

'The Sources of Modern Russian Nationalism': Judith Devlin

'A Passion for Craft': Mary Gallagher

May 2023:

'The Kennedys of Mount Kennedy': Therese Hicks

'De-mystifying Artificial Intelligence': Owen Conlon

June 2023:

'Finding My Grandparents in Assam India': Liz McManus

September 2023:

'Hazel Lavery – Her Life and Loves': Áine Andrews

'Profiling Terrorists': Paul Gill

October 2023:

'The Search for God in Contemporary Art': Paddy Moran

We also included 7 outings / guided tours:

November 26th 2022, National Museum of Ireland, Kildare Street, 14 attended

January 26th 2023, Custom House, 38 attended

February 23rd 2023, Irish Jewish Museum, 29 attended including 2 guests

April 20th 2023, Casino Marino, 19 attended

May 4th 2023, Freemasons' Hall, 20 attended

June 1st 2023, Altidore Castle, 28 attended

October 12th 2023, Eurofound, 35 attended

There was also the very successful lunch in the summer on May 25th and in response to popular demand we plan to continue to do this once a year into the future.

Our Co-Ordinating Team would like to express a welcome to new members who have joined from the Waiting List. In keeping with the ethos of U3A we would remind all members that the U3A is not just about life-long learning but also about friendship and inclusiveness and most importantly having fun. Therefore, we ask everyone to make a commitment at each meeting to speak with at least one person you have never had a conversation with before.

As we head into winter, we are all aware Covid has not disappeared and we continue to support any of our members who may be vulnerable and feel safer wearing a mask. The team would like to thank those who may have cold symptoms who wear a mask at meetings to protect those who are vulnerable, it is much appreciated.