

Crossmaglen U3A - ANNUAL REPORT 2023

Social Programme

We had several after meeting speakers on diverse subjects as Alzheimer's Awareness and local history - Una Walsh

A successful monthly lunch programme was due to Kathleen McConville

The highlight of our year was the successful bid for a Lottery Grant,

This was instigated following a visit from local councillor Aoife Finnegan and the introduction of Denise McBride who was instrumental in the submission of our application. We are deeply indebted to Denise for her efforts in achieving our Grant of £6193.00 based on celebrating our groups 20th Anniversary. We were founded in September 2002 with a membership of 14 persons*.

The award is broken down into:

-	Publicity	€ 150.00
-	Venue hire	€ 200.00
-	Events	€2000.00
-	Facilitators	€ 400.00
-	Theatre Tickets	€1242.00
-	Coach Hire	€ 800.00
-	Lunches	€1400.00
	Total	€6192.00

We have two theatre outings booked for Belfast Opera House in 2024:

Thursday 18th April at 2.30pm for the musical Sister Act

Thursday 17th October at 2.30pm for the drama An Inspector Calls

A coach will be provided as will lunch before the show at a nearby hotel.

Places are limited to 30 persons to each show

Future

I personally have concerns regarding our financial capability to remain solvent' the rental costs of our room are way in excess of our income, which is reducing with declining membership. We must face these facts and look to an alternative venue or increase our subscriptions, I estimate to £42.50 a member for break-even situation, something to think about during the coming year.

Our Monthly lunches for November and December 22 had to be recorded this year as our year end will be 31 December in future.

Donation of £152 was sent to Trocaire as result of raffle at Christmas Party. Thanks to all who supported this good cause.

Crochet Group meets on Thursdays 10.30 am to 12.30.

A Day trip to Newcastle was attended by 22 members and friends on 7 July 2023. Slanes Coaches took us to Newcastle and our Tour Guide Marian McGreevy arranged a walk on the Promenade and a visit to Dundrum Castle.

Meal on the way home was in Downshire Arms Hilltown.

We had 3 Guest speakers during the year 2022 and 2023.

2022

Una Walsh was Guest Speaker on 14 November 2022 and had some interesting stories.

2023

Denise McBride from Southern Age Well Network met with our executive members on the 17 April 2023 at 1 pm and was able to give advice on the process of applying for grants for our group.

After our Monthly meeting Una Walsh was a Guest Speaker and had more interesting stories about South Armagh.

Patricia Murphy was our Guest Speaker on 12 June 2023. Patricia was informing us about Alzheimer's disease which was very interesting.

On the 3 October 2023 Teresa Nugent sent poster to our group about a Free 8 week programme for Strength and Balance Class in Crossmaglen Community Centre starting on Tuesday 10 October. Registration was required as soon as possible.

7 of our members were able to go to the class and was enjoyed by all.