

Our History

Belfast U3A originated in October 2000 when Brian Connors held an open meeting in Belfast Castle to discuss the possible formation of a U3A for Belfast.

Following this, further meetings were held in Ruby Tuesdays café on the Antrim Road and, as more people showed enthusiasm and initiative, a small number of interest groups was set up.

In May 2001, Belfast U3A went live when full membership was granted by the Third Age Trust, with Brian Connors as Chairman, Robbie Mc Elhinney as Treasurer and Ann Hayes as Secretary.

By August 2001, growing membership and additional interest groups meant a larger venue was required and the Education Room in Belvoir Forest Park became available. The first meeting was held there in October 2001.

In March 2002, the first Newsletter was issued, edited by Margaret Campbell

Following a landslide close to the Education Room in Belvoir Forest Park, a new home was required urgently and in May 2003 the first meeting was held in Belvoir Players Theatre.

Monthly meetings were held in this venue until March 2019 when increasing numbers of members necessitated the search for a new larger meeting place. Meetings are now held in the Balmoral Hotel in Dunmurry. However, some of the interest group meetings continue to be held in Belvoir Players Theatre in addition to other venues.