



Hollywood at Home Issue 16 (of 20 June)

Letter from your chairperson

Dear Members,

As it is planned that this will be the **last *Hollywood at Home***, first can I say a big thank you on your behalf to Robin and Rosemary Masefield and all the other contributors who have worked so hard to produce this wonderful magazine over the past 15 months. It has provided great entertainment and kept us in touch with the outside world. Your dedication is much appreciated.

What have I learnt over the past year and a bit?

1. The importance of family.

Will I ever forget sitting in the garden wearing my hoodie on my birthday at the end of January surrounded by my family. I thought if Covid didn't get me, pneumonia would!

2. The value of good friends and neighbours.

For months I didn't enter a shop but I still have enough tins of soup (and tins of gin and tonic) to withstand a siege.

3. What is important in life.

One can survive without foreign holidays and designer clothes as long as you have toilet rolls and an iPad.

4. The fragility of life - there is no guarantee that you will live forever.

If there is something you really want to do, don't leave it too long. Get out the bucket list and start working through it.

5. Don't always put others first - be kind to yourself.

Enjoy your summer holidays.

It's great that some of our groups are already meeting and hopefully by September we will be back to some sort of normality.

Hollywood District u3a is your u3a. It is up to you to make it a welcoming and vibrant u3a. Is there a group you would like started? What can you do to help?

The Amblers are continuing over the summer and everyone is welcome to join us.

Perhaps we can discuss how you see your u3a moving forward in the new year and what part you would like to play in it.

Stay Safe,

Joy

PS Does anyone know if Machu Picchu or the Galapagos Islands are on the Amber list?

From our u3a Gardening Group

PLANTING A BORDER

- First of all, take a walk around your neighbourhood to see what plants are thriving in other people's gardens. This will often give a good clue as to what plants will work for you.



- Take note of the orientation of your border and the type of soil you are working with. Is it hot and sunny, or cool and shady? Does the soil sit wet, or is it dry and sandy? This will help to narrow your plant choices.

- Get your soil into good shape by piling on plenty of compost and organic matter. It's well worth adding some slow release fertiliser at this stage too. Useful to allow the soil to settle for a few days before planting. Make the

width of the border such that you can reach across for maintenance. If you are creating a large border, plan for access points within the border.

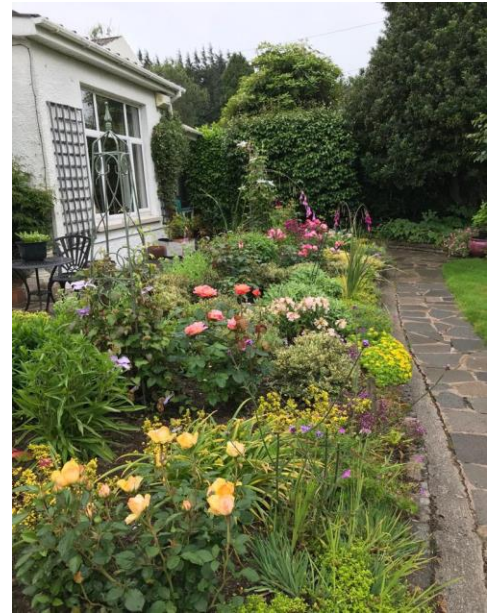
- Choose a planting theme for your borders – cottage garden style, colour co-ordinated, etc. Keep the border planting scheme simple.
- Make a list of plants you want, then halve it. A more limited selection will create stronger impact. Think of making a 'mood board' the same as you might do for a room in your home.



- Foliage shapes and colours can create just as much interest as flowers. Contrasting leaf shape and colour is a vital part of successful planting of a border.

- Plant densely so there is little to no room in between for weeds. Fill in gaps with evergreen groundcover, then mulch between the plants with forest bark to a depth of 7.5cm (3ins) to suppress weeds until the groundcover takes over.

- Aim to have several star attractions as eye catchers then surround them with a quieter harmonious supporting cast.
- Repetition and rhythm. Repeating a particular plant several times in a border is naturally very pleasing.
- If you have space, position plants in groups of three or five to create impact and to avoid a spotty effect. Cramming in lots of different species and colours will only produce a scattered, uncoordinated feel.
- Remember that annuals give rapid returns. Sow a few trays of these early in the season so that you can plug gaps with through summer.



- Deadhead through the season to encourage flowering.
- Selectively feed with liquid seaweed or tomato feed any plants that look as though they need a boost.
- Lastly, take a walk around your neighbourhood to convince yourself that your border looks better than theirs!!!

Hollywood History Group Enjoy their deferred gratification!

It was early in 2020 when members of our History Group planned an outing to take place that May. Alas, due to the outbreak of Covid-19 and subsequent lockdowns, it was postponed. As Government restrictions began to ease recently, we were able to go ahead, the venue being Redhall Estate, Ballycarry, County Antrim, the home of the McClintock Family.

With numbers restricted, 16 enthusiastic members travelled on 2 June in perfect weather the 40-minute drive along the scenic coastal route where the estate is situated on the Carrickfergus to Larne Road. The house was approached by a long driveway through traditional parkland of 200 acres with beautiful views over Islandmagee. It was bought in 1927 by Vice-Admiral J W L McClintock, son of Admiral Sir Francis L McClintock KCB FRS and grandfather of the present owner John, where he and his wife Irene and family live. Our hosts gave a warm welcome to members over coffee and explained the social distancing requirements that would apply. We heard Redhall dates from the 16th Century and had changed owners many times over the years, with a tower and parapets being added. Each room proved to be a history lesson in itself - from panelled ceilings downstairs to ceilings of primitive plasterwork hand-crafted by local people in some of the bedrooms.

One room of particular historic interest was that dedicated to Sir Francis Leopold McClintock KCB FRS, the Irish explorer in the British Royal Navy, known for his discoveries in the Canadian Arctic-Archipelago, having travelled there four times. It was in 1848 that he was appointed second lieutenant of HMS Enterprise and sent to

the Arctic in search of the British Naval Northwest Passage Expedition. Between May and June 1849, he led a sledge party which examined the north and west coasts of Somerset Island. Returning the following year, McClintock served as first lieutenant of HMS Assistance on the British Naval Franklin Search Expedition and in 1852 was in command of HMS Intrepid under Edward Belcher. In a private expedition in 1857-1859, sponsored by Lady Franklin and public subscription, he was sent to search in the area of King William Island for relics of Franklin's expedition; this resulted in the discovery of a note on the west coast of King William Island in 1859, that McClintock was able to establish that the date of Franklin's death was 11 June 1847 and also proved that the expedition had discovered the existence of a Northwest Passage.

Among many artefacts on display was a wooden sledge which had been dismantled and brought to Redhall and was a reminder of the sheer courage and determination of Francis L McClintock all those years ago.

Our tour ended with a delightful lunch in Redhall's impressive dining room whilst our hosts gave the history of their family portraits and brought to a close a most enjoyable and interesting outing, as well as marking the first National u3a Day.



Big Conversation Panel Survey

Some of our members may have taken part in previous surveys promoted by the Borough Council. Please consider doing so again, now, before 30 June. Patricia Mackey from Ards and North Down Council writes:

I wanted to let you know that our third and final Big Conversation Panel Survey is now available. In this survey we want to find out what our residents think about the Big Conversation Panel, how best we can communicate in the future, what residents think about climate change, road safety and how residents buy their food and more...

I would appreciate it if you could promote the link to the survey via your social media, newsletters, through your databases etc. Please find attached a graphic and below a short link to the survey.

<https://tinyurl.com/3mjdvxh5>

How did Dot Blakely get into Bird-watching?



The editor asked Dot how she got into bird-watching, and this is her lovely story.

Bird watching is free for all - Garden birds, Woodland birds, Countryside birds, Fresh water birds, Sea birds. Everyone different, everyone special. Some sing, some fight, some kill.

They communicate in their own way. I love them all.

I was asked one time, *'what is your favourite bird?'*

My answer: *'whatever bird I am looking at.'*

My love and understanding seem to have started when I was young, my Dad showed me a robin's nest in a hedge, and I was hooked. I kept watching this robin feeding its young, and then the young fledged with the parents trying to keep them safe, and of course I stayed out of sight at a safe distance.

Through time like most people, I have worked before and after having my family. One day, my friend Daphne and I were at Scrabo Tower and saw a peregrine falcon. I decided then it was time for me to go back to bird watching. Since that I have built my knowledge up myself, because of that robin all those years ago. The understanding I seem to have has allowed me to volunteer for about 20 years at Castle Espie, where I started my own bird watching club. As more people came on board, we helped to show the public Brent Geese and other birds in Strangford Lough. I became a counter for the Wetland Bird Survey which involved counting all the over wintering wildfowl and waders from September to March.

I followed on to do public ID walks for the Woodland Trust and different Councils. I had the pleasure to be on the RSPB Council for 7 years. I am now running bird watching classes for beginners for Belfast Met. College and Queen's. I have done TV work, and every month Anne Marie McAleese from *Your Place and Mine*, and I, go round different places and chat about the birds. But my main aim is to show as many decision-makers, Councillors, and the many people that do not respect wildlife and anyone else that wants to know or learn, how important our beautiful countryside is, it is all here for us, and we have to look after it and love it as I do.

Dot Blakely

Flower Power Quiz (what is the flower being renamed here?)just for fun!

- 1 Remember me?
- 2 Careful with money
- 3 Reflecting on a handsome face
- 4 Motor and a group of people
- 5 Well-dressed mammal
- 6 One of the mob on the Hill
- 7 It's a big fiddle
- 8 "Alone in an onion patch"
- 9 Chaucer's carillon
- 10 Colourful campanology.

Humorous Asides (supplied by two of our members)

First, the following two items are extracts from the Readers' Letters Column of the Daily Telegraph published in the decade prior to 1980 (shades of Benny Hill!):

From a Devonshire parish magazine: *'After much deliberation the judges decided that the joint winners of the Best Cook competition were:*

Mrs Maud Tyler - an old English tart

..... and Miss Jenny Brown - a surprise hot dish.'

A Wiltshire reader sent this notice, in his parish magazine, signed by the vicar: *'We are thinking of forming a branch of the Mothers' Union in the parish, so any ladies wishing to become Mothers should meet me in the vestry after the service.'*

Second, a couple of entries in Tony Butler's 'Best Irish Jokes':

A worried defendant asked an Irish judge what the maximum penalty for bigamy was – *'two mothers-in-law,* came the suave response.

The visitor complained about the long muddy avenue to the hotel; *'well now'*, soothed the proprietor, *if it was any shorter it wouldn't reach the house'.*

Third, some extracts from school reports of yore:

A master at my school was convinced a boy was cheating but could not prove it. He got it off his chest by reporting '*George is steadily forging his way ahead*'.

When all reports were on a single sheet, one boy's swimming report stated: '*Lacks confidence when submerged*'. Above it, a maths report from a teacher who had written his later read: '*For maths, see swimming report*'.

Fourth a thought for the day:

Out of the gloom a voice said unto me '*Smile and be happy: things could be worse*'. So I smiled and was happy and behold things did get worse!

Finale

And to finish here is a lovely painting by local artist Tom Kerr which will bring back memories for many.



The Chimney Sweep

Flower Power Quiz Answers:

1 Forget me not 2 Thrift 3 Narcissus 4 Carnation 5 Dandelion 6 Lavender 7 Viola 8 Petunia
9 Canterbury bell 10 Bluebell.